**Confirmation Ideas**

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* Power of teen testimony

o   Each year I try to have a few teens from the previous confirmation class come in to my current year of confirmandi and share their experiences through confirmation prep.  The teens in prep are able to relate and it is something that is mentioned numerous times in their closing interviews as a memorable lesson from the year

  One year I was fortunate to have a student who was attending UW-L come back and she also shared her experience of being involved in the campus ministry. This helped to demonstrate to the candidates how to live out their faith post high school

         Guest speakers

o   Hearing different perspectives always helps keep my teens engaged and show we all may have the same bond as Catholics but our stories are different and how cool that is! I would ask different small group leaders to give the teaching for the day (provided with the content I gave them) and they made it their own. This helped to reach the students on a different level

         Sponsor attendance

o   Once a month (when my teens met 3 Sundays per month) I would ask sponsors to join us for class.

o   I wouldn’t host class any different. The sponsors went into small groups alongside their candidates and they had discussions together with the small group leader. This helped them learn from one another.

         Entrance and exit interviews

o   This helped me get to know the candidates in the beginning of the year and learn where they were at (it was mostly relational questions)

o   Exit interviews

  Good time to have teens reflect on retreat and give feedback

  Show growth over the year

  How to help them realize and consider being involved in parish life post Confirmation

         Breakfast!

o   Our classes met on Sunday mornings

o   I would ask parents to take turns and donate breakfast for our teens. Some parents even stayed and served the teens. It was a great way to bond and begin class each week 

         Mass attendance

o   Students were asked to attend Mass every week. I didn’t take attendance or ask for signed bulletins or anything. It was solely based on trust

o   We would attend 10:30 together and sit as a group. We would also invite seniors (who had been confirmed the year before) to sit with us so they didn’t have to sit alone if their parents did not come.

o   Praying together was a great way to bond as a group

         Night of reconciliation/adoration

o   Long night but powerful for teens

o   Many had great testimonies to share after this night

         Resources

o   I meshed lessons from “Chosen” and “One Eight”

o   This helped to add variety to the style of lessons and keep the kids engaged. The only thing that was consistent every week was small group but even this took different forms some weeks as they rotated between stations or gender groups, depending what the lesson called for in the outline.

         Prayer buddies

o   One year I matched the first communion students with a confirmation student

o   They had a class together

  We talked about the sacraments of initiation

  Utilized “Lion King” to talk about baptism

  Made prayer bracelets

  Made cards for partners to be received on their respective retreats