

# The Educational Value Pursuit and Optimization Paths of Young Pioneers' Activities

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**Abstract:** As an important carrier of ideological and moral education for children, Young Pioneers' activities possess unique educational value for Young Pioneers and Young Pioneer organizations. Currently, these activities exhibit problems such as formalization, prominent utilitarianism, and insufficient intelligence. The traditional activity model, lacking innovation and a sense of participation, struggles to meet the diverse needs of teenagers and fails to reflect the inherent educational value of Young Pioneers' activities. To return to the essence of Young Pioneers' activities, centered on the growth and development needs of members, the study should be based on children's subjective needs, adhere to the principle of individualized development, and integrate digital technology to implement Young Pioneers' activities, aiming to achieve the value adjustment of these activities.

**Keywords:** Young Pioneers; Young Pioneers' activities; Educational value

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## 1. Introduction

Young Pioneers hold the hope of the motherland and shoulder the future of the nation. Strengthening the cultivation of Young Pioneers is inseparable from the design and implementation of Young Pioneers' activities; optimizing and implementing these activities helps improve the construction of the Young Pioneers, enabling children to better play their important role in the development of the Party's cause. Faced with the current inadequacies of Young Pioneers' activities, exploring organized implementation plans and strategies from the perspective of educational value can more effectively exert the educational value of these activities.

## 2. The value essence of young pioneers' activities

Young Pioneers' activities are important paths for Young Pioneer workers to conduct ideological education for Young Pioneers through purposeful and planned organization and implementation in accordance with certain political and cultural requirements. Activity courses are the main carrier of Young Pioneers' activities, and activities are the main form of activity courses. For individual Young Pioneers, the core purpose is to give play

to their main role, conduct political enlightenment and value shaping through activities, and guide children to transform the principles of life and work into their own habits through personal practice<sup>[1]</sup>. For example, through political enlightenment and practical education, Young Pioneers' activities help them establish correct ideological concepts, political awareness, and personal values. When children are young and highly malleable, it is easy to carry out political enlightenment, which is conducive to forming stable and long-term political concepts, strengthening their ideals and beliefs, fostering their determination to strive for the cause of communism for life, and helping them grow into new-era talents who can shoulder the responsibility of national rejuvenation. At the same time, these activities can stimulate individuals to produce positive exploration behaviors and self-directed behaviors. When Young Pioneers' behaviors conflict with their concepts, they can be prompted to act in line with social values and make choices consistent with training goals, encouraging them to study harder academically, work harder in the team, and always strictly demand themselves according to the standards of a Young Pioneer, thereby realizing the educational goals of the Young Pioneer organization.

The higher the quality of Young Pioneers' activities, the more conducive it is for Young Pioneer organizations to carry out educational work and exert their educational functions on Young Pioneers; to cultivate more excellent Young Pioneers for the organization, accumulate strength for the development of the Young Pioneers, build a powerful collective, enable the Young Pioneers to better shoulder the responsibility of cultivating socialist successors, promote the construction and development of the Party-Communist Youth League-Young Pioneer organization, transport excellent talents for the Communist Youth League, and cultivate new forces for the Communist Party of China. The Communist Youth League of China, entrusted by the Communist Party of China, leads the Chinese Young Pioneers. Leading the Young Pioneers well is an important task entrusted by the Party to the Communist Youth League. To adhere to educating children with socialist ideas and communist spirit, the Communist Youth League must continuously strengthen the comprehensive education of Young Pioneers, optimize the implementation paths of Young Pioneers' activities, and inspire Young Pioneers to grow into genuine socialist successors and new-era talents who can shoulder the responsibility of national rejuvenation.

