



State Youth Director Lynette Talasek

SPJST Home Office

P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Office (800) 727-7578 • Fax (254) 774-7447 • Mobile (254) 931-0639

Email: lynettet@spjst.com



October 25, 2016

Dear Youth Leaders,

November is here! Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! To those of you who will be traveling during over Thanksgiving, may your journeys be joyous and safe.

I hope everyone had an opportunity in October to participate in Make a Difference Day. I will be anxiously awaiting photographs and letters about all the good works done by our youth members and their families. The year is really zooming by so please be sure to take some time out at your next youth meeting to discuss having a membership drive. Membership drives can help create a momentum of growth in your group, but don't just stop there. Continue to host fun events for youth to enjoy throughout the year. Remember, each youth club receives one free mailout every year! Vestnik Editor Melanie Zavodny can make some really great event flyers and mail them out - all you have to do is plan the event. Check out www.thesource4ym.com for some really great youth event ideas!

With November here and December right around the corner it is the time for families to come together and be thankful for what is important — good health, relationships and life's simple blessings. This is also the time of the year our youth can make a big difference in someone else's life. There are many families having a hard time making ends meet. Youth Leaders, consider challenging your youth to help out a family in need in the local community, helping stock your local food pantry, helping an elderly neighbor, or assisting your local Salvation Army with its Red Kettle Christmas Drive. Also, Lodge Christmas parties will be starting and members love a well planned Christmas play. Start planning today and don't forget to take plenty of pictures and share your Christmas joy with SPJST members across the State.

"Seeking the Treasures of SPJST" Membership Drive

Even if your youth club has not yet achieved its "Seeking the Treasures of SPJST" goal, there's still time! Included is a list of where each youth club stands in relation to its goal. Also, encourage your youth club members to turn in those refer-

ral cards! All referral cards received during a given month go into a drawing for three \$25 gift cards. All referral cards received during the year will go into a drawing for five \$100 gift cards.

Youth Leader Incentive

I have been very impressed with several youth clubs across the state who have increased their membership and are in the running for the \$100 youth leader incentive. Just in case it has slipped your mind - If your youth club active membership increases by five new members the youth leader will receive \$100. If your youth club active membership increases by 10 or more the youth leader will receive \$200. There is still plenty of time to build up your youth club and win some extra spending money!

SPJST Scholarships and Leadership Grants

All members who are high school seniors are encouraged to apply for the SPJST General Scholarship and Leadership Grant. Undergraduates are encouraged to apply for the General Scholarship. Please, remember that you need to be an active youth club member to apply for the Leadership Grant. For more information or for applications, please call Sandra Dubcak in the Fraternal Department. Completed scholarship applications and related application materials must be post-marked on or before February 1, 2017.

Vestnik Project Due Dates

Keep those Vestnik Projects coming in on time. This is a simple way to make sure each youth club member receives the points that they deserve. I would like to commend the vast majority of you for getting the Vestnik Projects in on time. Keep up the good work!

October Vestnik Projects are due on November 15.

November Vestnik Projects are due on December 15.

December Vestnik Projects are due on January 15.

Quarterly and Merit Reports Due December 15

Please make every effort to submit your quarterly and merit reports before December 15. This is the second quarterly report for September, October, and November. Those of you that email the electronic quarterly report into the youth office need to submit the sign in sheet with the electronic file. This took the place of the youth having to initial the paper quarterly report. You can send the sign in sheet by scanning the page, mailing or faxing to my office. The fax number

for the Fraternal Department is 254.774.7447. These reports help to determine the funding your youth club will receive at the spring meeting and how much money your district receives for its youth activities. Youth clubs that do not submit their quarterly and merit reports on time will lose out on their incentives. This can mean losing hundreds of dollars for your youth club.

100 Pennies Scholarship Drive

This year's goal is to raise \$20,000. This is in addition to the allocation which the Supreme Lodge has made. Through your generous donations, SPJST has been able to continue to provide scholarships to members who wish to further their education.

Thanks to all of the young people and youth clubs who contribute to this wonderful program. If you have not contributed in the past please consider doing so this year. Remember that no contribution is too big or small. All young people who donate at least \$2 will receive two merit points. All young people who donate at least \$5 will also receive a certificate.

Veteran's Day

Please take time and remember our Veterans at your next youth club meeting in November. Veterans Day is Friday, November 11.

