



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#2

VIKING-ORIENTED YOUTH CLUB

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Viking-Oriented Youth Club

- PROPOSAL:** That the Sons of Norway established a youth club program emphasizing Viking-Age arts and crafts, games and sports, and related activities.
- PRUPOSE:** To provide a heritage-based program that will not only be fun for today’s Scandinavian-American young people (ages 9–15), but will help them to develop physical, intellectual, and social skills in the process. It might reasonably be expected that an enjoyable experience in this program would lead most of them into further involvement in Sons of Norway activities as they grow older.
- NAME:** Although the possibilities are numerous, I would recommend that consideration be given to call the program the “Vikings and Valkyries Club.” The allusion to Vikings is self-evident, but some explanation of the Valkyries as a female symbol is in order. Women in Viking-Age Scandinavia enjoyed much more freedom and higher status than their sisters in other parts of Europe, but very few of them would have been involved with most of the activities that will form the core of the club program. Slavish adherence to historical precedence would result in the exclusion of girls from the club program, which would be patently unfair and undesirable. On the other had, a total disregard for history would diminish or distort some of the educational value of the program. It seems to me that we can reach a reasonable compromise by looking to the Valkyries of Norse mythology—warrior women who also retained their femininity.
- METHODS:** Recognizing that the participating lodges may have their unique situations, I would envision the “ideal” club situation as being one in which there would be one male leader and one female leader for a coed group consisting of no more that 20 youngsters. If a lodge has more than 20 youngsters wishing to participate, a second club should be organized (if so, they might be divided along age lines, i.e., 9–12 and a minimum of one evening and one daytime (weekend) meeting each month. The former would concentrate on indoor activates (arts and crafts, story-telling, musical activities, etc.), and the latter on outdoor activities (archery, vigorous games, hikes, etc.). The youngsters certainly should be encouraged to participate in their District’s heritage camp in the summer—and the camps should be encouraged to offer a wide variety of Viking-oriented activities for their young people.