### **3. Manifestations of the deviation of Young Pioneers' activities**

Young Pioneers' activity courses are important carriers for implementing the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education and strengthening children's political enlightenment and value shaping in the new era<sup>[2]</sup>. As an educational method, activities have unique educational value in the field of education. However, looking at the current situation, the educational value of activities is insufficiently highlighted, mainly manifested in the following aspects:

#### **3.1. "Formalization" of Young Pioneers' activities**

Young Pioneers' activities play a role of political enlightenment and value guidance for children, such as weekly flag-raising activities, Young Pioneer thematic activities, and evaluation activities. However, over a long period of time, compared with more important learning activities, Young Pioneers' activities have gradually become marginalized and tend to be formalized. For example, some teachers perfunctorily handle Young Pioneers' activities. Faced with the requirements and instructions issued by the school, counselors can only carry out activities step by step, adopt a conservative attitude, and try to avoid personal losses caused by carrying out unique Young Pioneer thematic activities. To save time and effort, some Young Pioneers' activities are mostly

carried out in the form of speeches and recitations. Some activities lack interaction and depth, with Young Pioneers acting as “audience” rather than “protagonists”<sup>[3]</sup>. In the long run, Young Pioneers’ activities will inevitably lose their inherent educational value.

### **3.2. “Utilitarianism” of Young Pioneers’ activities**

At present, most Young Pioneers’ activities carried out by schools lack inherent educational significance, and the organization of activities is arbitrary. For example, based on the current “badge-winning” series, some Young Pioneers even regard it as an “honor contest, only caring about how many badges they obtain, without realizing the true meaning behind the badges. Young Pioneers participate in activities mostly focusing on external forms, lacking a deep understanding of the activities themselves and insufficient in-depth thinking about their implications and connotations, which fails to truly exert the educational role of Young Pioneers’ activities. In addition, most school activities are related to learning, and time is mainly allocated to academic courses, which occupy most of the students’ time and energy. Although quite a few activities are interesting, for most children, participating in such activities can not only gain some knowledge and skills but also obtain corresponding honors, albeit for a utilitarian purpose. Furthermore, during the implementation of some activities, team members take the oath neatly dressed and with firm beliefs, and participate in activities vigorously, holding the team flag. It seems that the expected activity effects are achieved, but in fact, the significance of the activities has not been deepened.

### **3.3. “Insufficient intelligence” of Young Pioneers’ activities**

With the rise and application of informatization, digitalization, and intelligence, intelligence has penetrated into all walks of life. The wide application of new technologies has brought tremendous changes to all industries, and at the same time, new opportunities and challenges for the innovation and development of Young Pioneers’ activities. At present, some schools still use traditional methods for Young Pioneers’ activities, or the application of intelligence is superficial, which obviously makes it difficult to meet the various needs of current Young Pioneers. For example, some schools fail to use digital tools to achieve cross-regional resource sharing, leading to an expanded gap in Young Pioneer education between urban and rural areas<sup>[4]</sup>. Although individual Young Pioneer organizations have launched online platforms, they mostly stay at the level of sending activity news or notifications, failing to make full use of digitalization and intelligence to carry out activities. In addition, although some activities can use certain educational platforms or read resources, their use is often just simple visits, without forming a systematic learning process. Some activities pursue intelligence for the sake of intelligence, simply using some intelligent devices such as AR, but the actual content is not combined with political enlightenment and value shaping. Therefore, the application of intelligence should not be “superficial” but deeply integrated with educational value.

## **4. Optimization paths of Young Pioneers’ activity education**

With the continuous progress of the times, traditional educational approaches for Young Pioneers are difficult to meet the diverse growth needs of contemporary children. Actively exploring diverse educational methods and optimizing them reasonably have become the key to enhancing the effectiveness of Young Pioneer education<sup>[5]</sup>. Faced with the current prominent problems of Young Pioneers’ activities, adjustments should be made in the following aspects:

#### **4.1. Adhere to the principle of subjectivity and focus on process and effectiveness**

A common feature of high-quality Young Pioneer political enlightenment education is the use of surrounding resources to implement activity courses and focus on children's practical experience <sup>[6]</sup>. Activity effects should not only stay on the surface; instead, we should pay attention to whether team members have real gains and positive feedback in activities, and whether the activities achieve comprehensive educational effects. We should also focus on whether Young Pioneers can achieve self-development and self-education through activities.

