

Organizing a District Youth Program

1. Put somebody in charge with good organizational and communication skills.
2. Contact ACBL for a list of youth bridge teachers in your District. This will include phone numbers, addresses and emails. Send a letter (via email) to each teacher letting them know who you are, that you are setting up a youth program in the District and ask if they would like to be in the District youth teacher database.

Ask them to email you, letting you know about the youth programs they have ongoing, sharing with you ideas that have worked as well as ideas that have been tried and have not worked.

Let them know you will be sending a youth teacher letter every couple of months sharing information about what other teachers in the District are doing, whether it's holding bridge camps, teaching in schools, writing grants, obtaining sponsorships, or any number of other innovative ideas that may be ongoing.
3. Ask your District for a Youth page on the District website. It will be your job to keep it updated.
4. District 9 (Florida) has a 501(c)3 for youth scholarships. For every Youth national event to date, the District has given \$500 to each child from the District attending the Youth nationals and paid their entry fees. The District has also hosted a pizza party for Florida youth and given two t-shirts to each youth attending.
5. In the newsletters you send out, give detailed information you've received from other teachers on what programs have worked for them. Ask the teachers if you can publish their names and phone numbers so other teachers can call them directly if they have questions.
6. Keep your teachers apprised of the youth workshops throughout the District and the nation.
7. Encourage all District Sectional and Regional tournaments to average master points so youth playing with mentors will have some hope of scratching. Do this at club level games as well. Averaging master points for youth playing with mentors is important.
8. Write a youth page for each one of your District's publications highlighting the youth accomplishments locally, regionally, and nationally.