

Session Fourteen

Celebration Feast

Best Practices: Planning the Celebration

Through all the sessions, the focus of the BZDDD program has been on family communication, positive behaviors, and the importance of community. In order for the Celebration Feast to reinforce this focus, it is important to plan an event that creates a positive and lasting impression.

While it may be tempting to create a party atmosphere, the final session is designed to be a more significant experience: a graduation ceremony that honors the participants for their commitment and achievement.

Summary and Objectives

This session's summary is:

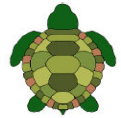
The session focuses on celebrating the completion of the program and recognizing everyone's hard work and effort. It is a time to reflect on what you have learned over the past 14 sessions and think about how you can incorporate it into your lives on a daily basis. It is also a time to have fun and celebrate our achievements.

This session's objectives.

1. Have celebrated the conclusion of the 14 session program.
2. Have begun to incorporate what they have learned over the past 13 sessions into their daily living.
3. Received gifts of appreciation for their participation in the program.

Questions for you:

What memories in your childhood are the most positive and powerful? What is the feeling they evoke? What kinds of memories would you like the youth participants to carry with them from BZDDD?



Discussion for facilitation teams:

Have you sent out invitations to all the Guest Elders who participated?

Have you invited Tribal Council members and other community leaders?

Have each of your families given you an estimate of how many of their family members will be attending?

Based on the number of attendees, how large a room will you need? Do you know the best location?

Do you want to ask a drum group to perform or have an honor song?

Who will be the emcee or officiator?

Who will lead the prayer and make an offering?

Have you created Graduation Certificates for each of the families?

Will each child receive a blanket or is there another gift you want to present them with?

Do you have raffle prizes to give as an incentive for attendance?

Do you want to give the Guest Elders a gift for their participation?

Will you bring the families scrapbooks and display them for everyone to see?

Are you prepared for the "what-ifs?" (What if it is supposed to be outside, but it rains? What if your drum group doesn't show up? What if the Elder you asked to pray doesn't arrive? What if you need more space?)