



Project Framtid

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PROJECT FRAMTID: OVERVIEW

The Sons of Norway Project Framtid program creates a partnership between lodges and youth organizations. The objective is to enrich the scholastic, cultural and community experience of adolescence-aged children.

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefit to its members. Lodges address the mission by offering cultural and social opportunities within their communities.

Sons of Norway members are a diverse group, who work or have worked in many different jobs and professions. They have had a myriad of experiences and are active in their community. Many are retired and can share a wealth of knowledge with children, as well as devote time to helping them flourish.

To this end, Project Framtid provides members a unique opportunity to showcase their talents, skills and creativity. Let this be a challenge to lodge members to think about how they would most enjoy giving back to their community. Remember, the goal is to support local youth, but it's also to have fun!

Through the program, lodges can offer the direct involvement of their members at youth groups as volunteers. They can also sponsor activities and events for the children and their families, and they can provide funds for special projects in the Youth Group. Other avenues for involvement may be as simple as collecting box tops or milk caps to benefit a local school. Lodges can adopt one or more local youth organizations as a means to focus their volunteer and service efforts for maximum direct, positive impact in the community.

Assistance to a youth group is based upon the needs of the individual organizations as reported by the leadership, parents and children. Lodges provide volunteers, activities, funds, events and more based on the ability and interest of their members.

Project Framtid will also provide positive public relations for participating lodges. It also creates an opening for lodges and members to work in service of their community.

THE BENEFITS OF PROJECT FRAMTID

- ▶ Promoting Project Framtid activities as learning opportunities for all ages.
- ▶ Create positive change for a youth organization.
- ▶ Promoting positive adult images to youth.
- ▶ Bringing lessons of the past and real-life experiences to the youth group.
- ▶ Offering an understanding of culture and heritage from those who want to share their interest.
- ▶ Create service opportunities for lodge members.
- ▶ Connect Sons of Norway to the community.



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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PROJECT FRAMTID LODGE COORDINATOR

- Recruit for and convene committee
- Update lodge's executive committee on youth outreach efforts
- Refer to toolkit for guidance on procedure and ideas
- Be contact person to report on the program to your District coordinator
- Apply for Sons of Norway Helping Hands for Children matching grant funds
- Meet with members to solicit their input and involvement for the program
- Be the main contact for both the youth group and the volunteers
- Encourage lodge support of Project Framtid
- Oversee annual evaluation efforts within the lodge and with the youth group
- Ensure lodge service hours are reported to the District Coordinator and to lodge secretary (for Lodge of the Year reporting)

PROJECT FRAMTID COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Assist in recruiting volunteers
- Brainstorm ideas for improvement and program growth
- Serve as program ambassadors to the rest of the lodge membership
- Create volunteer core for Project Framtid
- Evaluate project status and success
- Help track the lodge hours accrued in service to the youth group (for inclusion in the Lodge of the Year reporting)

LODGE MEMBERS

- OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR A YOUTH GROUP
- SUGGEST PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
- SERVE AS VOLUNTEERS
- HAVE FUN!



GETTING STARTED: RECRUIT A COORDINATOR AND COMMITTEE

The lodge should select a member as a coordinator to oversee all youth outreach. This person will also coordinate with the District Project Framtid Coordinator.

The coordinator should cull from the membership people to serve on the committee. This group will brainstorm ideas for outreach efforts; generate enthusiasm in and bring ideas from the general lodge membership; evaluate the progress and appropriateness of youth outreach efforts; recruit and serve as volunteers for Project Framtid projects, as needed.

PLANNING

After the lodge appoints a coordinator and recruits a committee, it's time to focus on planning.

SPECIFICALLY

- ▶ **What can the lodge do / what do they want to do to make a positive contribution to the area's youth?** Have a brainstorming session with the committee; draw on the talents and interests of lodge members; check the IDEAS section; be realistic about time commitments and limitations.
- ▶ **Where or whom should the lodge assist?** Remember, anything that benefits youth is open for discussion, from a school to a library reading group! Solicit ideas from the lodge, but if you need help getting started, check the IDEAS section.
- ▶ **Meet with the organization.** After identifying the organization you'd like to help, meet with them to see what they need and offer ideas of what Sons of Norway members can do to assist them. Create a good, working relationship with your liaison and constituents and check in periodically to see if the efforts need a change now and then.
- ▶ **Set goals.** After you decide on a program, set goals for the lodge involvement. For example, if the lodge decides to collect box tops (as part of General Mills' Box Tops for Education program), decide that the lodge will collect 1,000 box tops in the first year of the Project Framtid program. Evaluate mid-year to see if you're on track (and have the flexibility to change if the lodge is not), as well as at the end of the year. If you meet your goals, how can the lodge expand the program the following year? If not, what can the lodge do differently to meet the goals set?

VOLUNTEERS

Be it fundraising, presenting on the history of a bunad, or serving ice cream to little leaguers, your efforts will need not only volunteers, but the support of the lodge. Remember, Project Framtid efforts are not just the responsibility of the committee members, but of the entire lodge. Plan what the volunteers need to do (so they have a specific job or role) and ask personally, at lodge meetings and through communications.

