



“Each person should do as he has decided in his heart – not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

State Offering Goal: \$75,000

Learning about the Indiana State Missions Offering

If your church does not have age level mission organizations, use the following ideas as drop-in activities during youth Bible studies, Bible study sessions on Sunday mornings or during regularly scheduled student gatherings. The purpose of highlighting mission work in Indiana is to motivate students to pray for, give to and participate in mission opportunities that share Christ with non-believers in Indiana. Incorporating some of these suggestions will increase awareness of the magnitude of the task before us!

Facts

Present facts about Indiana and our mission work in a creative way to motivate students to become involved in mission activities. (See “Indiana Fast Facts” online.)

Allocations

If you choose to insert state missions offering information into already-existing youth sessions, teach the group about how the **offering gifts** are used by providing a cake (or several depending on the size of your youth group) that has been divided into 3 sections representing 25% for church planting, 25% for church revitalization and 50% for associational initiatives. Use the **SMO** brochure for specific information about what church planting involves, how churches are helped through revitalization projects and what associations are doing with offering gifts to share Christ in their regions. A great way to make a strong connection to these associational projects would be to contact your associational leader. Ask about and plan an activity involving your youth in an age-appropriate project. After discussing the offering, eat the cake!

Mission Opportunities (hands-on activities)

Here are several ways youth leaders can encourage students to participate in local missions:

1. Collect food items for a local food pantry or homeless ministry.
2. Set a time and place to help serve a meal to hungry or homeless people.
3. Divide students into teams and challenge them to gather the most paper good supplies for use at a local ministry site. Set a specific time to deliver the supplies as a group.
4. Contact a church planter in your area to see how students can help for a workday at their meeting facility or assist with an outreach event.

5. If your area has a local fair, suggest youth get a booth and distribute Christian tracts and bottled water. Lead students to make the plans, contact event coordinators, purchase water, set up the booth and staff the hours the fair is open.

Game

Create questions and host a Jeopardy-like game show using the time to teach students about the needs of Indiana's lost while learning about the state's history. Use the "Indiana Fast Facts" and "Reaching the Lost in Indiana" pieces for the questions you create.

Help Students to Get Involved

Praying - Put church planters' names on cut-out hands and give to students as a reminder to pray for planters and their families. (List of church planters is online.)

Giving - Challenge students to set a goal that is part of your church's goal. For example, if the church goal is \$1,000, encourage students to give 10%. Suggest students host a spaghetti dinner to raise **offering gifts**. Divide students into small groups and give them "seed money" as a base to make and sell items, such as baking supplies for selling brownies, scrap wood for birdhouses to sell with bird seed or yarn for wrapped plant containers.

Going/sharing - Plan a local trip to a church plant or support an associational project in some way. If you have students who are talented musically, perhaps they could provide music at a launch event for a new church plant. As part of this activity help students learn how to share their testimony.