

WELCOME TO EDGE BEACH BASH

AN EDGE MINISTRY KICKOFF

SCRIPTURE

John 10:10

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Hawaiian leis
- Camera
- Hula hoops
- Beach ball
- Hula Skirt

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

- Song: "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole (*Alone in IZ World*, Mountain Apple Company)
- Song: "Hawaiian Rollercoaster Ride" by Kamehameha Schools Children (*Lilo & Stitch*, Walt Disney Records)
- Song: "He Mele No Lilo" by Kamehameha Schools Children (*Lilo & Stitch*, Walt Disney Records)

EDGE NIGHT GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is to kickoff the Edge ministry by having fun and building community. This night will build excitement for the youth and get them interested in the new Edge ministry. This is a great night to do some relational ministry and to start getting to know all the youth.

EDGE NIGHT AT A GLANCE

This Edge Night is packed full of fun Hawaiian Luau games for the youth. This is a kickoff night so it is meant to build community and momentum for your Edge ministry. This is a time for the youth minister and the Core Team to start getting to

know the youth and get them excited about coming to Edge.

This night is all about fun, so do not be afraid to go all out with the decorations and games! The night starts by introducing the Core Team and youth minister, followed by some fun large group games. There is a brief Proclaim, allowing the youth minister to explain that Edge is a great opportunity for the youth to grow in their faith, make new friends, and, of course, have fun! The night will end with a time of large group prayer and announcements about the next Edge Night.

ENVIRONMENT

Create a beach feel with some fun Hawaiian Luau decorations. Check out your local party store; they usually have really cheap decorations. Consider getting leis for each of the youth as they walk in, and have the Core Team and youth minister wear their best Hawaiian shirts. Play fun and upbeat music as the youth walk in, and create a very welcoming and friendly environment.

CORE TEAM FORMATION

This is the first Edge Night, and first impressions count. Make sure that the Core Team is ready to do some relational ministry. Check out a few of the online training videos on relational ministry to get some ideas on how to strike up conversations with youth. Remember that relational ministry is simply showing youth that you care by talking to them and learning their names.

Challenge your Core Team to meet at least 10 youth and remember half of those names. Next week welcome those youth by name. This night is all about having fun and getting the youth excited

about coming to Edge. Remember that the Core Team should be participating in all of the games and activities.

TO THE PARENTS

Tonight is our first ever Edge Night. This dynamic youth ministry is designed just for your middle school child and brings the faith to them in a fun and relevant way. Tonight was our kickoff, and we focused mainly on having fun and building community. We want the youth to be excited to come and learn about their faith while making great friends.

Please join us for our next Edge Night on _____. During this night, we will explain to your child more about what Edge will look like, and they will meet their Core Members and small groups. This will also be a time for you as a parent to get familiar with the way an Edge Night runs. We will have a short informational meeting for you during the night while the youth do team building activities.

GATHER

LUAU WELCOME AND PICTURES

(5 min)

Go all out as the youth walk in. Have fun music playing, and make sure the Core Team is meeting the youth. If possible give each young person a lei as they walk in.

This is also a great time to take pictures of the youth to help you start learning their names and faces. As they walk in and sign in, direct them to get their picture taken. They can wear their lei, and consider having a fun Hawaiian background up for the pictures. As they get their pictures taken, make sure that a Core Member is keeping track of which name goes with which photo. After this night, make either a book or banner with each of the pictures and names of the youth. Put it somewhere that the youth minister and Core Team can see to start learning their names.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

(10 min)

Gather all the youth together in a large group. Have the youth minister introduce him or herself by sharing a few fun and random facts. Give a brief introduction to the Edge ministry, and get the youth excited about their new youth group. Make sure that you emphasize that Edge is a great way for the youth to not only learn more about their faith but to meet new friends who can journey with them through middle school and on to high school.

At this time, introduce the Core Team. Have some fun music playing, and announce each Core Member with fun facts about him or her. Be as creative and goofy as you want. Remember the more fun you have and the more willing you are to be silly, the more the youth will open up and participate throughout the night.

HAWAIIAN HULA HOOP PASS

(10 min)

Supplies:

- Hula hoops
- Hawaiian prizes
- Hawaiian music

Have the youth line up in a few lines. Depending on how many youth you have, make lines of 15-25 youth. You can have them break up randomly or make it a competition between the different grades.

