

Secret Ops

SPOTLIGHT

In Secret Ops, children will participate in missions and activities that allow children to be adventurous and explorative while being undercover and having fun.

KEY FOCUSES:

1. Create an energetic atmosphere that allows children to be active and playful
2. Give children the opportunity to participate in NEW activities
3. Create an environment for children to engage in fun and exciting adventure

ACTIVITY #1: Agent Initiation

Set-Up:

- Make sure you have the following supplies:
 - 1 sheet of white poster board, Markers, Tape (Optional)
- Decorate the poster as if it was a poster/name roster for the Secret Ops Activity
- Have the poster divided into the number of group that you are teaching for the week (i.e. 1 to 3 sections)
- Create different names for each section to make it more personal for each activity group. For example, if your cover activity was Ultimate Frisbee, have names such as Red Team, Blue Team, or Gold Team to help identify with children and to be able to use as a code name for each section.

Instructions:

- To begin the activity, tell the children that they aren't actually participating in Secret Ops but they will be at ***insert made Activity name***
 - This will be the Cover Activity since the children are agents. Other people around can't know that they are undercover agents so a Cover Activity is needed
 - Examples of Cover Activities: Basket Weaving, Marching Band, Surfing Club
- Once the Cover Activity has been determined, have children take a couple of seconds to come up with their best Agent name that goes along with the Secret Ops Theme. Make sure they write appropriate names in the appropriate column!
- As they write, explain to them the purpose of the board and why each section is named differently. Children love feeling like they are part of a team and so emphasize the importance of it!
- Once all names are complete, tape the board up somewhere visible (or have your volunteer hold up the poster) as you read off the names aloud as a form of "Agent Roll Call". Have them take a seat once you have called their name!

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ACTIVITY #2: Laser Obstacle Course

Set-Up:

- Set out the following supplies on a table:
 - Red yarn, red streamers, chairs, traffic cones, tape
- The Activity Leader will set up an obstacle course using the red yarn, streamers, and tape.
 - The obstacle course should consist of many zig and zags that will force the Agents to climb through, jump over, and avoid as they go through the obstacle course.
- Use an object to serve as the “treasure” or the “gem” that the Agents will be sneakily retrieving on their mission
- Build this up and get the children bought in to this mission.

Instructions:

1. Create the obstacle course using the supplies listed above.
2. At the end of the obstacle course, place the “treasure”, “gem”, or whatever the Activity Leader chooses to use.
3. One by one the children will go across the obstacle course attempting to avoid the lasers and wires set out in front of them.
4. This activity can be played in a few variations:
 - a. Children have to start the obstacle course over if they touch a laser.
 - b. Children get three “lives” meaning they can get touched by the laser three times before failing the mission.
 - c. Divide the Children up and have them race against the clock. Whichever group has each child on their team complete the obstacle course is the team that accomplishes the mission.
5. Once the children have gone through the obstacle course a few rounds, add some fun twists!
 - a. Make children crab walk
 - b. Children can only do the obstacle course on one leg
 - c. Blindfold them!



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ACTIVITY #3: Invisible Citrus Ink

Set-Up:

- Set out the following supplies on a table:
 - 9 lemons, cutting knife, hand juicer, container, hair dryer, white paper, Q-tips
- The lemon juice will act as invisible ink for the children to learn how to create messages in secret.
- Use lemons for the ink
- Children will be making thank you notes for a leader of their choice, whether it is an Activity leader, church leader, leadership team member, or a parent.

Instructions:

- Take the lemons and cut them up to be juiced into your container.
- Once enough juice is made, allow children to take a sheet of paper and a Q-tip and dip it in the lemon juice to write their message.
- As children begin to write their messages, begin preparing more lemon juice for the next activity.
- Once they are ready, begin using the hair-dryer to heat the lemon juice on the paper to cause a reaction that reveals the ink. The ink should appear brown after being heated properly.
- Once the secret messages are revealed, the Undercover Agents will go on a mission to deliver the important secret messages.
- Go around campus giving the secret notes to those that they were written for – these will be encouragement notes as a way to serve those around the children



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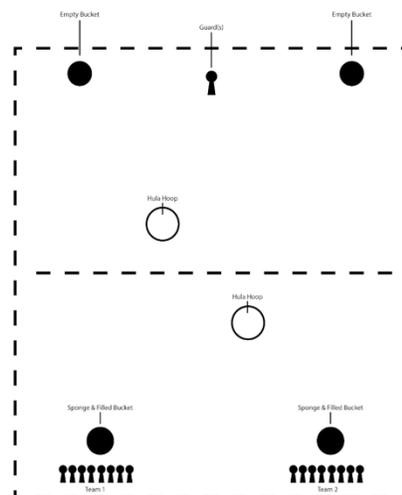
ACTIVITY #4: Agent 101: Sly Sharks

Set-Up:

- Make sure you have the following supplies/equipment:
 - Rec Buckets (4-6), Sponges (2-3), Hula Hoops (1-2)
- Arrange your buckets evenly onto two separate sides of the open space (field preferably)
- Divide the children into 2-3 teams depending on the size of the group. Have each team line up behind the side with the water buckets and sponges.
- Place the hula hoop in a place that is difficult to reach, but not impossible. This will be used as a safe zone for children to run if they so choose.
- The guard(s) must start at the line of empty buckets.
- Either an Activity Leader or volunteer should be the guard of the first round. 1-2 additional guards can be added from each team the following rounds.
- Depending on the length of each game, you can play 2-3 rounds if you have enough water. It may help to have additional buckets with water to refill in the event that you run out of water for the games.

Instructions:

- Each team will compete against each other to be the first to fill the other bucket above the halfway mark in order to win.
- Children can walk, sneak, or run, but tell them to be careful- if they get caught by the guard they will be out and must wait until the next round.
- Guards must face the opposite direction of the teams and can only turn around when they suspect movement. If the guard's suspicion is a false alarm, they must step closer towards the middle.
- Hula Hoops are considered to be "safe zones". If a child runs into the hula hoop, they cannot be caught by the guard.
- The goal is to use teamwork and be as stealthy as can be without getting caught. The winning team can then dunk the bucket on the Activity Leader, volunteer(s), or themselves if they so choose as a reward.



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HUDDLE

Activity Verse: Matthew 22:36-38

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and will all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Activity Truth: God Has a Mission for Me

Did everybody enjoy the missions we went on today? What was your favorite mission? What do you think is the difference between a mission and just a fun activity? (allow children to answer)

That’s right! A mission has purpose and a goal! Each one of the missions we went on today, we had a defined goal in mind. Whether the goal was to write encouraging notes or making it through the obstacle course, what we were doing was accomplishing a defined goal.

What do you think is God’s mission for YOU? That’s right, God has a mission for each one of us in life. It says in the Bible, that his greatest commandment for us is to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is basically a mission God has for us! How do you think we can accomplish this mission? Let’s pray!