

# Cancel an Event

Often, our families, our supervisor, and even we ourselves judge our work by the size of the events we produce. We can be guilty of equating success with the size of the event. That's because events give us instant gratification and the tangible fruit of our hard work — we can see the return on our investment quickly.

Our ultimate goal, however, is to create disciple-making disciples. All student ministry leaders would agree that they desire to help shape young people into lifelong disciples of Christ. Events draw attention but do not always produce lifelong followers of Jesus.

Here's a suggestion for next year: Cancel a big event. You may have an event on your calendar that is designed to reach lost students, but only church students attend. You may have an event on your calendar that is supposed to be evangelistic but is not.

Cancel it and replace it with this: Give all of your volunteer leaders a gift card/stipend to spend that day relationally discipling one of their students. Don't publicly advertise this on your website or email communication. Just let your volunteer leaders know. Give them — and yourself — the time this event would have taken out of your schedules for relational discipleship. Put as much effort into making sure all of your leaders meet with students as you would have to execute an event.

People will view this as a step backward, but it's not. It's a leap forward in our approach to discipleship. You are focusing on what you want to be true of all of your students: making disciples who make disciples.