

# 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

March 27, 2017

Dear SPJST Youth Leaders,

It was great seeing so many of you at the Youth Leaders Retreat on Saturday, March 25 at the SPJST Education and Nature Center in Ledbetter, Texas! Those of you who were not able to attend missed out on a wonderful experience! Please make every effort to attend your District Youth Leader training to be hosted by your District Youth Counselor. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting with you and visiting your youth club meetings. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who had a helping hand in making it a productive and enjoyable experience.

Guests in attendance were District One Director/Chairman of the Board Donnie Victorick and his wife, Janice, District Two Director Jesse Pospisil, District Five Director Bradley Stavinoha, Vestnik Editor Melanie Zavodny and her husband, David, President Brian Vanicek and his wife, Joan. Some major topics covered were the 2017 incentive program, online camp applications, online camp chaperone training and youth leader responsibilities. The youth leaders were given a poll to see how many had a membership drive this last year. The results were that the majority in attendance did have a membership drive. The youth leaders were then asked to share their experiences with each other. This was a great time get new ideas and reevaluate how some youth leaders approach the membership drive in their district.

After lunch we reviewed changes to the 2017-2018 SPJST Youth Club Handbook and answered a number of related questions. This year the constructed item is a wood craft. Please note that the rule book states on page 26 that the project may include hardware that is necessary to complete the project. In addition to the constructed item changes, please review with your youth club members the changes made to Foods (pg.26) and Photography (pg.27). Youth Achievement Day entry cards were distributed and Youth Club Handbooks were issued. **Please make every effort to attend your district youth leaders training. If you are in need of any supplies please contact me or Fraternal Services Specialist Tammy Martinez.**

Brian spoke with the youth leaders about a mission statement for each youth club. Brian encouraged the youth leaders to work with youth club members as well as others involved with the youth club in drafting a mission statement for each club. There was a lot of discussion and some really great ideas were shared. A copy of the mission statement guidelines is attached with this mailing. District Five Director Bradley Stavinoha addressed the youth leaders and encouraged them to consider becoming sales agents for SPJST.

SPJST Camp Director Jeb Lepeyrolerie answered questions about camp and the schedule. The youth leaders were given instructions on the camp craft and time to work on their projects.

The workshop concluded at 4:30 p.m. and was followed at 5:30 p.m by the service awards presentation and dinner. Youth Leaders were thanked for their work with the youth program and presented with their 42 (i) allocation funds, incentive awards, and years of service pins. Everyone enjoyed a steak dinner provided by District One Director Donnie Victorick. Donnie thanked all the youth leaders for their efforts with the youth. After dinner everyone enjoyed a presentation by Sky Kings Falconry followed by some fellowship time around the camp fire. Please know that this is a learning workshop, but it is also a time to share ideas, have fun and make new friends. One of the main goals of the workshop is to refresh and renew our youth leaders and I hope that goal was accomplished. I look forward to having 100 percent attendance next year!

### **Decorated Rock Contest**

Please encourage your youth to attend their District Spring Meetings and participate in the Decorated Rock Contest. All members who attend their District Spring Meeting will receive five points in the Merit Point System. All contest participants will receive a participation award, and youth club members will receive another five merit points in the Merit Point System. The first place winning rocks from each district will be featured in a display case in the SPJST Home Office lobby through the end of the youth year. The first place winning rocks from each district will also be judged on the state level.

### **Please make note of these spring meeting dates:**

District 1 - Sunday, April 2 at Lodge 17, New Tabor  
District 3 - Sunday, April 23 at Lodge 6, Cottonwood  
District 4 - Saturday, April 1, at Lodge 49, Rowena  
District 6 - Sunday, April 2, at Lodge 40, El Campo-Hillje

### **Camp Tee-Shirt Orders Due June 30**

This year's camp tee-shirts are available for sale. Youth Leaders, please let parents know that they can order their children's camp tee-shirts on-line when registering for camp or by filling out the form and sending it to the SPJST Home Office. All Tee-shirts are \$8.50 and the deadline to order is June 30.

