



BACK TO THE BASICS INVENTORY

For Young Life Clubs and Ministries

Purpose

Back to the Basics is a quality assessment tool intended to help Young Life teams identify and measure the key characteristics of a fruitful and excellent ministry. While individual team members may learn things about their personal ministry that will be helpful in their ministry growth, the primary purpose of this tool is to evaluate the team as a whole so they can set goals for further development.

Instructions

1. The team meets together twice a year, at the beginning of the year and again at the mid-year point, to assess their ministry and consider action steps for greater fruitfulness during the coming semester.
2. Each team member completes the assessment tool individually and then the team shares their answers together. The team leader decides on a team score for each question based on this discussion and records it on the chart on page six.
3. The team identifies two growth opportunities they think will net them the most results this semester. Typically, one is in an area of perceived weakness as shown by a low score, while the other is focused on maximizing an area of strength as shown by a high score.
4. The area director meets with the team leader to discuss the inventory and agree on a plan for training, involvement and accountability to help the team succeed in their growth opportunities and accompanying action steps.

Review Scale

Less Than Good	Good	Excellent
1	2	3
Significant improvement is needed	Accomplishes some, but not all, desired goals.	Accomplishes all goals very well.

Team Profile

Only needs to be filled out by team leader and a copy shared with your area director.

Date our team completed B2B: _____

Years Leading this Team: _____

Our Club's Name: _____

Years Club has been in existence: _____

School(s) involved: _____

Our Area Director's Name: _____

Total Enrollment of schools involved: _____

Area Name and Number: _____

Our Team Leader's Name: _____

I. PERSONAL GROWTH IN CHRIST

"I am the real vine, my father is the vine-dresser. He removes any of my branches which is not bearing fruit and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit to increase its yield. Now, you have already been pruned by my words. You must go on growing in me and I will grow in you. For just as the branch cannot bear any fruit unless it shares the life of the vine, so you can produce nothing unless you go on growing in me. I am the vine itself, you are the branches. It is the man who shares my life and whose life I share who proves fruitful. For apart from me you can do nothing at all." John 15:1-5 (JBP)

1. The team is filled with individuals who are growing spiritually, faithfully attend church, and are involved in accountability relationships for health and growth.

3 = Exceptional maturity shown by almost every team member.

2 = Some leaders are showing maturity and pursuing Christ.

1 = Immature, struggling believers.

2. Leaders live missionary lifestyles as modeled by Paul: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our very lives as well." I Thes. 2:8

3 = Almost all leaders embrace and live out this missionary mentality.

2 = Most of the leaders live out this missionary mentality.

1 = Leaders, for the most part, do the minimum required.

II. COMMUNITY

A. Prayer

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7 (Today's NIV)

3. Team has and executes a prayer strategy (i.e. yearbook, contact work journal, club list, year-round camp prayer strategy, adult prayer support, etc.)

3 = Almost all leaders do this faithfully; the team and adult supporters pray for kids systematically.

2 = Some of these elements are in place.

1 = The team, leaders and adult supporters do not pray regularly for kids.

B. Team Unity

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42 + 47b (Today's NIV)

4. Team meetings occur regularly, where leaders share their ministry and lives, and pray together as well as plan and make decisions to enable excellence in all aspects of the ministry.

3 = This happens on a weekly basis.

2 = This happens as needed.

1 = This happens irregularly or not at all.

5. Team leader values and utilizes leaders' gifts and challenges them to grow.

3 = Almost all leaders on the team are growing, active, and pushed to their highest potential.

2 = Most leaders are active and growing.

1 = Leaders are stagnant in growth and lack momentum in ministry.

6. Whole team actively identifies potential new leaders to reach kids, partners with the area director on the recruitment process and facilitates smooth transitions within the team.

3 = Some leaders are very active in partnering with staff in this.

2 = Some leaders work to identify potential new leaders.

1 = Leaders do not help in identifying new leaders.

C. Local Support

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" I Peter 3:15 (NIV)

7. Leaders have positive relationships with parents, teachers, coaches and both school and community administrators.

3 = Leaders know these people well and they are supportive of Young Life.

2 = Leaders have good relationships with these people.

1 = Leaders do not know these people and Young Life is not supported well in the community.

8. The team has sought out relationships with local churches and is committed to working with, and plugging kids into, the Church as appropriate.

3 = Leaders have solid relationships with local churches and kids are getting plugged in.

2 = Leaders have some relationships with local churches and occasionally kids get connected.