Communicate expectations of volunteers (attendance, reliability, standards) from the beginning so as to avoid confusion throughout the course of the program.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CONTINUED

DISTRICT PROJECT FRAMTID COORDINATOR

- The Coordinator must be a district champion of the Project Framtid program. This person may, but is not required to, be a member of the District Board.
- S/he must be motivated and enthusiastic about youth programming and come with ideas for lodges to implement.
- The District Coordinator will communicate with lodges via phone, e-mail, and through the zone directors, to ensure that each lodge appoint a Project Framtid Coordinator.
- The District Coordinator will work with the district president and board to develop an action plan to ensure participation by local lodges in the program.
- The District Coordinator will provide updates and information to zone directors to assist them in promoting Project Framtid during lodge visits.
- The District Coordinator will serve as a resource to help lodges implement the program and answer questions. S/he will help brainstorm ideas and disseminate best practices.
- The District Coordinator will receive service hours accrued from the Lodge Coordinator and communicate them to the International Coordinator.
- The District Coordinator will receive the names of the local lodge Project Framtid Coordinator and communicate them, as well as exemplary program ideas, to the Fraternal Department at: membership@sofn.com. Updates should be performed at least annually.
- Communicate any changes in District Coordinator responsibilities to International

IDEAS

Use these lists to brainstorm what shape your lodge Project Framtid efforts might take!

VARIOUS GROUPS TO CONSIDER WORKING WITH

Schools
Girl Scouts / Boy Scouts
4 – H Programs
Sporting Clubs: baseball/little leagues, football, soccer, swim, bowling, dance, etc.
YMCA
Library Reading
Camp Programs: after school, summer, sleep away

Remember! Any and all youth groups are eligible for this program!

HOW TO HELP

Tip: Some youth groups may have existing programs that fit your lodge:

Projects: work with a group to complete a community project

Badges: work with a Girl Scout or Boy Scout troupe to earn a badge

Trips and/or Nature Walks: assist in chaperoning an activity outside the meeting or take a group out for a nature walk in the park

T – Shirts: sponsor a sporting team and order t – shirts, hats, equipment for them to wear or use

Attend sporting games and events: help the team by cheering them on, or help with a fundraiser

Teaching arts and crafts: volunteers help children with arts and crafts projects (these may, but are not required to, have a Norwegian bent) in classes or small groups

Registration: help with the registration of children

Recitals: assist backstage with dance groups or a concert

Trips: serve as chaperons and assist the school or group on field trips

Oral History: volunteers attend a class or meeting to share and present on various topics, including personal or Norwegian history, using props or memorabilia if applicable (e.g. Norwegian trunk presentation)

Storytelling

Teacher's assistants: work with a teacher to assist in the classroom with correcting papers, making bulletin boards, or tutoring

Tutoring: commit to tutoring children in need of extra help

Mentorship: work with children on special projects, including practical skills or job shadowing

Computer laboratory assistance: assist children with computer skills

Folk fair: this activity allows members to share their crafts, arts, skills and music with children

Apprenticeship: work with small groups on a regular basis in a concentrated craft, hobby or interest area

Musical presentations / concerts: musical groups and individual musicians share their talents and skills

Discussion groups: mediate discussions on current topics or Norwegian or personal history

Media center helper: check out books, read stories and perform other duties as needed

Fundraise: collect money or create fundraisers for your youth organization or school

Collect boxtops or milk caps: collect items through the lodge from companies that make donations to schools or youth groups and turn in to benefit your organization

Donate supplies or equipment: collect books, pencils, paper, printer ink, balls, instruments, etc. and donate to organization

Remember! Don't limit the lodge's involvement to the ideas here. Brainstorm and utilize members' interests, talents and resources and pair that with the needs of the school or youth organization.



SAMPLE LETTER

Sample Introduction Letter
to Principal or Group
Representative

Dear Sir or Madam:

Sons of Norway Lodge _____ would like to offer volunteer services to your (SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION). Many of our members already volunteer in the community, but we want to formalize a relationship with your (SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION). Our lodge selected your (SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION) because (EXPLAIN)...

Sons of Norway is an organization founded in 1895 with currently over 60,000 members and 395 lodges throughout the US, Canada and Norway. Our common bond is Norwegian culture and heritage, however, our members and lodges place a strong emphasis on community involvement.

We realize that (SCHOOLS/YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS – choose one word) have unique needs and we want to contribute in ways that best suit (INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME). Our lodge is excited to work with you.

Please contact me at _____ (PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL) at your earliest convenience. I will otherwise follow up this letter with a call in a week.

Sincerely,

Sons of Norway
Project Framtid (Project Future) Coordinator

Note: parenthetical items need to be customized, either by choosing one of the words or supplying specific information. The text of this document is available for download as a Word document.



PROJECT FRAMTID AGREEMENT

(If required by school or organization; customize for your partnership)

PROJECT FRAMTID (PROJECT FUTURE) AGREEMENT

(if required by school or organization; customize for your partnership)

between

_____ Lodge, Sons of Norway

and

_____ (SCHOOL / ORG. NAME)

_____ Lodge, Sons of Norway agrees to share its members'

talents, skills, and time provide agreed-upon services to (name of school)

_____.

Through this partnership, _____ Lodge seeks to provide service opportunity for its members. Specifically, _____ Lodge will (LIST SERVICES AND, IF NECESSARY, TIMES OF SERVICES).

We look forward to an ongoing relationship between the lodge members and

_____ (SCHOOL / ORG. NAME).

By: _____

(Signature)

By: _____

(Signature)

_____, President, _____ (Principal / Group Representative)

_____, Sons of Norway

Contact #:

Contact #:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Note: This is an optional form, a sample provided if the school or organization requires an agreement for the partnership. Do customize for your lodge partnership. The text of this document is available for download as a Word document.