



Rite of Passage Planning Guide

Even the most simple rite of passage experience can have a powerful impact in your teen's life. Ask yourself the following questions to plan the best approach for your son or daughter.

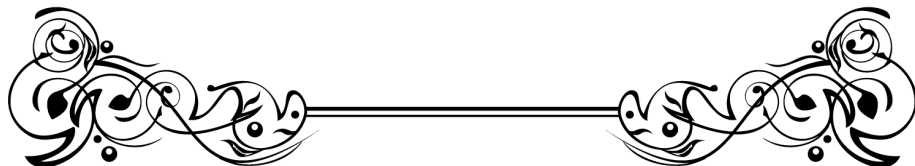
ASSESS

Is our relationship strong enough for the experience to feel authentic vs. forced?

Does my child have other adults in his/her life who have had enough influence to participate in such an experience?

Does my teen show signs he/she is willing to move toward adult responsibilities and attitudes?

If you answer no to any of these questions it might be better to plan a special dinner alone together to begin meaningful dialog rather than attempt the full rite of passage experience.



WHEN

What day is best to make this event special? On a birthday? In conjunction with a holiday? As a special day of it's own?

What date would work best for those who might need to travel to participate?

WHO

What relatives should participate? (Grandparent? Respected aunt or uncle? Older brother or sister?)

Is the child close to a pastor, youth minister, teacher or coach he/she respects?

If you are not planning the event as a surprise, invite your teen to suggest who he/she would like to be included.

HOW

Would my child prefer a formal event or casual experience?

What would be a good setting for the event? The house? Grandparent's home? A favorite restaurant? The church? A park?

What kind of fun activity would our child enjoy doing with the older men or women before the formal portion of the event? (For example, a teen boy might enjoy going to shooting range or golfing while a girl might prefer shopping or tennis.)

To help you explain the event to those you invite to participate and provide them with guidance for crafting a meaningful letter download the full planning guide from the Faith Path website at <https://www.fbclowell.org/Ministries/Faith-Path/Rite-of-Passage>

For additional ideas on planning we recommend the book *Spiritual Milestones* by Jim & Janet Weidmann & J. Otis and Gail Ledbetter. (Available from heritagebuilders.com)