First, Young Pioneers are the main body of activities, and children are the starting point and destination of all educational activities. The principle of subjectivity means that in the integration process, we should establish students' dominant position, mobilize their enthusiasm, initiative, and activity, cultivate their abilities of self-management and self-education; foster Young Pioneers' awareness of procedures and rules, enhance their negotiation skills and democratic awareness, and let them learn to express, listen, and cooperate through participation <sup>[7]</sup>. Educators shoulder the mission of cultivating talents for the Party and the country, with the core task of cultivating children's socialist core values and enhancing their organizational awareness and teamwork spirit <sup>[8]</sup>. In this process, teachers should cherish students' desire to perform and strive to create opportunities for them to experience success. The design of Young Pioneers' activities should first be closely connected to children's life world, conform to their age characteristics, start from their own interests, carry out activities that students love, and integrate education with fun. As Young Pioneer workers, counselors should fully respect and encourage Young Pioneers, creating room for them to give full play to their talents <sup>[9]</sup>.

In addition, since not all activities can arouse children's interest, on the premise of respecting students' dominant position, educators must propose attractive goals, continuously enrich the forms of activities for students to integrate independently, and use the rigorous organizational form of the Young Pioneers to ensure the orderly development of comprehensive practical activities. People develop dynamically. During activities, while focusing on the inherent needs of students' lifelong development, teachers should assume a guiding role, and truly realize children's dominant position through teacher-student interaction and peer interaction.

Second, it is necessary to strengthen the effectiveness of activities and deeply integrate them with educational effects. Children are the masters of Young Pioneer organizations and the main participants and experiencers of Young Pioneers' activities. Therefore, Young Pioneer workers must pay attention to and safeguard children's growth in the organization.

#### **4.2. Follow the principle of individualization and eliminate "utilitarian" tendencies**

The existence of utilitarianism is due to the lack of attractiveness of activities. Too many activities are stereotyped and uniform, requiring children to meet the same standards. Therefore, to eliminate utilitarianism, we should attract Young Pioneers with activities that interest them and meet their own needs. Individualized education means conducting targeted education, fully understanding the age characteristics of children at different stages, and designing diverse activities. Promoting education that respects children's inherent nature means respecting their individuality based on their natural instincts and carrying out education suitable for their personalized development. Only in this way can children's subjectivity be genuine, vibrant, and energetic.

The design of activities should be based on students' interests. For example, for different age groups and class characteristics, activities reflecting individual characteristics should be designed, allowing students to choose independently according to their own interests, hobbies, strengths, and needs. Activities originate from life. Team members are often interested in things around them. We can start from life, learn to capture the traces of activities from life, and explore the space for activities from life. For example, use community resources

to establish Young Pioneers' activity positions, give full play to the strengths of each team member in Young Pioneers' activities, and intentionally create some challenging activities to allow team members to develop their strengths and avoid weaknesses, gradually overcome their shortcomings, and fully demonstrate their advantages.

### **4.3. Practice the principle of practicality and integrate digital technology**

The “Opinions on Accelerating the Digitization of Education” jointly issued by the Ministry of Education and eight other departments proposes the overall requirement of “focusing on integration, intelligence, and internationalization, expanding the coverage of high-quality educational resources, promoting artificial intelligence to assist educational reform, and accelerating the formation of a ubiquitous lifelong education system”<sup>[10]</sup>. Based on this, the adjustment of Young Pioneers' activities should balance traditional advantages and era innovation. In view of the current development of science and technology, the forms of activity courses can use digital technology to enter nature and stimulate Young Pioneers' interest in exploration. For example, Young Pioneers' practical processes can be transmitted through digital platforms, allowing them to express their thoughts and feelings in real time through technology; in the process of exploring red resources, scientific and technological means can be used to map the development course; in social practice, virtual identities can be endowed through technology to experience roles and promote comprehensive and harmonious personal development; enabling Young Pioneers to truly realize the integrated development of technology and practice in practical activities.

The growth and insight of Young Pioneers are mainly achieved through Young Pioneers' activities, so the value of activity content is particularly important. Carrying out student-centered activities, adhering to personalized education, and creating a real and appealing life world for Young Pioneers help build a vibrant Young Pioneer cultural atmosphere, contribute to the personal development and growth of Young Pioneers, allowing them to experience happiness and gain true knowledge in activities.

### **Disclosure statement**

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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