Tee-shirts can be delivered to camp, picked up at the Home Office, or mailed to you for \$2.

### **Flag Day Essay Contest**

All SPJST youth between the ages of kindergarten and high school senior are encouraged to enter this year's Flag Day Contest. This contest will promote patriotism and creative literacy. There will also be a coloring contest for members ages eight and under. Several prizes will be awarded in the Flag Day Contest. The deadline for all entries is May 31. Please make reference to the Flag Day Essay Contest guidelines enclosed with this mailing. This year's theme is "Flying High for 240 Years". This would be a good time to talk about the right way to display the U.S Flag and flag etiquette. You may also consider having a member of the Boy Scouts or the American Legion come in as a guest speaker.

### **Important Notice: *Vestnik* Projects and 4th Quarterly Merit Reports Due June 1**

Please remember the *Vestnik* Projects and 4th Quarterly Merit Reports are due on June 1. If you mail them to the Home Office on or after June 15, this does not give Tammy enough time (one week) to get the data to the District Youth Counselors on who is eligible to attend SPJST camp and Youth Achievement Day. Please be diligent on getting this information in a timely manner.

### **2017 Leaders-In-Training Retreat**

Leaders-In-Training Retreat will be at SPJST Education and Nature Center at Cooper Farm on, Friday June 9 through Sunday, June 11. Registration will start at 1:00 p.m. and camp activities will get rolling. We will be covering the duties of an LIT at camp. This will give the LITs the opportunity to acquire some great skills and help them be an important asset to their District Camps. I won't give anything away, but I'll tell you some great activities are being planned. LITs must attend this event in order to be eligible to assist with their district's summer camping season. LITs will also assist their youth leaders with their youth clubs throughout the year.

Who's eligible to be a Leader-In-Training? LITs are active high school aged youth who have been approved by their Youth Leader and District Youth Counselor

as responsible and mature enough to be an LIT. The youth club member may attend the LIT Workshop after completing an Leader-In-Training Contract. Forms will be made available through the online camp application system. LIT Camp Registration is due on May 1.

### **2017 LEAD Team Application Deadline April 1**

The LEAD program is being offered in addition to the SPJST's longstanding LIT (Leaders-in-Training) program. For 2017, all interested LEAD program candidates will be asked to complete an application. The application process will be followed by an online Skype interview. A total of ten youth will be accepted into the program for 2017. Those who are selected will begin their leadership regimen by attending and participating in a week-long SPJST training session for SPJST summer camp personnel in June. Applications are due by April 1, 2017.

### **StateWide Food Drive**

Last year's food drive was a huge success with youth clubs collecting 1376 lbs of food and \$250 cash that was donated to 14 food pantries across Texas.

Lets make this years donation even bigger! We are calling this food drive "Super Cereal". Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and cereal is THE BEST. It's also one of the most common items requested by food banks. In the spring, food banks need your help more than ever, so collect cereal boxes as part of THIS complete breakfast.

Ask your neighbors, friends, family, lodge, and even your local grocery store to help out with your efforts. Be sure and count the boxes of cereal you donate and take a picture of your super cereal pyramid to send to the vestnik. You can then donate the cereal to the food panty of your choosing. Be sure to document your efforts and send your photo and information to the Vestnik. This food drive will end on April 1.

### **2017 SPJST Summer Camp**

All camp applications are due by June 1, 2017. If you have a member who is not active in the youth program but who would still like to attend SPJST Summer Camp they may attend for a fee. The cost for the five day four night camp is \$250 per camper made payable to SPJST. If you are interested in your child attending SPJST Summer Camp and would like more information please contact State Youth Director Lynette Talasek at 254-773-1575 or 1-800-727-7578.

### **May Vestnik Project**

The May Vestnik project is going to be about Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a

federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. Plan on doing something special to celebrate those who gave their lives for our freedom.

### **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, conducting a variety of fix-up and refurbishing projects 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. When coming up with ideas for your project try to do something that will be noticed by the public. 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 prior to Join Hands Day. The Supreme Lodge will then forward a check to the lodges who have registered.

