

How to Bring Youth into the Conservative Movement:

Saturday, 9-26-09 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Gary Bosley, Board member, Calif. Eagle Forum

The Eagle Ambassadors Club: For teens in the last two years of high school, or in college.

The presentation in the workshop centered on the natural human desire for personal development – especially as young people see their contemporaries advancing in one field or another, or evidencing considerable growth or maturity in various of the human “attributes:” self confidence, public speaking, managing/leading others, etc.

As evidence for that assertion, Bosley pointed out the writing of Benjamin Franklin in the *Autobiography*. In that work, Franklin lists 13 “virtues” and how he sought to attain them. In addition, Franklin discussed the “Junto,” which was a club for personal development. After that, Bosley discussed several modern day authors and their prescriptions for personal advancement.

The upshot of the presentation was the discussion of the creation of the *Eagle Ambassadors Club* - a concept for *Eagle Forum* to promulgate. ***The Eagle Ambassadors Club*** is for youth in the last two years of high school, or in college. The club is designed to meet weekly during the course of a standard school year – and as such, the club has 30+ weekly topics and assignments. Among other features, each member of the club follows their own pace of the assignments through two printed manuals, the *Study Manual* and the *Weekly Reports* manual. The simple concept is that the *Study Manual* introduces an “attribute” of the week, discusses it, and directs the club member to then fill out the weekly assignment in the *Weekly Reports* manual.

The unique part of the club is that each member of the club will stand and report their study/ies on the subject of the week for three minutes. The *Weekly Report* manual guides the study for each club member, so that, even if everyone in the club were on the same subject, that each member’s report would be individual and full of the fun and excitement of “what they found out.”

After the personal “*Weekly Report*” presentations are completed, the club moves into the second half of the weekly meeting. This is the extemporaneous portion, where each club member is given a topic based on Phyllis Schlafly’s current newsletter, and each member then gives their thoughts for a minute on that topic. (There is a club weekly “Topic Master,” who puts the topics for each club member into a weekly focus.)

The manuals are broken down into four basic divisions: Tools for Personal Development, Tools for Interpersonal Relations Development, Tools for Personal Discovery, and “Turbo Charging” the Art of Studying.

After the workshop presentation, representatives of 16 state’s *Eagle Forums* were given copies of the “beta” version of the two manuals. The Club has an introductory website at: www.EagleAmbassadors.org.