Christmas Open House December 5

All members are cordially invited to attend the Temple Christmas parade on Monday, December 5, 2016 in downtown Temple at 6:30 p.m. SPJST will have several entries in the parade - including the fourth statewide appearance of our 2016 - 2017 SPJST State Royalty Court. Following the parade, everyone is invited to the SPJST Christmas Open House at the SPJST Home Office, located at 520 North Main Street.

We look forward to meeting each and every one of you. Come by and meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy the SPJST as it comes alive with a traditional Czech family home with Czech Christmas customs. The Czech Christmas tree will be on display with traditional Czech ornaments. The youth will enjoy balloon twisting and face painting. The open house will feature music, refreshments, and lots of fun. Throughout the Christmas season, the Home Office will feature the Youth Christmas Tree featuring the statewide winning youth ornaments. Spread the word about this fun event. Watch the *Vestnik* for additional details as the date approaches.

Important Dates To Remember

November 17, 2016	Wear youth camp shirt day
December 5, 2016	SPJST Home Office Open House
December 15, 2016	Second Quarterly Report Due
January 31, 2017	Spring DYC Meeting
March 25, 2017	Youth Leaders Retreat

Fraternally,

Lynette Talasek

Lynette Talasek
State Youth Director

November Vestnik Project • Thanksgiving Safety Tips

This project earns a maximum of 1 point in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than December 15, 2016 to:
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name _____ Age _____ Lodge _____

Thanksgiving Smart

Friends and family come together on Thanksgiving to enjoy good company and good food. The big game is on in the living room and that crazy uncle of yours is yelling at the coach. Grandpa is doing his best to eat the deviled egg population. Suddenly, you see him clutch his throat and turning pale. What do you do? Your actions could save his life.

Thanksgiving is the annual holiday of over eating and the opportunity to find ourselves in the emergency room rather than the living room or dining room at home. Here are just a few tips to help keep your holiday safe.

Know some basic first-aid. If someone is choking be prepared to use the Heimlich Maneuver. From behind, wrap your arms around the person's waist. Make a fist, placing the thumb side of your fist against the person's abdomen, below the ribcage and about the navel. Grasp your fist with your other hand and press into their upper abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Repeat until object is expelled.

Remind your parents when they are preparing to carve the turkey a sharp carving knife is a safe knife. Dull blades are more likely to slip and cause a nasty cut to the user.

Keeping the kitchen utensils clean can prevent an overnight stay in the bathroom or emergency room. Wash all surfaces with soap and water. Make sure you avoid cross-contamination of cooking utensils and cutting boards.

Kitchen fires, such as grease fires are very dangerous and you should never use water to put out the fire. Use a pan lid or baking soda to contain the flames. Better yet, buy a dry chemical fire extinguisher for the kitchen.

If you decide not to cook and visit relatives, be smart on the road. Drive carefully and stay alert. There are plenty of other folks who will be tired, stressed or otherwise distracted while driving.

The holidays are a great time to visit and catch up with loved ones. Do your best not to spend that quality time with a doctor or nurse at the local hospital.



Tommy the Turkey is getting ready for Thanksgiving. Help Tommy have the right information to keep his family safe this Thanksgiving season by filling in the blanks and answering the questions below.

1. If someone is choking be prepared to use the _____.
2. Remind your parents when they are preparing to _____ the turkey a sharp carving knife is a _____.
3. Keeping the kitchen _____ clean can prevent an overnight stay in the bathroom or emergency room.
4. Wash all surfaces with _____ and _____. Make sure you avoid cross-contamination of cooking utensils and cutting boards.
5. Kitchen fires, such as _____ are very dangerous and you should never use water to put out the fire.
6. If you decide not to _____ and decide to visit relatives, be smart on the road. Drive _____ and stay alert.

On the back of this page draw a picture of your Thanksgiving dinner.

Source: <http://www.aetc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123231457>

**Alfred Vrazel and
Mike Marek Combo**

Czech Heritage Museum

**Czech Veterans
Wall of Honor**

**Christmas
Stories**

**Temple
High School
Encore**

**Childrens
Activities**

**Facepainters,
Dalmatians and
Holiday Cheer!**

**Meet Santa
and Mrs. Claus!**

Holiday Refreshments

Come One, Come All!
Christmas
Open House
Following the Temple Christmas Parade!

Monday ★ December 5

SPJST Home Office

at 520 North Main Street ★ Temple, Texas and

Czech Heritage Museum

at 119 West French Avenue