#### **The 2017 SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration**

Make plans to join in the fun and festivities of the 2017 SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration to be held Saturday, May 6 at SPJST Lodge 47, Seaton Star Hall. Seaton Star Hall is located approximately seven miles east of Temple, just off Highway 53.

There will be cars! And more cars! There will be Czech heritage displays, arts and crafts vendors, music and showcase entertainment. Admission is free. Donations and proceeds generated from event underwriters as well as from the silent and live auctions, will benefit the SPJST Foundation which supports the Czech Heritage Museum in Temple, Texas and the SPJST Education and Nature Center in Ledbetter, Texas..

It is no accident that the event coincides with Join Hands Day, May 7. If your lodge or youth club is still looking for a Join Hands Day event, the 2017 SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration could be the place for you! To reserve a space for your lodge or your youth club please contact State Youth Director, Lynette Talasek at 800-727-7578 or locally at 254-773-1575.

Consistently, the SPJST Car Show has been one of the premier car show events in the Greater Central Texas area. Based on past SPJST Car Shows, at least 36 classes of vehicles are expected to participate in this year's event. For car show information or serve as a show, please contact David Nauert at 254-534-0809 or call Melanie Zavodny at 254-534-0807. Email [melaniez@vvm.com](mailto:melaniez@vvm.com).

### **State YAD August 5 at the Temple Mayborn Center**

It looks like the hotel rooms will be in high demand in Temple again this year. We are working on blocking out Temple hotel rooms and I will have a list of those hotels for you in the May newsletter.

### **End-Of-Summer Getaway!**

Good times await you at the Corpus Christi End-of-Summer Getaway. Start making your plans now to join us on August 11 - 13 for a fun-filled weekend.

We will be staying at the Emerald Beach Hotel which is located right on the beach. There will be a lot of activities for the whole family. Additional details will be included in future newsletters and will be presented in the *Vestnik* as they become available.

Fraternally yours,

*Lynette Talasek*

Lynette Talasek  
State Youth Director

# April Vestnik Project • Trees

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

## For the Love of Trees

Trees are an important part of every community. We gather under the cool shade during outdoor activities with family and friends. Our streets, parks, playgrounds and backyards are lined with trees that create a peaceful, and eye pleasing environment. Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife into city settings.

## Top Five Reasons Trees are Valuable

### 1. Trees produce oxygen

A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year. What many people don't realize is the forest also acts as a giant filter that cleans the air we breath.

### 2. Trees control noise pollution

Trees muffle urban noise almost as effectively as stone walls. Trees, planted at strategic points in a neighborhood or around your house, can absorb major noises from freeways and airports.

### 3. Trees clean the air

Trees help cleanse the air by intercepting airborne particles, reduc-



ing heat, and absorbing such pollutants as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

### 4. Trees shade and cool

Shade resulting in cooling is what a tree is best known for. Shade from trees reduces the need for air conditioning in summer. In winter, trees break the force of winter winds, lowering heating costs.

### 5. Trees are carbon sinks

To produce its food, a tree absorbs and locks away carbon dioxide in the wood, roots and leaves. A forest is a carbon storage area or a "sink" that can lock up as much carbon as it produces.

Arbor Day originated in Nebraska and has been observed since 1872. On the first official Arbor Day celebration it was estimated that nearly one million trees were planted. Today the most common date for the state observance is the last Friday in April.

## Now It's Your Turn

1. A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as \_\_\_\_\_ people inhale in a year.
2. The forest acts as a giant \_\_\_\_\_ that cleans the air we breath.
2. Trees muffle urban noise almost as effectively as \_\_\_\_\_ walls.
3. The first Arbor Day originated in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. National Arbor Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_.



## **SPJST CAMP Registration is Now OPEN!!**

To register for camp please visit [SPJST.org](http://SPJST.org). The camp registration is listed under the "Programs" tab.

Log in by either using the information from last year or enter your email address and set up a new account.

