

Father-Daughter Event

Plan a Great Banquet

1. Be sure your Father-Daughter banquet does not become an exclusive event.
2. Find a "dad" for every girl who wishes to attend.
3. Clear the date on the church calendar as far ahead as possible.
4. Select a location. Church facilities are the most economical; however, a cafeteria is a good choice. Be sure to pre-select the menu!
5. Select a theme for the banquet. Keep in mind possibilities for speakers and other program items. The theme should lend itself to the message, fun, and attractive decorations.
6. Arrange for a speaker and/or other program features.
7. Plan your menu. Remember, fathers will not appreciate a lovely but skimpy salad luncheon! On the other hand, young girls can be picky about what they will eat. Pizza, salad, and dessert is a good combination. Another winner is chicken strips, potato wedges, green beans or corn, and cupcake. Both of the above menus can be purchased from a local store's deli department. You can save money by enlisting women from the church to prepare and serve the meal.
8. Plan your decorations to fit the theme. Keep in mind the time it will take to put up and take down decorations. Fathers do not mind using paper products!
9. Publicize at least one month prior to the banquet. Use the church bulletin, posters, take-home flyers, etc.

Theme Ideas

My Heart Belongs to Daddy is a great Valentine's Day theme. Decorate with hearts. Focus on our need to give our hearts to our Heavenly Father.

Love Makes the World Go 'Round is an appropriate missions emphasis. Decorate with maps and pictures of children from various countries. Invite a missionary to speak. Show slides from around the world.

Dads are Winners or #1 Dad can utilize Olympic theme. Decorate with patriotic colors, large Olympic gold rings, and white, red, and blue ribbons. Give gold "medals" as party favors. Emphasize that we are all winners in God's sight.

In His Image. Decorate with lots of mirrors. Stress that we are all created in God's image.

In His Steps. Capitalize on the idea that daughters will follow in their father's steps. Thus, fathers should be following in Jesus' steps. Decorate with footprints and shoes of various sizes. One pre-banquet game could be to guess to whom certain shoes belong (for example, the pastor, children's pastor, etc.).

A Father for All Seasons. Brief comments can be made by a new father, a father of several daughters, a father of teenagers, and a grandfather. Decorate with seasonal items.

Hats Off to Dad. Hats offer lots of decorating ideas. Offer small prizes for the smallest, biggest, oldest, most unusual hat. Have a hat-stacking contest where girls try to pile as many hats on their fathers' heads as possible.

Flying High With Dad. Use an airplane theme. Suspend airplane models from the ceiling. Favors can be small airplanes.

Time With Father. Decorate with clocks—all kinds, sizes, shapes, and colors. Emphasize the importance of father-daughter time and the need for time with our Heavenly Father.

Growing With Father provides an excellent connection with our earthly and Heavenly Father. Emphasize the principles of growth. Games can include guessing the kinds of seeds in different containers. Serve miniature dirt pudding complete with a flower and candy worm for dessert.

Dad, You're a Classic! Use a car motif. Offer rides around the block in a classic car. A different twist could be that of race cars. Decorate with racetrack flags and miniature race cars.

Make your banquet a memory builder!

Include the cost of a photo in the price of the ticket. Set up a themed picture spot, photograph each family, and process the film at a one-hour film processor in order to make them available the next day. Families will enjoy looking back at a series of these pictures in their memory books.