

After the Contest Season

IHSSA Novice Coaches Session 2018

Miranda Goodchild, West Lyon CSD (Individual Events coach since 2011-12)

1. **Breathe and relax...** you made it through! Treat yourself to a glass of _____, a massage, a date night, or whatever makes you happy.
2. **Schedule a post-season meeting with your students.** Have one last session with them to review the judges' comments, talk about their reactions, and set goals for next year. Use this time to gather info so you can fill out the online **judge evaluation forms** as well.
3. **Send thank-you notes.** Anyone who helped you through the year? A mentor coach? A contest host? Craig Ihnen? Deb Robbins? Let them know that you appreciate them.
4. **Recognize your students** through the yearbook, newspaper, school website, or wherever you can!
5. **Host an awards ceremony.** You can order awards through IHSSA. I also collaborated with our drama department to create a points system so students can earn letters, pins, and medals.
6. **Nominate a student for the IHSSA scholarship.** See the SWIFT for details. Submit early... the form in the SWIFT just signals the state office to send an application form to the student, and that app is due by April 15. The form in the SWIFT is NOT the thing due by April 15!
7. **Attend your district meeting in the spring.** It's worth it, especially in the rule change years. Talk your school into buying your lunch if you can!
8. **Add next year's dates to your school's activities calendar.** Avoid conflicts by getting those dates on there as early as possible. The IHSSA has dates set for the next five years.
9. **Send your students to summer camps** or encourage them to do summer theater. If you have the money, offer scholarships to students so they can afford to go. Need money? Host a contest.
10. **Always be on the lookout for new material.** Spend your summer going to plays and musicals; read books and magazines; watch television and listen to podcasts... everything is fodder for something in the IHSSA!

Questions or comments? Feel free to email me at mgoodchild@wlvildcats.org