At registration you will chose which camp you will be attending. If you will be attending LIT and District Camp please select both. The camp shirt is also available to purchase through the online camp registration. CampDoc offers a secondary insurance - SPJST insures all camp participants - you are welcome to consider the CampDoc insurance, but it is not required. If you do not wish to participate in the CampDoc insurance you will need to decline the coverage.

If you get a shirt and decline the coverage you will be shown a balance of \$258.50.

If you are a self pay this is your total.

If you have completed the qualifications to have SPJST cover your cost for camp then you will only need to pay for your camp shirt. The Home Office will waive the camp fee.

If you have a pro-rate fee you can wait for an adjustment to be made to your account before you complete your payment.

If you are going to be a chaperone you will need to upload your Child Safety Certification into the system. If you took the certification in 2015 it is time to renew your certification. Please contact the District Youth Counselor for more information.

# Order Your SPJST 2017 Camp Tee-Shirt Today!



## Tee-Shirt Design by Jared Polly Lodge 88, Houston

The 2017 camp tee-shirts are army green in color with the "Live the Adventure 2017" design on them. Tee-shirts must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Youth club members attending camp will receive their tee-shirts at camp. Tee-shirts can also be mailed for an additional \$2.00 for postage per shirt.

## Order Deadline: June 30, 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## All size shirts \$8.50

### Adult

Small (34-36) \_\_\_\_\_ Medium (38-40) \_\_\_\_\_ Large (42-44) \_\_\_\_\_ X-Large \_\_\_\_\_

Adult XX-Large \_\_\_\_\_ Adult XXX-Large \_\_\_\_\_

### Youth

Small (6-8) \_\_\_\_\_ Medium (10-12) \_\_\_\_\_ Large (14-16) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of shirts ordered:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postage for shirts, if mailed (\$2.00 per shirt):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

You may order online at time of camp registration or send your order along with your check to:

**SPJST Home Office**  
**c/o State Youth Director Lynette Talasek**  
**P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503**



**COME ONE! TWELFTH ANNUAL COME ALL!**

# SPJST CAR SHOW



**Saturday  
May 6  
Seaton  
Star Hall**



**Car Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

For car show entry info, please visit [spjst.org](http://spjst.org) or call 254.534.0809 or 254.534.0807.

Seaton Star Hall is seven miles east of Temple off Highway 53.

# CZECH HERITAGE CELEBRATION

**Benefiting the  
SPJST Foundation  
which supports the  
Czech Heritage Museum  
and SPJST Education  
and Nature Center**



**Insuring  
and  
Enriching Lives  
Since 1897  
[www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org)  
800.727.7578**

**Living History Demonstrations  
Music by Praha Brothers, 11 - 2:30  
SPJST Beseda Dancers at 2:30  
Kolache Eating Contests, 2:45  
Kids Zone Activities, 10 - 3  
Vendor/Food Booths  
& Farmers Market  
For booth info, call 254.931.0639  
Bucket Drawings & Silent Auction**

**FREE ADMISSION!**

12th Annual SPJST CAR SHOW



2017



Benefitting  
SPJST  
Foundation



# SPJST CAR SHOW and Czech Heritage Celebration

Saturday, May 6, 2017

SPJST Lodge 47, Seaton Star Hall  
10842 State Highway 53 • Temple, Texas  
7 miles east of Temple in the community of Seaton

Dear Car Show Enthusiast,

We are proud to announce that our 2017 SPJST Car Show will be held Saturday, May 6 at SPJST Lodge 47, Seaton Star Hall. Seaton Star Hall is located seven miles east of Temple at 10842 State Highway 53 in a quiet, quaint farming community. The show will be held in the large, paved parking lot in front of the hall. We cordially invite you to participate in this exciting event.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and closes at 10:30 a.m. Vehicles will enter the car show display area where volunteers will be available to assist with parking. Trailer parking will be available in a designated area behind Star Hall. (A trailer parked on car show grounds must be registered as a paid entry.) Judging begins at 11 a.m., and awards will be presented at 3 p.m.

