



*** WA Youth
Leader's
Manual 2007***

***CONTENTS**

***What is Exo all about?**

***How does Exo serve my Youth ministry?**

***What approach should I take as a leader?**

***Great tips for success**

*** Adrenalin Week 2007**

*** Can I Really Get Kids from Schools To The Big Exo Day Then Into My Youth Ministry?
(an article from Youth Alive NSW)**

*** Youth Alive WA Important Contacts**

*** Acknowledgements**

* What Is Exo All About?

Exo is a Youth Alive WA initiative involving students in high schools impacting their friends for Jesus. It is run in high schools for the students, by the students. The event is simply a free lunchtime festival providing great food, music, fun and giveaways (and anything else!) put on by the Christian students as a gift to the school.

* PURPOSE

1. *Exo means "Life is Excellent!" We want to encourage students to live positive, excellent lives.*
2. *We want students to know that no matter what they are going through, life is excellent.*
3. *We want to provide a fun and exciting lunchtime event as a gift to the school.*
4. *We want to show students that God wants them to have an excellent life!*

Exo is all about activating the young people from youth ministries in the area to reach out to their school and let them know that "Life is Excellent" with Jesus.

It's all about the Christian students being a blessing to their school, providing a free lunch and an entertaining event that promotes your youth ministry.

It's about taking what we've got at Church and showing students how "Excellent" it is.

Exo is all about getting in there and doing something for God in our schools!!!

As a youth leader EXO is a powerful tool that will have a direct impact for growth in your youth ministry.

At the Exo Festival, you promote youth group events happening that week (the 20th-24th August 2007). Then, you bring the people that come to your youth group event to Adrenalin @ Challenge Stadium the following week (on the 31 August and 1st September), they get **radically saved**, and then come back to your youth group because they are already familiar with it!

*** How does EXO serve my youth ministry?**

The whole goal for EXO week and EXODAY is to see your youth ministry grow. The vision is to see evangelism and growth come from the students themselves in your youth ministry.

Last year, we saw a youth groups of approximately 60 students have events where over 200 attended their Friday night event, with 50 decisions being made that night for Jesus!

In another youth group, student numbers increased by over 50, to a consistent attendance of over 150 students!

Not only do numbers in youth groups increase, new leadership is identified as students begin to take ownership of the lost in their schools, and develop their skills in a safe and rewarding environment!

*** What Approach Should I take as a Leader?**

The beauty of Exo in Schools is Youth Leaders are only required to be a coach! Just like the coach of any sports team your, job is to motivate, inspire and give guidance when needed from the sideline.

Although the coach has a big role they never actually step onto the field and play the game. With that in mind what we would encourage you as the youth leader / coach to give your students as much wisdom and guidance as possible. Keep your students motivated and full of inspiration but don't actually run the event for them. Ultimately, the goal is to have the students run this event in their school, and for them to know that you are there to guide and coach them.

As a coach you also want to make sure that your students have properly approached the school with their ideas and that the students work with the school and within school protocol. Make sure that the students understand the bigger picture; that the way they conduct EXO this year will reflect on your youth ministry and the opportunity to do EXO in the future.

*** TIPS FOR WORKING WITHIN SCHOOL PROTOCOLS:**

- Students need to have their Principals support & permission. We need to work within the school structure. It's important to do Exo well, and finish on a positive note, so that the student and teacher body have had a positive experience with Exo and your youth ministry.
- See that students have thought through what they want to do in their school and can document that for their principal in the form of a written proposal.
- Ensure that students present their proposal in sufficient time to their school (we recommend at least 4 weeks).
- Help students understand the correct way to approach their teachers with their proposal (*such as organising an appointment*).
- You and any other community volunteers need to have written permission from the school for photos or videos of the day to be taken.
- You and any external volunteers need permission to be on the school grounds, don't just assume you are allowed to be there.
- Make the students aware that if they are cooking food that they need to make sure that food health regulations are adhered to. They must make sure food is fresh and cooked well.

* Sponsorship

- Exoday encourages students to get some form of sponsorship for their event with (sausages or bread for the BBQ). For example, students had Coke donate soft drink through a student's parent who works for Coke.
- Ensure that the students approach their sponsors properly and that they thank them for their contribution.
- Help the students to approach the right sponsors (products that you as a youth leader would endorse).
- See more detailed information in the Exo Fest WA Students Manual 2007.

*Great Tips for Success

There are several simple keys that can make Exo an exceptional success.

* GIVE PLENTY OF TIME

- Start promoting and planning EARLY.
- Two months out will help with the success.
- Sponsors and teachers need time to organise and say YES!

* COMMUNICATION

- As a leader make yourself available to students.
- Make sure your instructions are clearly understood especially in relation to school protocol.
- As a team, remember to follow up on checklists as some students have a tendency to avoid their responsibilities.
- Plan regular meetings, maybe before your youth ministry. The more time you give the better planned you will be. Spend time praying and getting students to tell other students what they are doing.
- Strategise together
- Celebrate sponsorship victories together!

* SET REALISTIC GOALS

- As a leader it's your job to help set the overall vision.
- Help students to aim for achievable goals both in the Exo event and in the impact you are anticipating in your youth ministry.