For this game, instruct the youth to stand in a straight line, facing the same direction shoulder-to-shoulder, and holding hands. Then give each youth at one end of the line a hula hoop, and instruct the youth to pass it to the other end of the line without letting go of each other's hands. Essentially they will have to figure out how to step their bodies through the hula hoop to get it to the next person. While they pass the hula hoop, play some fun Hawaiian music.

The first line to get it from one end of the line and back is the winner. Have a fun prize for the winning team.

BEACH BALL HOT POTATO

(10 min)

Supplies:

- Beach balls
- Hawaiian music

Break up the youth into groups again. Make sure they are different from the Hula Hoop Pass so that they can start to get to know new people. Instruct them to sit in a circle. This game is just like hot potato, but the youth will pass a beach ball around the circle.

Play Hawaiian music as they pass the beach ball, and when the music stops, whoever is holding the beach ball must stand up and introduce him or herself. Have the youth say his or her name, what grade he or she is in, and their favorite (fruit, movie, ice cream, cereal...). If the beach ball lands on the same youth more than once, have him or her pass the ball to the person to his or her right. Play this game for as much time as you can or until all the youth have introduced themselves.

KUMA HULA SAYS

(10 min)

Supplies:

- Hula dancer outfit

In this rendition of "Simon Says," have a Core Member come to the front to be the Kuma Hula (hula teacher). The Core Member should be dressed like a hula dancer to make the game more entertaining, but keep it modest.

The game will proceed in the same fashion as "Simon Says," but the youth must only do the action that "Kuma Hula" says. Any youth who does not follow what "Kuma Hula" says is out. Play until there is one youth left, and have a prize for that youth.

HAWAIIAN LIMBO CONTEST

(10 min)

Supplies:

- Limbo stick

Gather all of the youth together and have them make one long line. Have two of the Core Members holding the limbo stick and challenge the youth to see how low they can go.

Start off holding the limbo stick fairly high off the ground and each time after all the youth have gone under the stick, lower it closer to the ground. The youth must pass under the limbo stick with out touching the stick or touching the ground with anything but their feet.

If a youth touches the stick, falls to the ground, or places their hands on the ground, they are out. Play this game until there is one youth as a winner.

PROCLAIM

“WELCOME TO EDGE” TEACHING

(10 min)

In the Gospel of John, Christ tells us that He came so that we may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). How many of you want to have a happy life? How many of you want to have fun? How many of you want to make new amazing friends? How many of you want to keep coming and hanging out with your awesome Core Team? How many of you want to learn more about your faith? How many of you want to learn more about Jesus?

That is what Edge is all about. This youth group is just for you, and we are all here just for you. We are here because we want you to know how much God loves you and to teach you about this wonderful Catholic faith. Tonight has been a lot of fun and games, and while there will be more fun and games to come, Edge will also be an opportunity for you to learn more about Jesus, have opportunities to pray, and build new friendships.

We want you here, and we want you to bring your friends because we are going to have an incredible time together this year and for the years to come. So I challenge you to not only make a commitment to coming to Edge, but to also invite your friends. We have incredible things in store for you that you and all of your friends will want to be a part of!

SEND

CLOSING PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(10 min)

Lead the youth in a closing prayer. You can pray spontaneously or pray a traditional Catholic prayer. Also allow time for the youth to raise their hands and ask for specific prayers, whether it is for family, friends, school, etc.

End the night with any announcements for the youth, and be sure to invite them back to the next Edge Night. This is also a good time to hand out semester calendars for the youth to bring home (but be sure that you send one home or email one to parents as well). Finally, remind them to bring their parents to the next Edge Night.

As the youth leave, make sure that the Core Members are mingling with them, saying goodbye, and inviting them back to the next Edge Night, preferably by name.

FURTHER ADAPTATION IDEAS

- If there is one game in particular that the youth are enjoying, spend more time playing it. Do not feel pressured to play all the games suggested.
- During the Beach Ball Hot Potato Game, play a few rounds where the youth who ends up with the beach ball has to do something silly, like stand up and sing a song or run around the circle squawking like a chicken.
- If you have the space to do some of the games outside, consider making this night a BBQ and have hot dogs and hamburgers for the youth. Look into partnering with the Knights of Columbus to help cook.
- If you have a music minister available, have him or her come and play a few praise and worship songs at the end of the night.
- If you have a lot of youth in your program, have a few lines of limbo going at once.