We have organized the show into 40 classes. Vehicles will be independently judged, and more than 100 trophies will be awarded. We will also present trophies to the top three People's Choice entries. Special awards including Club Participation, Distance, Best Engine, Best Paint, Best Graphics, Best Interior, and Best of Show will be presented.

Food, soda, water, and beer will be available throughout the day. Breakfast will also be available in the morning. The event benefits the SPJST Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. SPJST volunteers will have special displays like sauerkraut making, rope making, and accordian music. Other activities include a kids' fun zone, arts/crafts/service vendor booths, kolache eating contest, and a silent auction. The Praha Bros. will entertain for your listening and dancing pleasure beginning at 11 a.m.

We hope you will participate in this year's car show. Please mail your registration today or enter online at [www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org). Early registration received by April 28 is \$20. After April 28 and day of show registration is \$30. The first 150 entries will receive tee-shirts and goodie bags. Let us know if you are an SPJST member. SPJST members will receive a special discount on their entry fees. A special "SPJST Award" will be presented to an SPJST member with a vehicle entered in this year's show.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact David Nauert (254) 534-0809/email [davidnauert@usa.com](mailto:davidnauert@usa.com) or Melanie Zavodny (254) 534-0807/email [melaniez@spjst.com](mailto:melaniez@spjst.com). Visit [www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org) for additional information and forms. We look forward to seeing you on May 6 in Seaton!

Sincerely,

*David & Melanie*

SPJST

# CITY OF TEMPLE



WACO



H K Dodgen Loop 363

GATESVILLE

36

LAKE BELTON

2305

**SPJST HOME OFFICE**  
520 N Main St.

3rd St.  
Main St.

**SEATON STAR HALL**  
10842 State Hwy 53  
Temple, TX



Central Adams Ave

H K Dodgen Loop 363

Hwy 53

KILLEEN / FORT HOOD



**Scott & White Hospital**

31st St.  
1st St.

H K Dodgen Loop 363

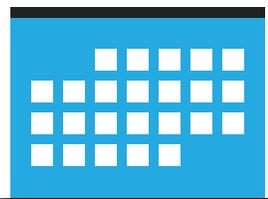
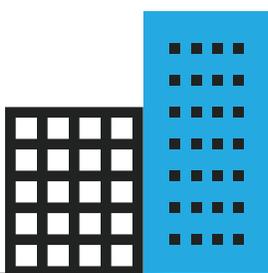
190 & 36

CAMERON

AUSTIN

95

TAYLOR





# Vendors Wanted!

at the 12th Annual SPJST Car Show  
and Czech Heritage Celebration

Visit [www.spjstcarshow.org](http://www.spjstcarshow.org) for event details!



Saturday, May 6, 2017  
SPJST Lodge 47  
Seaton Star Hall

10842 State Highway 53 • Temple, Texas  
(7 miles east of Temple in the community of Seaton)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Seeking Farmers Market, Arts/Crafts,  
Service and Auto-Related Vendors

\$35 for a space with two tables - inside Star Hall

\$25 for a space - outside Star Hall

Set-up Times:

Friday, May 5 between 3 and 6 p.m.

and Saturday, May 6 between 7 and 9 a.m.

## SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration Vendor Form

Vendor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Booth Type/Products to be Offered \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Inside Spaces: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 per space = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Outside Spaces: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 per space = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check/Money Order Enclosed - Payable to SPJST

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ exp. \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_ billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_

All products/services must be suitable for a family audience. Vendors must be registered and paid no later than April 28.

Register and pay online at [www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org) or mail check/money order/credit card info and form to:

SPJST Car Show • PO Box 100 • Temple, TX 76503-0100

For more information or questions, contact Lynette Talasek at (254) 931-0639 or email [lynettet@spjst.com](mailto:lynettet@spjst.com).

**Hey, Kids ages K to High School Senior! Enter Today!**

2 0 1 7 S P J S T  
**FLAG DAY**  
E S S A Y C O N T E S T

**What is it?**

Each year, the SPJST sponsors a Flag Day Contest to promote patriotism and creative writing.

**Who Can Enter?**

All SPJST members age six to high school senior. Youth club membership is not required.

