



# ***SURVIVAL QUARTER***

*Parents: Please read the following information carefully!*

## *Survival Quarter*

*OBJECTIVE* - To give the eighth graders an appreciation for, and an understanding of, adult responsibilities through real life simulations.

*OVERVIEW* - Survival Quarter is a special unit dealing with real life topics and situations. The simulations are intended to be a beneficial reference in the future. Topics include:

- ✓ Resume Writing and Job Interviews
- ✓ Investing in the Stock Market
- ✓ Checking Accounts
- ✓ Health and Life Insurance
- ✓ Real Estate and Home Loans
- ✓ Wills
- ✓ Income Tax Filing

*ORGANIZATION / SET UP* - At the beginning of Survival Quarter, the focus will be on employment. In addition to earning “wages” for their homework assignments, students apply and interview for actual “jobs” at school. Students will not be guaranteed jobs. As we progress through the unit, guest speakers will focus our attention on the areas listed above in the overview. As new activities are introduced, students will have more opportunities to “get involved” in real life simulations.

*STARTING OUT* - Students will have a chance to earn some “startup” money at the beginning of the game. What they end up with at the end is totally up to the individual.

*HOMEWORK PAY* - Students will be paid on a weekly basis. At first it will consist of money coming from homework. Assignments with passing grades that are done on time earn \$10. All “A’s” earn \$25. Students are charged \$50 if an assignment is late or if it receives a failing grade.

*EMPLOYMENT* - Students will have opportunities to land “full time” jobs on the basis of their resumes, job applications and interviews. Students who show themselves to be good employees will have chances to receive raises and/or bonuses. Students can also be fired!

*OFFERINGS* - Students will have the opportunity to give part of their earnings to the “church.” We will pass a basket every Monday morning during our morning devotion (Real offering money should still be brought in on Fridays!)



**Skills for Life**

*STOCKS* - This year students will be given a large amount of money to use for investment purposes only. Midway through the unit, students will be able to tap into the proceeds, if there have any. Time will be spent learning about the stock market and each student will be asked to research investment options.

*OBSTACLES* - Just as it's difficult to "survive" in the real world, it's not a cake-walk in Survival Quarter either! Accidents, injuries, layoffs, and other pitfalls can happen at any time. And there's always the IRS to worry about....

*THE IRS* - The Internal Revenue Service has taken on a life of its own over the years in our Survival Quarter unit. This agency not only checks up on tax returns, but all other financial transactions as well. A transgression in the financial arena usually results in a fine. The first fine is \$100, and subsequent fines double each time thereafter.

*WEEKLY BILLS* - Students will pay bills. **Parents, this is where I need your help!** Keep tabs on your child's activities over the next weeks. The students will be billed for all the things listed below. Please check over their WEEKLY BILL on Sunday night and sign it at the bottom so the students can pay their bills. Bills without signatures are not valid and a late fee of \$100 per day will be assessed.

- \$ Food - To make things simple, and so we don't have any cases of severe fasting to save money, everyone will be charged a flat fee of \$15 per day for food.
- \$ Rent - \$25 per day.
- \$ Taxi Service - \$1 one way; \$2 for a round trip. Trips longer than 50 miles will be subject to a greater charge.
- \$ Phone Bill - \$25 per week
- \$ Internet Connection \$20 per week
- \$ Cable or Dish Bill \$35 per week
- \$ Visit to a doctor (any kind - dentist, optometrist, or school nurse) \$50
- \$ Hospital stay (home sick) - \$100.
- \$ Miscellaneous - Charge the actual amount for any other money that you (the parent) supply for entertainment, clothing, etc. (Note: If students use their own money to buy things it does not count on the Weekly Bill)

*PRIZES* - Prizes will be awarded to those who “survive” and do the most with their money.

*EXTRA CREDIT* - Going above and beyond the call of duty can translate into cash for anyone interested. Here are the possibilities:

- 💰 Find out about a profession - Talk with someone you DON'T know about what it takes to do his or her job. Write about your findings in a 150 word essay. Have a parent sign the essay. Include the following:

  - 📄 What kind of education it takes to get such a job?
  - 📄 A basic job description (what does the person actually do on a typical day?)
  - 📄 The person's name, the job title, and phone number.
- 💰 Go shopping! Plan a regular shopping trip for your mom. Make out the family menu for the week; and then make out the shopping list, clip the coupons, accompany your mom on the shopping trip, and help her put the groceries away when you get home. Write a 100 word essay about what this experience taught you and attach a copy of the shopping list you made out. Have a parent sign the shopping list.
- 💰 Convince your parents to have a will written up if they don't have one now. You get paid when your parents have set up a date to have this done.
- 💰 Pay the bills! Help your parents pay the monthly bills by writing out the checks (parent still must sign). You can do this in one sitting, or over the course of the month, depending on how your parents pay their bills. You must pay at least 7 different bills. Write a 100 word essay telling what you learned from this experience. Have a parent sign essay.

### ***TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR SURVIVAL QUARTER***

- ✓ Sunday - A parent looks over the Weekly Bill. Write a check or gather enough cash to pay the bill on Monday morning. Prepare an offering, too!
- ✓ Monday - Pay day! Pay your Weekly Bill and get paid, too! SQ offerings are given.
- ✓ Friday - Hand in your wage sheet.

***FINAL WORDS - PARENTS:*** To make ***SURVIVAL QUARTER*** a success, I need your help. You will need to monitor your child's spending/activities and check/sign the weekly bill on Sunday nights. Please let me know how things are or aren't going. Any comments or ideas? Give me a call. Thanks for your help ahead of time. I hope the students find this unit educational, rewarding, and fun! **Please complete the attached form and return it to school Monday.** You may keep the rest of this information at home.