

Helpful Hints for Planning a Wild Game Supper

(From Sportsmen's Outreach, Inc. sportsmens_outreach@compuserve.com)



1. Secure a keynote speaker.

Consider choosing someone with a professional athletic background or a known outdoorsman.

2. Secure a location and date.

A community center, civic center or auditorium. Remember that you want to reach lost people. A weeknight may be better than weekend to eliminate conflicts folks may have with their schedule. Many people are hunting and fishing on Saturdays. This way people can come straight from work to the event.

3. Charge admission.

Keep cost to a minimum (\$5.00?) But remember that many folk are skeptical of free stuff from churches.

4. Sell tables.

Encourage people to buy a whole table and invite their lost friends. It also gives men ownership and they can sit with their friends.

5. Music.

It is a good idea to have some background music to help people relax. Maybe some Blue Grass or good pickin' music. (not the Sunday morning choir!).

6. Establish a follow-up committee.

Have a team of men who will visit within one week of the banquet. If a person checks that they would like more information about your church, you will want to have packets to mail them.

7. Decision cards.

Place cards and pencils at every table for people to fill out. These are to be taken up at the conclusion to be eligible for door prizes and to determine commitments.

8. Secure good door prizes.

Guided fishing trips, fishing tackle, hunting supplies, coolers, flashlights, tools, gift certificates, etc.

9. Committees.

You will need help with the banquet. Set up, cooking, security, clean up, coordination of veggies and desserts (possibly ask church Sunday school classes to help with this), sound system, usher to collect cards, etc.

10. Tickets.

Sell tickets at church, but also at local hunting/fishing stores.



11. Serving lines.

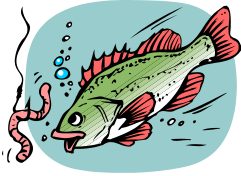
You will need one line for every 75 people. Have a server for each item. This will cause the line to go faster and people will not take too much food. Canned soft drinks are the easiest to distribute during the serving.

12. Guests.

Invite local game wardens, boat dealers, taxidermists, hunting and fishing store owners, local guides, etc. to come display their products at the banquet.

More Helpful Hints for Planning a Wild Game Supper

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1. **Relate to your men about the event**, and how its uniqueness will attract men that may not ordinarily come to church. Recruit a team of men (4-5) to help coordinate the event. The event needs to have an outreach focus.
2. **Secure a date and a speaker.** Most known speakers have a full calendar, so have a couple of dates in mind to allow you to adjust to their schedule. If you are strictly tied to an outdoors theme, then get a speaker of that type. If it is just a men's event, then make sure you get a speaker that men would come to hear. Don't expect to get a quality speaker unless you schedule with them at least six months prior to the event. Sometimes, a year prior is needed.
3. After securing the date, **determine the cost.** If you are buying wild game, it can be expensive. (see #6). If you have enough men in your church that can donate a variety of game and fish, you will save some. Your cost should reflect three things: the cost of having your speaker, the cost of the meal itself, and any miscellaneous costs, including door prizes, printing tickets, etc.
4. **Advertise the event.** Start in your church and other area churches. But also advertise in local sporting good stores, hardware stores, and any other places men may visit.
5. **Sell tickets.** You can sell tickets two ways – to individuals or by the table. (Ex: a table of eight may be purchased for \$80). If a man buys a table, he can invite other men at no cost to them. This is a great way to get non-churched men there. Stop ticket sales one week before the event so you will have an accurate number of how many to expect.
6. **Secure the food.** Most major food companies sell some wild game. PYA Monarch and US Food Service are two possibilities. If you have a person in your church who works in the food service industry or who owns a restaurant, they should be able to order the wild game through their supplier. Try to have a variety of wild game so men can try several items. Venison cannot be bought commercially – it must be donated. Also, find men who have some experience preparing wild game to cook. Offer at least one side item such as slaw, baked beans, etc. Do not forget drinks, desserts, and ice.
7. **Have registration cards** so you can have a record of who came. They can be used for men to indicate that they made a decision for Christ as well. Take these up at the end and use them for your door prize drawing. This will encourage everyone to fill one out.
8. You should **have music at your program.** Also consider having men get up and sharing short, humorous stories about an outdoor adventure. A prize can be awarded for the best story.
9. Time. If possible, try to **keep the entire event to a 2-3-hour time limit.** If you go much longer, you will begin to lose some men.
10. **Pray.** Make sure you pray for the event, the speaker, and for all the men who will attend.