



HERITAGE | MILESTONES

Rite of Passage Planning Guide

Even the most simple rite of passage experience can have a powerful impact in your teen's life. Ask yourself the following questions to plan the best approach for your son or daughter.

ASSESS

- Is our relationship strong enough for the experience to feel authentic vs. forced?
- Does my child have other adults in his/her life who have had enough influence to participate in such an experience?
- Does my teen show signs he/she is willing to move toward adult responsibilities and attitudes?

If you answer no to any of these questions it might be better to plan a special dinner alone together to begin meaningful dialog rather than attempt the full rite of passage experience.

WHEN

- What day is best to make this event special? On a birthday? In conjunction with a holiday? As a special day of it's own?
- What date would work best for those who might need to travel to participate?

WHO

- What relatives should participate? (Grandparent? Respected aunt or uncle? Older brother or sister?)
- Is the child close to a pastor, youth minister, teacher or coach he/she respects?
- If you are not planning the event as a surprise, invite your teen to suggest who he/she would like to be included.

HOW

- Would my child prefer a formal event or casual experience?
- What would be a good setting for the event? The house? Grandparent's home? A favorite restaurant? The church? A park?
- What kind of fun activity would our child enjoy doing with the older men or women before the formal portion of the event? (For example, a teen boy might enjoy going to shooting range or golfing while a girl might prefer shopping or tennis.)

To help you explain the event to those you invite to participate and provide them with guidance for crafting a meaningful letter, there is a planning guide included.

For additional ideas on planning we recommend the book *Spiritual Milestones* by Jim & Janet Weidmann & J. Otis and Gail Ledbetter.