

Welcome 2017!

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December 28, 2016

Dear Youth Leaders,

The final weeks of 2016 were filled with Christmas festivities and fun. It was a great chance to visit and — in so many cases — make new friends, too! Active involvement in SPJST can be a blast — and a real family affair, too! A big thank you — Youth Leaders and District Youth Counselors — for the tremendous job you do with our youth.

This year's Temple Christmas Parade and SPJST Christmas Open House on Tuesday, December 6 were both wonderful successes! Due to the clear skies we had a huge crowd at this year's Christmas Open House. Thanks to all of the members who turned out for these events! Both of the SPJST floats were in the Temple parade. Melanie and David continue to do a first-class job incorporating new ideas for the floats. Members of the SPJST Royalty Court had to endure the cold



Christmas Cheer

SPJST State Royalty Court members participated in Temple Christmas Parade and SPJST Open House festivities on the night of December 6. Pictured, on the back row are State King Colby See (9, Snook), State Queen Amanda Hoggard (202, Jourdanton), and seated on the couch is Santa, State Duchess Rileigh Kitchen (185, New Braunfels), State Duke J. Beaux Hruska (9, Snook) and Ms. Claus.

while riding in the Corvettes. They did an exceptional job of representing the SPJST. Later, at the Open House, Royalty Court members greeted guest at the front door. It was a great time for the youth and the young at heart.

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas. I wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year!

2017 Vestnik Projects

We are again including in this handout a list of Vestnik project topics for this next year. I know that many of you were able to incorporate the project into your youth meetings. Each quarter will include suggestions on ways to incorporate the project into your meeting and help prepare for your next youth club meeting.

I would like all youth leaders and their assistants to use this as a tool to help prepare in advance for meetings.

2017 SPJST Camp Tee Shirt Design Contest

"We need your good ideas and creativity!" I challenge all youth club members to participate in the camp tee-shirt design contest. Remember the deadline is January 31. The grand prize will be a \$100 gift card and your design on the 2017 camp tee-shirt. There will be first place winners out of the other three age groups and the youth will receive a \$75 gift card. Youth leaders, please encourage all your youth members to participate. All participants will receive 2 merit points and a participation certificate. We have many youth who are very creative and talented. This year's theme is "SPJST - Live the Adventure!"

Youth Development Workshop

The District Youth Development Workshops will be conducted by your District Youth Counselor. Please watch your email and the *Vestnik* for more information. You will be covering topics that pertain to youth achievement day projects and alot of other fun ideas to share. Please be sure to encourage your youth members to participate.

President's Volunteer Service Award

The SPJST Youth Program is a sponsor for the President's Volunteer Service Awards for all SPJST youth who are eligible to receive the awards. No youth may receive more than one President's Volunteer Service Awards during the preceding calendar year. The SPJST will recognize youth for volunteer service during January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. You can log your hours online. For information on logging hours online please contact Fraternal Services Specialist Tammy Martinez at (254) 773-1575. **The deadline for hours is February 28.**

Youth Leader's Retreat

Please mark your calendars and save the date. Youth Leaders Retreat will start on Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. at the SPJST Education and Nature Center. I would really like for all Youth Leaders to come and stay overnight with us and head home on Sunday, March 26. All youth leaders and their assistants are encouraged to attend. Spouse and guest are welcome to accompany you; if you are planning to bring a spouse or guest, please let me know and I will work with you on making arrangements. Youth Leaders are also invited to come and make a weekend out of this event and stay over Friday, March 24. Warrenton Trade Days will be going on and you are welcome to come early to shop.

We're going to cover a lot of ground on Saturday's program, but I plan on doing my best to make it as educational, informative and fun as I possibly can. Following the day time agenda we will have our awards banquet. Afterwards everyone is invited to enjoy a nice meal and a fun filled evening. To take advantage of the incentives and really absorb what is happening I highly suggest you make plans to attend. We will also be addressing any questions that you may have about the youth program.

100 Pennies Scholarship Drive

Thanks to all of the young people and youth clubs who have contributed to this wonderful project. 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. May 31, 2017 is the deadline to receive credit.

