Youth Outreach Committee

Thank you for inviting me to serve MoFRW by chairing the Youth Outreach Committee! I first became actively involved in our party when my children were small. I wanted to help with elections, but couldn't imagine how to fit it in our busy lives. A friend's husband was running for office at the time, and explained to our homeschool group that if the only thing I could do was push my children in a stroller in a parade, that helps! That parade was a great hands-on learning opportunity for my children, and we were quickly hooked!

Lesson 1: Go to your area homeschool support groups and invite them to get involved in your club, and in the campaigns you're supporting. Many of them understand the value of hands-on, real life learning, so working on a campaign can be part of their schooling. Area private schools may also be very receptive. Offer classes on ways to help, like phone banking, writing letters to the editor, or door knocking. (Some adults will want to attend your classes, too!)

As my children grew, I learned that TeenPact is an extremely effective force to get young people, ages 8-19, motivated to make a difference in our state & nation! It does this by holding 1, 4 or 5 day camps at the state capitol, while the legislature is in session, engaging students in how government really works, & inviting elected officials to come speak to the students. It's the best civics class anywhere, as evidenced by some fine young women alumnae who have spoken to our FRW club. In recent elections when Missouri swam against the tide by voting Republican for President, TeenPact alumnae contributed heavily by working tirelessly on the phones and knocking on doors. Some of the leaders in that effort were 14 at the time! We put that youthful energy to work!

Lesson 2: Tell your area homeschoolers & private schoolers about teenpact.com/programs/state-classes/missouri/. Because it's held during the legislative session (this year it's Feb.29-Mar.4) homeschoolers are usually the only ones with enough flexibility in their schedules to go. A few traditional school kids have made it work, though, too. Be prepared to underwrite scholarships for the cost of the camp, which will probably be the best investment you ever make. Every year there are more students who would like to attend the TeenPact camps, than can afford to pay. It's a very worthy cause, which will benefit all of us, by raising up conservative leaders for the future. All gifts to TeenPact are tax deductible.

Lesson 3: Check with your area colleges for chapters of College Republicans. Many schools now require community service for graduation, and work done on a campaign, or for an organization like FRW qualifies.

Please contact me with questions on involving young people in your club! You may spark an interest that will last a lifetime, and recruit new Republicans!

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