



Pioneer Clubs General Overview and Introduction

Mission of Pioneer Clubs

Pioneer Clubs' mission is to serve God by providing the most effective and educationally sound programs to help children follow Christ in every aspect of life.

The Goals of Pioneer Clubs

To enable children to enter into a personal relationship with Christ and to know his Word.

- By presenting Christ as Savior and Lord, the club program gives children opportunities to experience salvation and grow spiritually.
- By training children to study Scripture and apply it to daily life, club prepares them to exercise Christian responsibility in their church, community, and world.

To enable children to form healthy relationships:

- By teaching biblical purposes for the family and by recognizing sociological influences, this program helps children learn how to be contributing members in various family situations.
- By teaching that God created people to be interdependent, the club program leads children to develop healthy relationships with both peers and adults.

To enable children to grow as whole persons:

- By presenting biblical values and characteristics of persons made in God's image, club assists children in developing positive attitudes toward God, themselves, and others.
- By providing opportunities to develop a variety of skills and abilities, club helps children experience achievement and grow physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

To enable adults to understand children and help them develop:

- Through its curriculum and supplementary materials, the club program teaches child development and Christian values.
- Through involvement in the club ministry, adults are encouraged in their personal and spiritual growth.

Curriculum Design

- Recognition of Christ as Savior and Lord
- Knowledge and application of doctrine and apologetics
- Purpose and function of the church
- Sense of personhood and worth
- Ability to establish constructive relationships
- Place of the family
- Formation of Christian values
- Recognition of peer influence
- Development of skills and abilities



What are the beliefs of Pioneer Clubs?

1. Theological Beliefs
2. Philosophy of Christian Education
3. Psychology of Learning

Theological Beliefs

- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died and rose again to provide redemption for each person.
- The Bible, the inspired, authoritative word of God, is our rule of faith and practice
- God has created his people as whole beings called to live a biblical lifestyle.
- God has ordained the Church to evangelize and nurture through discipleship.

Philosophy of Christian Education

- God has created each person a whole being with individuality, uniqueness, dignity, and potential.
- Children develop a sense of personal identity and character by comparing and contrasting themselves with both male and female adults.
- Children learn Christian behaviors and biblical values as modeled by their adult leaders.
- Values are formed when children choose among alternatives and consider the consequences of each alternative.
- A club curriculum should be balanced between a child-centered and content-centered program.

Psychology of Learning

- Children progress through certain developmental stages, mastering the tasks of one age level before moving on to the next stage.
- Learning is most effective when children actively participate in meaningful learning experiences.
- Children have unique and individual learning styles.
- Holistic learning occurs when all three learning domains (knowing, feeling, and doing) are included in the process.
- Children are motivated by a desire for achievement, success, and self-improvement. With maturity, young people may also wish to serve God and help others.

What Age Groups Are Reached?

Pioneer Clubs has age-appropriate material for:

| <u>CLUB NAME</u> | <u>AGE LEVEL</u> |
|------------------|------------------|
| Skipper | 2-3 |
| Scooter | 4-5 |
| Voyager | 6-7 |
| Pathfinder | 8-9 |
| Trailblazer | 10-12 |
| Challenger | 12-14 |
| Explorer | 14-18 |



Options for Structuring your Club

Divide Clubs by:

- Size
- Age
- Gender
- Activity



What Leadership Is Needed?

- **Club Coordinator**
 - ▶ *Optional Co-Coordinators*
- **Optional Committee Members**
 - ▶ *Special Events*
 - ▶ *Pal Program*
- **Club Leaders**
 - ▶ *Relationship oriented ministry*
 - ▶ *Love and enjoy children*
 - ▶ *Two per age division*
 - ▶ *Ratio of 1 leader for every 8-10 club members*

What Happens in a Typical Meeting?