Mark Your Calendar:

May 6 is Join Hands Day

Our goal for 2017 is to have 50 or more lodges participate. What can your Youth Club do? Some of the great projects from past years included baking for the needy, cemetery clean-ups, highway beautification, assisting veterans and senior citizens programs and fundraiser for your local volunteer fire department. You've still got plenty of time to decide what you want to do in 2017. The main thing -- at this point -- is committing to doing something. If you have any questions on this, please contact me.

Again, this year, the Supreme Lodge will offer a \$100 incentive to local SPJST lodges to be used in developing and/or promoting their project. This incentive will be for lodges who partner with youth in their community. To receive the \$100 incentive, lodges must register the event with the Home Office.

2017 Leader-In-Training Retreat June 9-11

This year we have a great LIT retreat lined up for our youth. Our retreat will be held at the SPJST Education and Nature Center at Cooper Farm. Mark your calendars and save the date for a great time. I hope that all youth that finished their 8th grade year through graduating seniors will participate as LIT's. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

NEW - Youth LEAD Program

SPJST Leaders in Education And Development (LEAD) program is designed to enhance interpersonal and communication skills while fostering independence and self-awareness. Successful participants will come away from this program with valuable leadership skills that will serve them well at home, in school, and in their own community. This program is open to all incoming Junior and Senior SPJST youth members.

Our LEAD program will facilitate the transition from camper to counselor. Participants plan programs, lead activities, and help supervise campers. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be provided a certificate of program completion and documentation of community service hours.

Please watch the Vestnik and Youth Leaders packets for more information and applications in the near future.

Fraternally,

Lynette Talasek

Lynette Talasek
State Youth Director

January Vestnik Project - New Years Resolutions

This project earns a maximum of 1 point in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than February 15, 2017 to:
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name _____ Age _____ Lodge _____

New Year's Resolutions

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back as well as planning for the coming year. We call these plans for the future "resolutions." Listed below are some of the most popular new year's resolutions. Read them and then share three new year's resolutions that you may be making this year.

1. Spend More Time with Family and Friends

Recent polls conducted by General Nutrition Centers, Quicken, and others show that more than 50 percent of Americans pledge to appreciate loved ones and spend more time with family and friends in the new year.

2. Fit in Fitness

Regular exercise has been associated with more health benefits than anything else known to man.

3. Lose Weight

More than 66 percent of adult Americans are considered over weight so it is not surprising to find that weight loss is one of the most popular new year's resolutions.

4. Enjoy Life More

Given the hectic, stressful lifestyles of millions of Americans, it is no wonder that "enjoying life more" has become a popular resolution in recent years. It's an important step to a happier and healthier you!

5. Learn Something New

Vowing to make this year the year to learn something new? Learning something new can be done in many different places, not just in school. How about you?

6. Help Others

Volunteering takes many forms. Whether you choose to spend time assisting on a youth club project, helping a friend, or mowing a senior citizen's yard, there are lots of things you can do to help others.

7. Get Organized

"Getting organized" is a worthy resolution and appears on many people's lists.

In the space below, list three new year's resolutions you may have. If you need more space, you may write on another sheet of paper.



2017 SPJST Camp Tee-Shirt Design Contest

Official Entry Form

2017 Theme:

“SPJST - Live the Adventure”

Entry Deadline: January 31, 2017

Draw your original design in the space blocked at left. See 2016 - 2017 SPJST Youth Club Handbook for contest rules for complete details.

Name _____

Lodge _____

Age____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

This is my original artwork -- not traced or copied. I understand that it becomes the property of SPJST and will not be returned.

Youth Member's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

Mail entry by January 31, 2017 to:

SPJST Camp
Tee-Shirt Design Contest
c/o SPJST Home Office
P.O. Box 100, Temple, TX 76503

*Happy Valentine's Day
from the Vestnik!*

**Send Your Special Someone
a Valentine in the Vestnik.**

*Greetings are free of charge.
A photo may be published with a greeting for \$5.*

Please Print Clearly. Thank You!

Photo(s) enclosed @ \$5 each
Total enclosed: \$ _____

To: _____

Message: _____

From: _____

The following will not be published, but please include in case of questions.

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

***Greetings and photos with payment
must be received by January 30 to be published.***

***Submit
valentines, photos,
and payment
online at
www.spjst.org***

**Submit online, mail, or fax your greetings
by Monday, January 30 2017, to:
SPJST Vestnik Editor Melanie Zavodny
P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503-0100
FAX: 254-773-8087 • Email: vestnik@spjst.org**