

Sportsmen's Outreach Banquet Overview

Time

Friday or Saturday evening. You must consider the availability of both the speaker and the audience. Choose a time when you will face the least number of scheduling conflicts. January through March are usually optimum times. If you do Seminars before the banquet, you will probably need to hold it on Saturday afternoon and evening. Stay away from major events like playoff games, local sporting events, special hunting seasons, and other things that will pull outdoor enthusiasts away from your event.

Place

If space permits, it is best to hold it in your own church building. This gives your guests a positive experience that is identified with your facility. It is far more likely they will be comfortable coming back if they've been there once and enjoyed it, and know right where it is.

Speaker

You should schedule your speaker a year ahead. The ones who are most experienced and in demand will often need to be scheduled two or three years ahead. Assume nothing. Avoid surprises. Be specific about speaker's fee, mileage, accommodations, arrival and departure times, equipment needs for his program and displays, sales of his books and/or pictures, and anything else you may need to know. Discuss the details of the program, his introduction, presentation, invitation, closing prayer, etc. Plan it all out in cooperation with each other. Your speaker wants to assist you and cooperate with you however he can. You must communicate your desires and expectations. Ask the speaker for ideas and suggestions. They will probably have a lot of experience you can benefit from.

Meal

Some churches use all wild game. Others use wild game dishes as a specialty. We used only venison until we grew too large. We now use whole roasted pork barbecue and supplement the meal with venison barbecue, chili, sausage, jerky, etc. We also serve whatever other wild game the men bring in cooked and ready to serve. Serving family style or cafeteria style is up to you. Work out a clear plan to serve the men quickly and efficiently. Keep the meal simple and filling. If you serve cafeteria style . use servers and limit choices. We use two lines with servers and have 300 men through the lines and seated in 25 minutes. See meal preparation for more information.

Seminars

You may want to offer some pre-banquet seminars. This gives you more time to interact with guests and makes it more interesting as well. Use your own resident experts or contact your State Game and Fish wardens. These professionals are usually glad for the opportunity to interact with sportsmen and share their information and materials and answer questions. We always have representatives and displays from the PA Game and Fish departments as our guests.

Promotion

Posters, ads, fliers in the newspaper, radio and TV spots are all effective. But the most effective promotion by far is the personal word-of-mouth invitations by your men. Local sporting goods stores, sportsmen's groups, and work place bulletin boards are also good locations for posters. A last-minute calling blitz to remind and inform the previous year's guests of the program also works well.

Team

You will need a good number of men and women to create a quality outreach. You should schedule your speaker at least a year ahead. The ones who are most in demand will often need to be scheduled two or three years ahead. Begin actively planning at least 6 months in advance with the various committees. Assign clear responsibilities, timing expectations, costs, advertising plan, ticket distribution and policy, decorations, set up, meal prep, clean up, program committee, program flow, ushers, commitment card distribution and collection, door prize gifts, etc.

Guests

It is absolutely imperative that you make everyone feel welcome! From the moment they arrive at your door they need to know how happy you are that they have come. Be relaxed. Be friendly. Be casual in dress and manner. Remember— you are hoping to fill the place with unchurched unbelievers. They are already a bit ill-at-ease just being inside a church. Set them at ease. Keep things upbeat, and positive. Be sure they know what's going on and what's happening. Be clear in your explanations. Having free materials (cookbooks, appropriate and interesting tracts, sporting magazines, State Game Department publications, and door prizes) will show that you really care about them. In your advertising, make it clear that the speaker will also be sharing about his faith in Jesus Christ! Be up front about it. Make it plain in the fliers you hand out. Don't make these guys feel like you tricked them and trapped them into coming to an evangelistic meeting. If they read the posters & advertisements, they should know!

Offering . make it plain that they don't need to give if they aren't prepared or don't want to. Be honest about the costs involved, and make it clear that you take up the offering because many men want the opportunity to help in this way. (A good men's quartet with an upbeat Southern Gospel number goes great at this time.) We take the offering and give the door prizes before the main speaker so it doesn't interrupt the flow at the end.

Response Cards

Design your own or use the one provided in this booklet. Make it fit the information you want to obtain. Use it to generate suggestions for improving it next year. Your guests will appreciate being asked for ideas. I suggest that you distribute them at the end of the program and collect them at the doors as the men leave.

Tickets

Whether or not you charge for the banquet, you need to know how many to expect and prepare for. Anticipate a 15%-20% no-show if you give them away. We seat 300 so we give out 350 tickets. We guarantee all our men 5 tickets (self plus four guests). We promote the banquet as ~~not~~ a time for Christian fellowship! We do not want our men to be inviting other Christian friends from other gospel churches to the banquet. Everyone is invited to the main program. The more the better. But the meal is a time for building friendships for the purpose of evangelism. If other churches want to send a representative to observe and obtain ideas, we allow for that. And the main program is open to the public. But the mealtime is designed for our men to spend time eating and talking with their unsaved friends around the table. This time of interaction, introduction, and acquaintance building is extremely valuable. We don't want our men talking with fellow believers and ignoring the unsaved guest next to them. Enough said.

Give-Aways

Everyone likes getting a gift. Providing a few gifts to be given away lets the men know you are glad they came. By donation or purchase we give away 15-20 door prizes during the program. (Turkey calls, deer calls, hats, gloves, rifle slings, camo facemasks, etc.) We pre-select seats at the banquet and take the names during the meal. They are then announced during the program and assigned gift #1, #2, etc. . and are invited to come up after the program to obtain their gift. This saves time for the speaker. This also guarantees that they will stay and not just take their gift and leave before the program is over! We have also given away a flintlock rifle for the past few years. This really gets their attention & enthusiasm!

