

Booster Club Mindset and Missionary Mindset Committees

The Concept

Booster Club Mindset

If your son plays soccer you expect to serve on the team's booster club. You will provide orange slices at half time and work the concession stand at your assigned time. You will pay your dues and show up to games. You will probably advocate for and spread the word about the team around town. You have to believe in soccer a little or you wouldn't be supportive but you may not be a diehard believer in soccer. If your son doesn't make the team next year you probably won't serve on the booster club any longer and you certainly won't pay your dues! Your work and support is conditional and there is nothing wrong with that.

Missionary Mindset

When you support a missionary you support them because of your belief in them and your belief in the mission that they are working for. You don't expect to know the people who are benefitting from that mission. You may care a little about where they are doing their missionary work but if one year you get a letter saying they have moved from Thailand to India you might not even notice! You support them because of your belief in the cause--- so yes your support is still conditional but the conditions certainly aren't that it has to be people you know that are benefitting from the mission. The conditions are that you still believe in the cause and that they are effective in their work.

Young Life Committees

Young Life committee members fall somewhere on this spectrum. Some committees are more heavily weighted on the missionary end of the spectrum and some more weighted on the booster club end of the spectrum. My assertion is that the best committees have members that are all along this spectrum with every member moving toward the missionary mindset end of the spectrum

Booster Club Mindset



Missionary Mindset



Booster Club Mindset

Missionary Mindset

Strengths

Connected to ‘target audience’

Fresh excitement for necessary duties/tasks of committee

Provide new networks of people

Replace themselves well

Easier to recruit

Passion for ‘their’ community. Ownership of their community

Weaknesses

Can lose focus on Christ

Lack vision beyond their kids school or town

Limited understanding of and ability to communicate the mission of YL

Support stops when their kids aren’t involved-- based on age or attraction to YL

Weak Spiritually

Strengths

Strong Spiritually

Think beyond of the borders of their school or town

Visionary

Will support financially for the long haul

Will support with their time for the long haul

Strong feeling of ownership of YL

Understand and communicate mission well

Weaknesses

Wear out their voices in their network of people

Can be territorial and exclusive

Can be (overly) set in their ways

Can be worn out doing same ‘tasks’ year after year

Important Thoughts

- ➔ Everything is contextual. This model looks different in the city, in the suburbs, in a college town, in a primarily college led club etc
- ➔ Best committees are a mix of those with a booster club mindset and a missionary mindset
- ➔ Committee Chair and Area Director responsibility is to help move people from Booster Club Mindset to Missionary Mindset
- ➔ You will lose some people who enter as booster club but never make it over to Missionary Mindset. You have to be okay with this
- ➔ The greater threat is to have a committee that is overly weighted on the booster club side because of the possibility of losing the spiritual focus. Of course there has to be a minimal level of spiritual maturity required for all.
- ➔ A committee more weighted towards booster club needs to do more for spiritual growth of CMTE members. While those weighted toward mission mindset is safer in assuming they are growing on their own.
- ➔ Missionary mindset folks need to give up 'easy' tasks to new recruits (i.e. providing meals, working on banquets, hosting meetings)
- ➔ Hard to recruit once you NEED to recruit new members. Recruiting committee members continually
- ➔ A committee should have people all along the spectrum so that when your core committee members step away there are people ready

Ideas on how to have people enter as booster club members:

- ➔ **Defined Tasks. Defined Timeline** People love clearly defined tasks and clearly defined timeframes---brining meals, hosting, working on an event
- ➔ **Put Away Folding Chairs Together.** Never allow the core group to host meetings (camp parent meetings, camp reunions, info nights, etc). Hosting is an easy entry point and allows for valuable conversations. 'Putting away folding chairs' is an incredible opportunity
- ➔ **Pancake Breakfast theory.** Sometimes we have to create entry points for adults--- just for the sake of adults
- ➔ **Camp Sendoffs.** When given a chance to give adults a window into the ministry
- ➔ **Atmosphere** Be a group that people would want to be a part of. Celebrate often. Value people. Celebrate people when they leave the committee. People want to be a part of something that allows for graceful exits.
- ➔ 2 Rules to live by
 - ➔ Never allow a core committee member to host -- Always a **periphery person**
 - ➔ Never allow any committee member to provide meals. They should be the one coordinating meals to be brought by **periphery people**

Ideas on how to help people move toward missionary mindset:

- ➔ Continued **exposure** to the mission. (Camp trips, clubs, stories, family camp, Adult Guests)
- ➔ Continuing and ongoing **education**. Committee meetings should have an educational component
- ➔ Ask committee members to do things that are just **one step beyond what they think they are capable of**
- ➔ Keep **scripture and personal spiritual growth** front and center and a value for all members. More time needs to be allotted to this