**2016 Theme**

“Flying High For 240 Years”

**Grand Prize Award**

\$100 Gift certificate and winning entry will be submitted for publication in the Vestnik. Refer to the 2016-2017 SPJST Youth Handbook.

**Runner - Up Prizes**

Ages K to 8

\$50 Gift Card

Ages 9 to 11

\$50 Gift Card

Ages 12 to 14

\$50 Gift Card

Ages 15 to High School Senior

\$50 Gift Card

**Participation Awards**

All participants will receive a participation certificate. Youth club members will also receive 2 merit points in the Merit Point System.

**Judging**

Entries will be judged by a panel of writing specialists. Judging is based on the entry's creativity, grammar and neatness.



**The Rules**

Write Flag Day essay or poem with the theme “Flying High For 240 Years” in mind. Essay length must be between 150 to 500 words.

- Entries must be typed.
- Entries must be original and created by the youth member.
- Entries become the property of the SPJST and will not be returned.
- Entries must include a cover sheet with the following information: participant's name, address, phone number, and lodge number.

**Entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2017.**

**Got Questions?**

Call State Youth Director Lynette Talasek at 800.727.7578 or e-mail [lynettet@spjst.com](mailto:lynettet@spjst.com)

Mail entries to:

SPJST State Youth Director Lynette Talasek  
c/o SPJST Home Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Temple, Texas 76503

**Color the Patriotic Picture** All SPJST members ages eight and under can participate. All participants names will be entered in a drawing for prizes. All entries will be exhibited at the SPJST Home Office in Temple. Entries must be postmarked by May 31,2017. Mail entries to SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503.



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPJST Lodge No.** \_\_\_\_\_

<http://1.bp.blogspot.com>



# Have your lodge\* participate in **Join Hands Day** on May 6, 2017

**\*and receive \$100 to apply towards your project!**

**Mark May 6, 2017 on your calendar and make plans for your lodge to organize a local **Join Hands Day** service project.** Join Hands Day is a nationwide observance dedicated to the idea of building relationships between the older generation and the younger generation and making good things happen in our communities. The SPJST strongly supports this initiative and encourages our lodges and youth clubs to get involved and make a positive difference this special day!

**The first step is for your lodge to find a partner organization of the opposite generation.** Who better to work with than your lodge's youth club! In the event that your lodge doesn't have a youth club, it's an excellent opportunity to get your young members involved in the lodge.

**Next, you will want to involve another community service, church or school group in your **Join Hands Day** project.** You know the old saying: "The more the merrier!" Working together, plan a volunteer project that makes life better right where you live. Food drives, trash pick-ups and assisting the elderly and disabled are all good places to start . . . Or take it as an opportunity to really get creative and have some fun with the idea! **Make sure to get pictures of your event and share follow-up stories in the *Vestnik* and your local newspaper.**

\*SPJST lodges that conduct **Join Hands Day** projects in 2017 will receive a \$100 cash incentive from the Home Office. The incentive will be sent to the lodge following the registration of the event with the SPJST Home Office. For assistance, please contact the SPJST Fraternal Department at 800.727.7578. Lodges are strongly encouraged to join forces with other area lodges and/or community service organizations, civic, school and/or church groups.

**Please complete the following **Join Hands Day** event summary  
and submit to the SPJST Home Office on or before April 21, 2017.**

**Lodge No. and Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe your event:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other group(s) that you will be working with:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Form Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return to the Office of the State Fraternal Activities Coordinator c/o SPJST Home Office; P.O. Box 100; Temple, Texas 76503 on or before April 21, 2017. **The **Join Hands Day** incentive** will be sent to the lodge following the registration of their project with the SPJST Home Office. For assistance, please contact the SPJST Fraternal Department at 800.727.7578.