* USE TIMESHEETS

- Time sheets are a great way to see when and what is happening.
- They give a clear and visual understanding of events to take place.
- Most importantly timesheets clearly outlay the time of when tasks are to be completed

* USE CHECKLISTS

- Check lists are particularly helpful for the event on the day.
- Check lists should include every thing that's required for Exo day

* INFORMATION

- Explain Exoday a few times, students may not get it first time.
- To launch Exoday maybe have a message focused on evangelism to back up the opportunity you are presenting students with.

- Youth Alive has Exoday videos and an Exoday schools coordinator who can assist you with the vision.
- As a leader the best and easiest thing you can do is simply guide students through the student Exo manual.

*** Adrenalin Week 2007**

This year Adrenalin Week will be bigger than ever, with the Preston Centuolo, Antiskeptic, The Bullet Holes & J-One (Jone Vasu's band) touring Perth high-schools to promote Adrenalin, the Youth Alive WA State Rally @ Challenge Stadium.

Adrenalin Week is designed to build on what you have achieved during Exo Week, by giving students a taste of what Adrenalin will be like, to further promote and encourage them to go to Adrenalin with your youth group.

If you would like to book any of the above crew for your school (metro and Peel areas only – sorry country crew!), you need to get in touch with Youth Alive WA as soon as possible.

Remember, there are costs involved – this helps us to be able to cover costs of the high school tour, as well as logistical requirements, so please check it through carefully with the school's chaplain and principal prior to contacting Youth Alive.

* CAN I REALLY GET KIDS FROM SCHOOLS TO THE BIG EXO DAY, THEN INTO MY YOUTH MINISTRY?

by Ben Woods, a NSW youth pastor
(article courtesy of Youth Alive NSW)

note: "The Big Exo Day is a Youth Alive NSW event similar to Adrenalin

When asked recently how he gets kids from schools to the big event and then into his youth ministry Ben wrote down the following...

"With the work that we do in schools, it is our main goal to get young people into our youth ministry. This can seem like a major challenge but there are a few keys that can really help the process. Our youth ministry brought 200 young people to "Welcome to Summer" (a Youth Alive NSW event similar to SummerFest) and a lot of them were unchurched and straight out of schools! Here are some keys:

* CREATE AWARENESS OF THE EVENT IN SCHOOLS

- Announce the event on assemblies
- Get kids to sign up if they want more info
- Organise a give away for everyone who comes
 - We had a free Xbox and the winner was draw out of those who came from the schools
- Make sure that after the assembly or during the sausage sizzle you have plenty of people taking down names of people that are interested in coming.
 - There is nothing worse than having one person trying to take down 60 names. It won't be very successful.
- Put posters up around the school 3 weeks out.
- Get your students to invite their friends and help you take names and run Exo Day in schools etc.

* CONTACT YOUR CONTACTS

- Go through the list of students and call ALL of them.
- Talk to their Mum or Dad if necessary and inform them of all the information.
- Make sure that you have responsible people doing these follow up calls, people that can convince the parents that their child will be safe in your care.
- We call all the contacts 2 or 3 times before the event to make sure that they are totally confirmed and any issues that might be preventing them from coming are eradicated. i.e. parental concerns, transport etc.

MAKE IT AS EASY AS POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO GET THERE

- Offset the ticket price
 - We take up an offering for big events so that the students that we want to come still need to pay but they get a reduced ticket. This creates ownership over the event by the youth ministry as it is their money going into buying the tickets.
 - Maybe do a fundraiser, but something that gets your young people involved in getting their friends there.
- Provide great transport options
 - We had buses picking students up from each high school and dropping them back as well. When we called, we told them the times that the bus would be there to pick them up and drop them off. Also, we left their parents with our contact number in case we were late, or any other issues arose.

*** WORK HARD TO CONNECT THEM**

- Make sure that all the Christian students catch the bus at their own high school.
- Talk to those students about their role, which is to connect with other students. Talk to them about youth ministry.
- Also, place enough leaders on each bus for adequate supervision and make sure that they are working over time to connect with the new students.

*** CONNECT THEM TO YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY AFTER THE EVENT**

- Make sure that your youth ministry is a place that is actually somewhere where you can connect young people. Is it fun and exciting? Is the way you talk about God relevant to the totally unchurched? Is your youth ministry friendly? Are the new visitors accepted? It makes your job a lot harder if you are trying to connect new people to an event that is boring, irrelevant and unfriendly.
- Call all of the new people that came to the event:
 - Those that made a decision (you will get this info from Youth Alive within the week). You need to follow them up as per your new Christians. ie. phone call, organise a lift to youth for them, put them in your new Christians class.
 - Those that didn't make a decision. Contact them and invite them to youth. If they don't want to come, ask them if they want to know about any major events that you have coming up. If they do, put them on a special contact list for later, ie. the next Youth Alive event, next social or outreach at your own youth ministry.
 - With all the follow up you should keep contacting the young people for the next 5 weeks until they are starting to attend or until it is obvious that they totally don't want anything to do with you at this time.
- Connecting them with a small group is vital.
 - Make sure that the new people are connected to a small group.
- Pray for the new visitors and new Christians.

*** WORK HARD**

- Connecting new people is hard work so be prepared to work hard at it.

*** LAST STEP**

- Contact Youth Alive and thank them for putting on the event that brings a huge amount of young people to your ministry!"

* Youth Alive WA – Important Contacts

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Also, check out www.youthalive.com.au and www.exoday.com for more info and inspiration on Exo Week.

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