

- YIC
- Orlando ①
- SAVE EMAIL

From: [REDACTED] >
To: <wngg@[REDACTED].ast.net>
Subject: FW: The Sky is the limit
Date: Tue, 27 Jan 2004 13:27:52 -0500

From: Ellis, John
Sent: Tue 1/27/2004 1:26 PM
To: Kara Lewis; Sheila Day Pepper; Robert Hughes; Gerri Parry; Janet Briggs
Subject: RE: The Sky is the limit

Your email has good timing! In recent email correspondence with Jan Briggs, we both agreed that NAFOW Orlando 2005 provides a great opportunity to host an "intergenerational event" and pick up some momentum with the Youth Initiative Committee. We both feel that new and innovative events and programming aimed at families and "under 30s" should be a big part of that NAFOW.

To confine my comments to NAFOW and Orlando in particular (I think Buffalo already has a slate of youth activities planned), I suggest we think in terms of developing one or two youth related projects for NAFOW and plan to implement the first in 2005. I envision these as multifaceted events focused on a theme that carries throughout the festival weekend.

To brainstorm, two ideas that occurred to me are a "Castles and Dragons" project (focusing on medieval Wales) and a "Welsh folk village" project (focusing on folk traditions, folk tales and lore and rural life). I think both of these themes have a lot of potential attraction for younger audiences (both kids, young adults and adults with families) and could generate excitement. Once such projects are developed, they have the advantage of establishing a template so that they can be more or less repeated in future years.

The medieval theme could incorporate a variety of events in a designated "medieval room". For example:

-A substantial collection of Playmobile medieval playsets (see www.playmobil.com/index.html) <<http://www.playmobil.com/index.html>> could provide the focus of a medieval room opened throughout much of the weekend. This could be supplemented with coloring book type materials and crafts focusing on medieval Welsh themes. We might purchase some costumes (helmets, wimples, ect) for kids to play dress up. We could extend an invitation to all the kids resident in the hotel to play in the room. I think this would be easy to implement and staffing requirements would be low.

-It would require a bit more work, but decorating the room like a castle (painted scenery) and perhaps a few interpretive exhibits on Welsh medieval history would certainly add to the room and its educational value. Perhaps we could recruit a local school or college to lend a hand. Perhaps the Wales Tourist Board could be of some assistance (posters, displays, brochures, ect. focusing on castles,

ect).

- We might have a medieval version of children's games, or a medieval themed introduction to the Welsh language class for kids.

-At different times in the medieval room during the weekend, we might schedule entertainment or a seminar. Not all of these would have to be kid focused. A professional storyteller could tell tales from the medieval Mabinogion or the legends of Owain Glyndwr. Someone from the Wales Tourist Board might be called upon to do a presentation on touring Welsh castles and we might set up a seminar or two on subjects related to medieval Wales. This could be supplemented with volunteers reading children's story books focusing on Welsh medieval legend (there are several of these available).

-We might enlist a local branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (a medieval historical reenactment society) to visit in costume and give a demonstration.

I am sure there are other possibilities for this theme. The "Welsh folk village" theme could work the same way, with a designated space suitably decorated in which a variety of activities could take place. For example, at different times during the festival we could recreate the traditions of Calan Gaef, Calan Mai, the Mari Lwyd, ect at different times during the festival (we would need volunteers for this). A professional storyteller could be called on to tell folktales and storybooks on the theme could also be read by volunteers. We might get a folk singer or harpist (not a headliner) to entertain at different times. Traditional Welsh cooking might play a part somehow. When I was at Green Mountain, we had alot of interest in Welsh farm animal breeds- perhaps there is someway to incorporate this (perhaps a seminar if not a petting zoo!) Perhaps we could get St. Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life to play a role.

John Ellis

From: Kara Lewis [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tue 1/27/2004 12:22 PM
To: Sheila Day Pepper; Robert Hughes; Ellis, John; Gerri Parry; Janet Briggs
Subject: The Sky is the limit

Annwyl gyfeillion,

As the National approaches, it is time for us to set some ideas in motion.

>From Johns email, it might be good to create some kind of package (which could go on the website) for Welsh societies to help them involve their local youth.

How about a press release? We could get it in Ninnau, do something in Yr Enfys, and then send it to local societies to put in their newsletters.

What about a website? We can either do that here at Rio, or can

3

someone do it at WNGGA HQ? I have a great student who went to Wales on our exchange who is an expert on these things, we could get him involved to create something appealing to a younger audience.

What activities can we do this year? Folk Dancing/Welsh pop music.. see Johns suggestions above.

Are we allowed to invite other people onto the committee? There is a lady who is VP of the Pittsburgh St David's Soc who I think would be good. I suppose we could have regional contacts...

Do we have a logo? Maybe we could run a design the logo competition...

I am also keen to develop a relationship between YI and yr Urdd.

Please respond with ideas... just brainstorm... you never know what we'll come up with!

How many of us will be at the NAASWCH conference?

Kara

Kara Lewis
Cyfarwyddwraig/Director
Canolfan Madog Center
Prifysgol Rio Grande
University of Rio Grande

www.ri [REDACTED]

[[Original View](#)]

[Get Email](#) | [Message List](#) | [Compose](#) | [Folders](#) | [Address](#) | [Mailboxes](#) | [Options](#)
[Help](#) | [Sign Out](#) | [Comcast Home](#)

]