

Freshman Send-off
Alumni Chapter Activity
(Some notes from your friendly Chapter Director)

- ◆ **Determine location, date and time.** Many chapters host the event in someone's home, others at a park or church. In my chapter we have always held the event in someone's home on a Sunday evening. The kids don't seem to have too many other social engagements on Sunday.
- ◆ **Decide whom you are going to invite.** If you have a big enough space, parents may enjoy attending the event. However, in our chapter, we keep it to just the students.
- ◆ **Plan the Program.** The agenda for the evening does not need to be complicated. We typically play some mixers games. We also give the kids a quiz on their BYU IQ. The winners get some fun BYU paraphernalia. We have invited "seasoned" students to come and speak on "what they wish they knew before going to BYU." The evening winds up with the kids visiting and we serve banana splits. I have heard of other chapters giving each of the kids a survival kit full of fun treats and information. Other chapters even cater the event. But don't be afraid to keep it simple, especially for starters. The kids are really excited to meet each other and swap information, arrange rides, etc.
- ◆ **Publicize, publicize, publicize.** This is not difficult to do. You can get the contact information on all of the incoming freshman from your area in the Chapter Resources link. You can also send an email from the same site to everyone, as well as download a spreadsheet so you can print address labels and mail them a letter (see sample letter). I have found it best to do both. The year I only sent an email, attendance was down. You can also send a reminder email a day or two before the event. We usually have about 100 kids going to BYU from our area and anywhere from 25 to 45 attend the send-off event.