## Best Practice Number One

# Youth Club Has a Clearly Defined Mission Statement

The broad mission of the SPJST — as defined and adopted by the SPJST Supreme Lodge in October 2013 is simple:

**“Insuring and Enriching Lives.”**

The SPJST Vision Statement expands on that mission:

**“Our vision is to provide a wholesome family environment; to encourage cherished Czech traditions; and to provide high quality, competitive life insurance for our members.”**

**How does your youth club complement this picture?**

That’s where a youth club mission statement can provide you with some direction. While every youth club has an obligation to support the SPJST mission statement and vision statement, every youth club is encouraged to draft its own mission statement.

**Simply stated, a mission statement answers the basic question of why your youth club exists and describes the needs that the youth club seeks to fill. The mission statement clarifies the broad objectives that are important to the members of the youth club.**

The mission statement can be a powerful tool for attracting both members and non-members to get involved in your youth club activities.

Developing a mission statement for your youth club can be an excellent — even enjoyable — first step to revitalizing your youth club and making sure its fraternal efforts stay on track.

In constructing a mission statement, you are fulfilling a key obligation as a leader: You are putting your hopes and aspirations for the future of your youth club into words. Words that are clear and easy for everyone to understand.

The mission statement can be a powerful tool for attracting members and non-members to get involved in your youth club activities.

You are providing your youth club with a road map — or at least a compass point — to the future.

**Youth club leaders, here's your challenge: Work with your youth club members to write a mission statement for your youth club that means something. Consider setting aside time at an upcoming meeting to work on the statement. It's that important.**

Begin with an explanation:  
The mission statement is a short paragraph that explains what our youth club does and for whom.

**To get and keep members involved, SPJST youth club meetings and activities have to be relevant, enjoyable — and not too long! The youth club meeting can be so much more than simply “going through the motions” for the sake of protocol.**

Get youth club members involved in brainstorming, thinking and talking about the role that the youth club aims to play in your community. They are likely to have some good thoughts and giving them an opportunity to participate in this process will deepen their understanding of the mission and strengthen their commitment. How it's created is as important as what it says.

Toss out a few questions and see what the group comes up with! Here are some suggestions:

*How does our youth club contribute to quality of life in the community?*

*What would be missing if our youth club were not an active part of the community?*

*What is currently missing in the life of the community that our youth club could do to make a positive difference?*

Seek to construct a mission statement that is “timeless” — a purpose that will be as relevant five years from now as it is today. Avoid adopting a generic mission statement that any youth club could have, such as, “Our youth club seeks to spread fraternalism.” After all, which youth club doesn't intend to spread fraternalism? At the very least, this can be an exercise that gets the youth club members talking about the goals, objectives and purpose of the youth club.

**Setting aside time to clarify your youth club's mission can be compared to the the process of repeating wedding vows: It reaffirms your commitment.**

You may go through several drafts, but eventually, what you want is a statement that's short and inviting enough that everyone connected to the youth club feels comfortable repeating it. Consider the following two examples:

*The La Grange Youth Club promotes leadership and good sportsmanship and regularly assists with activities at the La Grange Senior Center.*

*The Corsicana Youth Club regularly partners with local church and school groups to support projects that help the needy and enhance the environment.*

**Once you decide on your mission statement, let it become your guiding light. Post it where youth club members and others can see it. It can be an effective tool in helping to define a meaningful path for your youth club.**

# WANTED



# MEMBER REFERRALS

When it comes to getting new SPJST members, there's no substitute for member referrals. When an SPJST member refers a friend or family member for membership in SPJST, he or she is helping to build a stronger and more active lodge. It also qualifies you to participate in the monthly referral card drawing contest.

## MONTHLY CONTESTS!

The name of each member who sends in a referral card(s) during the month will go into a drawing for three \$25 Walmart gift cards. The referrer also benefits by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge. Referral cards are available from the SPJST Home Office, at SPJST-sponsored events, and online at [www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org).

Please help us to ensure that the leads that you pass on are quality leads. We would not want any sales agent to devote precious time to calling on unqualified leads. A good referral is someone who an SPJST member has spoken with about membership and/or life insurance in SPJST and who has expressed an interest in joining. In visiting with your prospective lead, make sure that he or she knows that an SPJST Sales Agent will call.



2017 Membership Drive