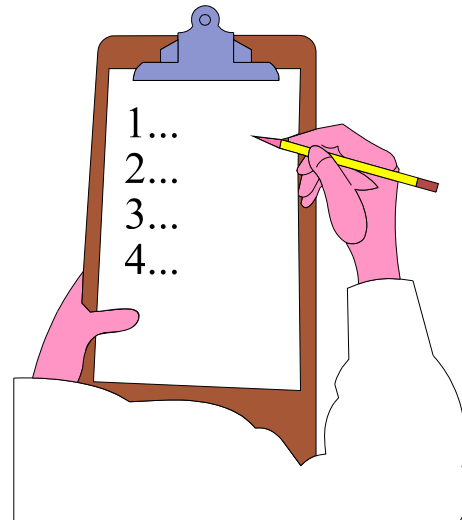
Meetings last 1 ½ to 2 hours

- Opening
- Activity Awards (1st & 2nd)
- Bible Exploration
- Bible Memory
- Games (optional)
- Songfest (optional)
- Snack (optional)
- Closing

What Materials Do You Need?

Resources for Leaders and Club Members

- **Leader's Plan Books**
 - ▶ 3 per age division
 - ▶ Biblically and educationally sound
 - ▶ User friendly
- **Club Member's Handbook**
 - ▶ Bible Awards
 - ▶ Skill Building Activity Awards
 - ▶ Highest Honor Award
 - ▶ Bible Memory Stickers



Bible Award Topics

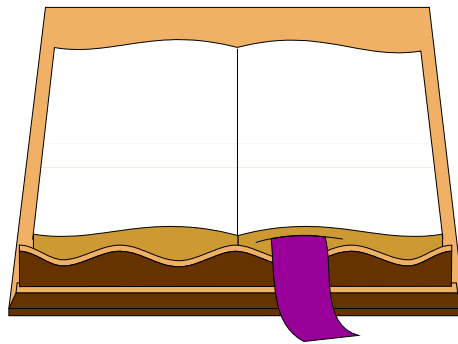
Pioneer Clubs offers a spiraling curriculum based on age characteristics

- Growing in God's Love
- God and Me
- Honoring My Family
- Loving God
- God's Word
- Living God's Way
- Helping Others

Activity Award Categories

Pioneer Clubs offers a spiraling curriculum based on age characteristics

- Arts and Communication
- Myself, My Family, and Others
- Hobbies and Projects
- Outdoors and Camping
- Sports and Games



Bible Exploration

- Introduction
- Scripture Study
- Application
 - *Christian Growth Challenge*
 - *Salvation Emphasis*

Bible Memory

Pioneer Clubs helps children understand and apply what they're hearing and memorizing

- Understanding and application are essential to make Scripture memory a time to know God better and grow as a believer, rather than a rote exercise.
- As often as possible, memory verses come from the Bible Exploration Scripture. This allows club members time to discuss them with leaders and consider ways to apply them.
- Memory techniques help with retention.

What About Leader Training?

- Leader helps section in all plan books
- Leader training outlines
- Training videos
- On-line training
- Individual consultation
- Workshops
- Teleconferences

What Are The Financial Responsibilities?¹

- Annual registration fees
- Cost of materials and club resources
- Contribution opportunities

How Do Churches Fund Club?

Funding Options:

- Christian education budget
- Individual club member registration fee
- Fund-raising
- Church member sponsorship
- Most churches do a combination



Pioneer Clubs' Unique Features

- Bible-based and christ-centered
- Bible study & memory with life-application
- Age appropriate and educationally sound
- Relationship based and non-competitive
- Elective curriculum & flexible
- Leadership training
- Variety
- Camp Cherith

What Are The Benefits Of Having A Pioneer Clubs Ministry?

Results from a Recent Survey:

1. Children:

- Learn biblical principles and Christian values
- Develop Christian relationships
- Develop life skills

2. 50% of club members are not from sponsoring church

3. 46% of our churches reported reaching families as a result of Pioneer Clubs

Life Changing Reason: Research from the Barna Group

- A person's moral foundations are generally in place by the time they reach age 9.
- A majority of Americans make a lasting determination about the personal significance of Christ's death and resurrection by age 12.
- Most people's minds are made up and they believe they know what they need to know spiritually by age 13.

¹ There is a financial budgeting worksheet in *Club Coordinator's Manual & Start-Up Worksheet*