

January 2nd, 2008

Dear Pastor, Youth Pastor, and NYI Director,

We hope your youth are excited about the upcoming B.L.A.S.T. Hopefully your teams are being formed and you are using this opportunity to reach out to teens in your area. Remember they only need to be attending the church for 30 days prior to the event so take advantage of this opportunity to recruit.

After having a great experience at Blast last year in St. Louis, we have decided to stay there. We will continue to use Ferguson Church, North County Christian School and Flo Valley Community College.

However, there are some major changes this year with blast. These changes are being made due to changes that have been made by Mid-America for MAX. If you have participated in Blast or MAX in the past you understand that you must qualify at Blast to go to MAX, but this is changing. MNU has decided to allow any student to participate in the events at MAX. Therefore there will be several changes to Blast this year. In the talent section, the students will be critiqued instead of judged. This means they will be given praise in areas where they are succeeding and advice in those areas that could be improved. This also means that there will be no medals or awards given in talent at the end of blast. In the past, it has been extremely difficult to make it to MAX and therefore only a select few were able to attend. However, this year anyone who feels they would like to go and show their talent at MAX will be allowed to. In the sports area of Blast, there will be no players selected to attend MAX. All of those who are willing and able to go will be allowed to. There will still be a tournament played and a team will still win. They will be recognized at the end of Blast. Please communicate these changes with your students and parents. Change is not always bad and I am excited to see more of our students participate at MAX. Students can turn in MAX forms with their Blast forms or at Blast.

T-Shirts are available for only \$12.00. If you could have the registration form marked and the money sent in with the registration they can pick up the shirts at registration. Shirts will be available for sale for those who didn't fill it out on the registration form; however we can't guarantee we will have their size.

Please note:

- This year BLAST is held on March 7th and 8th (Friday and Saturday). The cost for participants is \$15.00, and there will be no charge for adults or spectators.
- All meals will be on your own.
- Please notice the DEADLINE. Packets must be postmarked **Feb. 11th**. **Packets arriving with late postmarks will be returned unopened.**
- It is important that pastors sign these forms. Your commitment is the only means we have of knowing if a student has met attendance qualifications.
- I am waiting on the MAX forms for 2008 from MNU. I will mail those out to you as soon as I get them.

If you have any questions regarding BLAST contact
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