1 = Leaders have not been intentional about building bridges to the local church.

III. CONTACT WORK

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish." John 1:14 (the Message)

9. Leaders implement a strategy to build friendships with kids all year long. This includes spending time with those who attend club and Campaigners, as well as kids who don't. It also includes meeting new kids on a continual basis.

3 = Almost every leader is implementing a strategy to build and progress friendships with both new and already known kids.

2 = Some leaders are implementing such a strategy.

1 = Leaders do not have a defined strategy in place.

10. Leaders go out of their way to enter the world of kids multiple times each week and are successfully progressing relationships with kids along the levels of contact work: seeing, talking and doing.

3 = All leaders are doing contact work multiple times each week.

2 = Some leaders are doing contact work multiple times a week.

1 = Most leaders are doing contact work once a week or less.

11. As a result of the time invested with kids, leaders are experts on their school(s) and have a solid understanding of adolescent culture in general.

3 = Almost all leaders are extremely knowledgeable about their school's unique culture, and have a solid understanding of adolescent culture today.

2 = Leaders have a general understanding of their school's unique culture and some understanding of adolescent culture today.

1 = Leaders are knowledge deficient about their school's unique culture and adolescent culture in general.

IV. CAMPAIGNERS

"I give you a new commandment: love on another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35 (Jerusalem Bible)

12. Campaigners is a core group of kids and leaders who meet regularly to grow in their relationship with Christ, and who (are beginning to develop – WyldLife) OR (have – high school) a vision for reaching out to their friends to grow Young Life/WyldLife.

3 = Most Campaigners are developing a vision and reaching their friends for Christ.

2 = Some Campaigners are developing a vision for reaching their friends for Christ.

1 = Few if any kids are developing a vision for reaching their friends.

13. Campaigners has a welcoming atmosphere and is continually growing. It usually includes kids who don't know Christ but are interested in finding out more.

- 3 = Campaigners is consistently growing and represents a cross-section of spiritual diversity.
- 2 = Campaigners only occasionally welcomes new people and is primarily made up of believers.
- 1 = Campaigners is spiritually non-diverse and not growing.

14. Campaigner kids are growing deeper in their journey with Jesus and learning to feed themselves spiritually.

- 3 = Most Campaigners show evidence of a maturing faith and have regular quiet times.
- 2 = Some Campaigners show evidence of a maturing faith and have regular quiet times.
- 1 = Our Campaigners don't seem to be growing much and need help feeding themselves spiritually.

15. Club leaders and Campaigners live out John 13:34-35 (see verse above)

Campaigners and leaders care for each other as modeled in their public and private interactions with each other and their prayer life for one another.

- 3 = Overall, displaying the consistent grace, care and concern found when the body is healthy.
- 2 = Some are displaying this.
- 1 = Do not have much unity.

16. The team has effectively transitioned last year's graduates into the high school Young Life ministry (WyldLife teams), or into college or career fellowships (high school teams).

- 3 = Most of our graduates get connected at the next level.
- 2 = Some of our graduates get connected at the next level.
- 1 = We hope a few of our graduates get connected at the next level but don't really know.

17. The team has incorporated a service project of some sort in the overall ministry plan.

Service is a proven transformational opportunity for adolescents, and is effective both as an outreach, as well as discipleship endeavor. Therefore, our team incorporates this principle in our program during the year.

- 3 = We did a service opportunity with excellent participation.
- 2 = We did a service opportunity with good participation.
- 1 = We did not offer a service opportunity.

V. DISCIPLESHIP

"Everything that you have heard me teach in public you should in turn entrust to reliable men, who will be able to pass it on to others." II Timothy 2:2 (JBP)

18. Each leader has at least one kid they are mentoring toward spiritual leadership, and giving ownership of the ministry in their school community

- 3 = Almost every leader is deliberately and thoughtfully investing in at least one kid.
- 2 = Some of the leaders are deliberately and thoughtfully investing in at least one kid.
- 1 = Leaders are not deliberately and thoughtfully investing in one on one discipleship.

19. We trained and sent Campaigners to be a part of summer work crew (Since N/A for WyldLife, WyldLife teams may treat the DISCIPLESHIP section as only 1 question when tallying results)

- 3 = Several of our Campaigners go on Work Crew.
- 2 = A few of our Campaigners go on Work Crew.
- 1 = None of our Campaigners go on Work Crew.