Evaluation

Within two weeks of the program, get the entire team together to evaluate what went well and what didn't. Be open and honest about your view of things. A suggested evaluation guide is included in this booklet for things to discuss. Evaluation and improvement is a continual effort. This is also a good time to get commitments for next year's outreach for workers and committees.

Sample Letter to Game and Fish Wardens

Leroy Young

PA Fish Commission Officer

Memo regarding 1996 Sportsmen's Night at First Baptist, Bellefonte

Dear Leroy,

It's that time again! I hope you can be with us again and bring along a display of interest to our sportsmen in January. This year, our Sportsmen's Night will be Friday evening, January 26th, 6:00p.m. for the banquet, and 7:00p.m. for the program. If you can come early as in other years and have your display set up before the meal, it would be appreciated.

Please confirm with me as soon as you can about your ability to come and represent the Fish Commission. If you would like to bring along another guest, we will save you another ticket as in other years.

Thanks for your fine help. It is our hope that you'll be with us again this year.

Your friend,

Pastor Ron Berrus

PA Game Commission

Centre County Officer

Memo regarding 1996 Sportsmen's Night at First Baptist, Bellefonte

Dear Bob,

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Your friend,

Pastor Ron Berrus

Seminars

2:00pm 3:00pm 4:00pm

Topic & Location

Workshops repeated each hour

Topic	Teacher	Room
After the Kill	Stovers	101
Bear Hunting	Gates	102
Advanced Archery	Ream/Shaw	103
Beginners Archery	Roth	105
Survival First Aid	Cone/Bixler	106
Turkey Hunting	Berrus	107
Backpacking	Fisher	108
Fly Fishing	Rice	114
Lure Building	Harris	115
Cooking it right	Rice	122
Muzzeloading	Catherman	125
Elk Hunting	Leathers	Aud

**Supper @ 5:00pm
Downstairs**

**Program @ 6:15pm
in Auditorium
"Brown Bears"**

January 16th First Baptist Church

Sportsmen's Outreach 2000 – FEB. 19, 2000

Speaker 2000 - Charlie Alsheimer - Confirmed Sat. February 19, 2000

Other Suggestions: PA Elk Herd . Ron Cogan

Paul Meeks . API Outdoors Tree Stands

Wild Turkeys . Jodi Huggle or WV Game Biologist . check with Doug Packard

MEAL Issues

Meal . Menu, table set up, preparation & serving crew (Seating capacity 292)

Decoration crew . Jenna and Laura Shaw

3 Clean Up Crews . Pastor Ray to Recruit

Kitchen

Fellowship Hall & Class Rooms

Auditorium & Upper Classrooms

Seminar rooms . assignments & set up . Ron and Ray will prepare listings & direction posters

REGISTRATION EVALUATION – Tickets . Ron will do it . 292 seating . prepare 340 tickets

PUBLICITY CDT Fliers - same general routes + Snow Shoe, Moshannan & Clarence
Posters - Ray & Ron will do local . Norm Walters will do Mt. Top Region
Radio & TV spots . secretary will send out PSA's

DOOR PRIZES – Coordinator, Contacts . Pastor Ray will train Ken Roth for 2001
Discussion held on number of gifts & length of time to distribute
Suggested either fewer numbers of gifts or reading of names & pick up after
program Present main gifts up front

MAIN PROGRAM

Fun Shoot Trophies . Pastor Ron & Neil Shaw

Giveaways . Pastor Ray & Ron

Speaker Intro: RSB

Ushers . Head usher . John Stover . need 8 ushers

Offering, Commitment Card Distribution & Collection at Doors, Distribution of Tracts & Bibles

Special Music - intro spot and offertory . Men's 4-Tet

Fish & Game Commissions to be invited again this year – display in foyer

RESPONSE CARDS - RSB will do – We will use Charlie's Tract this year

Host Name Tags – for ushers, for seminar leaders

MAPS on half sheets – Ceiling Posters – Greeter/Guides in orange shirts

SEMINAR IDEAS & leaders

Reminder: Brief testimony as you introduce yourself, emphasize safety and enjoying the hunt

1. Elk - J Leathers
2. Advanced Archery - Dave Ream & Neil Shaw
3. Youth Archery . all 3 hours . Norm Walters & Ken Roth
4. Bear Hunting - Sam Gates
5. Nymph Tying . Dave Rothrock
6. Lure building . Carl Harris
7. Cooking it right . Sandy Rice & Lou Seibert
8. Muzzeloading . Brian Catherman & Myron Rice
9. Emergency First Aid . Larry Bixler, Ken Cone, Chris Kilburn
10. Taxidermy field care of game - Mark Singer (Todd Fisher)
11. Turkey Hunting . Ron Berrus
12. Tracking Wounded Game . Ken Rice & Pickle Stover
13. Reloading . Kevin Hall

Other suggestions for future years

Bass Fishing

Photographing Wild Game -

Starting out Right - beginners safety issues and tips

Four Sessions - 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Meal . 5pm

Program 6:15pm

Sportsmen's Response Card

Please

- First Time I've Attended
- Let me know about it next year
- I Attended the meal
- I Attended the Seminars
- I prayed to receive Christ tonight

I would like more information about.....

- How to be sure I have eternal life
- How to walk with God
- About your church

Comments:

Your Name

Address & Phone #

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