

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Philosophy

Setting the tone for sportsmanship is a key focus for student leaders. Creating a personal sportsmanship award for your school can further the goals of that focus.

When to be used

Pre-season, during goal setting sessions.

Process

Gather the following supplies:

Butcher paper & markers

Adhesive dots or stars

4 x 6 index cards

Calendar of athletic events for current season

Appropriate certificate

1. Divide your group into teams of about four students. Encourage the participants to imagine that they are walking into the gym of a school that has excellent sportsmanship. Ask them to list the positive characteristics that they would observe. A strategy to ensure that every student contributes to the list is to give each student in the group a different color marker and monitor that all students have participated. Allow ten minutes.
2. Randomly select a marker color, which will assign that particular student to be the speaker. Have each team present their list to the entire group. Post the lists in the classroom. In order to get a general sense of the sentiments of the group, try value voting. Each student receives 3-5 stickers and may vote for their favorite characteristic from any poster. They may spend as many of their stickers on any item that they choose. Survey the results and discuss the general opinions that are evident from the vote.
3. Reassemble in small teams. Give each team several 4 x 6 index cards. Instruct the students to design a rating format that will be used to determine a "most valuable fan" at a school-sporting event. Allow ten minutes. Ask the teams to present their rating card to the class. This rating card will be used in Step 4 of this activity. Closure: Host a discussion around the statement: *"Winning is for a day. Sportsmanship is for a lifetime."*
4. Teams of students sign up to attend a sporting event and to observe the crowd then select a "most valuable fan." The selected fan may be a student or an adult from either the home or visiting team. Present the deserving individual with a certificate at the conclusion of the game. After a number of fans have been recognized at different sporting events, lead a discussion regarding the experience of selecting a "most valuable fan."

Follow-up activities

- Display positive sportsmanship posters.
- Develop positive sportsmanship slogans and messages for announcements at sporting events.
- Create code of conducts for players, coaches, and fans.