VI. CLUB

"When he re-entered Capernaum some days later, a rumor spread that he was in somebody's house. Such a large crowd collected that while he was giving them his message it was impossible to even get near the doorway." Mark 2:1-2 (JBP)

20. A growing percentage of the school or community regularly attends club.

- 3 = Club is 10% bigger than last year.
- 2 = Club is 5% bigger than last year.
- 1 = Club is the same size or smaller than last year.

21. Club or clubs represent the ethnic demographics of the school or targeted community

- 3 = Club or Clubs mirror the ethnic demographics of the school or targeted community.
- 2 = Club or Clubs have some kids from most ethnic representations in the school or community regularly involved.
- 1 = Club is fairly homogenous and does not represent the ethnic diversity of the school or targeted community.

22. Each club is well prepared with lost kids in mind and appropriate for the adolescent audience. Clubs are planned for the entire semester and changed as necessary to maintain excellence.

- 3 = Clubs are well planned, almost always engaging, excellent and thoughtful.
- 2 = Somewhat well planned, engaging, excellent and thoughtful.
- 1 = Inconsistent both in preparation and follow through.

23. Talks are excellently prepared, progressively presenting the gospel clearly and in a manner kids can respond to all year long.

- 3 = Talks are excellently prepared and delivered in a language kids connect with.
- 2 = Most talks are well prepared and skillfully delivered, but some improvement is needed.
- 1 = Effective speaking is not our strong suit – we don't seem to be connecting the message with kids' hearts.

24. At least 60% of club is made up of lost kids

- 3 = 60% or more of club is lost kids.
- 2 = 50% of club is lost kids.
- 1 = 40% or less of club is lost kids.

25. Kids are meeting Christ through club and contact work

- 3 = Kids are responding to the message at club and to one on one meetings with leaders by giving their lives to Christ. Consequently, Campaigners is seeing new growth regularly.
- 2 = Kids occasionally respond to the gospel in the local ministry, but usually just at camp.
- 1 = Kids aren't meeting Christ in the local ministry.

VII. CAMP

"Because we loved you, it was a joy to us to give you not only the gospel of God but our very hearts – so dear had you become to us. Day and night we worked." I Thes. 2:8 + 9b (JVP)

26. The vast majority of our summer camp trip is comprised of lost kids.

- 3 = 60% or more of the camp trip are lost kids.
- 2 = 50% of the camp trip are lost kids.
- 1 = 40% or less of the camp trip are lost kids.

27. Kids who have met Christ get (or take) their friends to camp who would never go without their influence.

- 3 = Many kids who know Christ partner with leaders to help get their friends to camp.
- 2 = Some kids who know Christ partner with leaders to help get their friends to camp.
- 1 = No kids who know Christ partner with leaders to help get their friends to camp.

28. Each leader fills a cabin (7-10) to fall and summer camp and follows up strategically after camp.

Leaders implement a strategy to get kids to camp and then meet with, encourage, and walk with them in their spiritual development immediately following camp.

3 = Almost every leader does this.

2 = Some of the leaders do this.

1 = Almost no leaders do this.

29. A significant percentage of club kids and their friends go to summer camp.

3 = 80 percent or more of our average club size (club kids and their friends in the school) goes to summer camp, or camp numbers are at least 10 percent greater than last year.

2 = 60-79 percent of our average club size goes to summer camp, or camp numbers are at least seven percent greater than last year.

1 = Half or less of our average club size goes to summer camp, or no growth from last year.

Inventory Results

1. Add up the scores for every statement in each of the seven ministry aspects.
2. Divide the total points for each aspect by the number of statements in that aspect
3. Enter your average total score for each aspect in the appropriate box below

	I. Christ	II. Community	III. Contact Work	IV. Campaigners	V. Discipleship	VI. Club	VII. Camp
Fall This Year	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mid-year This Year	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fall Last Year	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fall Year Before	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Application

CHOOSE ONE OF YOUR HIGHEST SCORING CATEGORIES AND ONE OF YOUR LOWEST SCORING CATEGORIES THAT YOU BELIEVE ARE CRUCIAL FOR THIS YEAR'S CLUB EFFECTIVENESS. MAXIMIZE YOUR MINISTRY BY WRITING SOME GOALS AND ACTION STEPS FOR THESE TWO AREAS. BE SURE YOUR AREA DIRECTOR HAS A COPY OF THIS SO HE OR SHE CAN OFFER RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED.

Growth Opportunity #1 –

Action Steps:

Person Responsible for your Opportunity: _____

Growth Opportunity #2 -

Action Steps:

Person Responsible for your Opportunity: _____