

YOUNG WOMEN GRADUATING GIFT IDEAS

IDEAS FROM YW LEADERS

1. For our graduating Priests and Laurels we host a graduation dinner. We ask the parents for 30-40 pictures of their youth from birth thru their senior year. We then make a power point slide show of each youth. We have a very simple dinner. {Grinders (hoagie sandwiches), chips salads, and dessert} Then we have the parents talk about their child. Their life, accomplishments, goals and dreams and at least one embarrassing moment either for them or caused by them to you. It is a HUGE hit and everyone always loves it. We even get the less active out to this. The parents have always come through with flying colors. We then give the youth a copy of the power point presentation. We invite all the Priests and Laurels and the graduating Seniors parents. This gives them an audience and helps pump it up for the next year when they are the graduates. ~Jolene
2. When I graduated from Young Women's I received a nice temple envelope. I admit that I wasn't totally excited about it right away, but once I finally was able to go to the temple, I loved having a unique envelope that reminded me of my Young Women's experience. I still use it and love it. I think it makes a nice gift that gets more meaningful over time. ~Amy
3. We give our girls the book "I Knew You Could". It is a picture book based off of the "I Think I Can" book. It has really great advice in it. It is available in paperback through scholastic books for \$5.00. I have also seen it at bookstores but only in hardcover which is more expensive. We write a personal note to each girl in the front of it. ~Traci
4. Nice but not inexpensive, temple slippers with the poem about temple slippers. Unfortunately, last year we paid around \$10 per pair of temple slippers. Fortunately we only have a couple a year that graduate.
5. We have given out laundry baskets with some laundry detergent, box of bounce, candles, Clorox, big towels, hand towels. It was a way to get the girls excited about college life and they loved it!
~Melanie D. Clegg



6. I can tell you what my own leaders did when I graduated. It's a fond memory I have! They contacted our parents to let them know of their plans and then they came the morning of our graduation and kidnaped us to take us to breakfast. My leaders took us to Shoney's, but years ago when I was a Secretary, we took them to another leader's home and made them breakfast. My leaders also gave us journals with our names engraved on them. I'm pretty sure they came from Church Distribution or Deseret Book. ~ Heather

7. I really like the idea of monogramming towels for the girls to use at college (www.missionarymonograms.com). I also have seen cute laundry bags and then a laundry basket with laundry "Stuff". I like the idea of a recipe book. I love the scrapbooking idea of a book of quotes and stories. That is useful. We have also had a YW value bracelet made. I think it was \$30.00, but now I think I could make the same one for about \$10.00. Care packages are cute and you can put whatever you find in your neighborhood. What about a nice set of scriptures if you are by the distribution center with their name on it.--there are seconds available all the time for pretty cheap. What about something the "Hope" chest. A statute or nice framed picture. I like the idea of the tiles--with the vinyl lettering.
We do big graduation parties here where everyone is EXPECTED to come. I have volunteered to do the desserts or decorate or just help the mom's serve and clean-up. That is a nice gift--when you don't have a A LOT of money. ~Ann in NE

8. I've been in Young Women for the last 12 out of 14 years. The first year I was in YW, we decided as a presidency to give Recipe card files to our graduating Laurels. It's been a popular gift and one that we've given every year.
Each YW leader, and sometimes leaders that have been released but were leaders during the graduates years in YW, put about 10 recipes on recipe cards or 3X5 cards. We purchase wooden recipe boxes, the last several years we have found them at Walmart for about \$6.00. We make categories, such as bread, main dish, vegetable, soup, dessert, etc. Then we put the recipe cards in their boxes.
This is a gift they can always use, the leader puts her name on her recipe, so it is a reminder of their YW years and leaders. I know that 2 of my daughters who have graduated appreciated the recipes and use them.
We also have a ward dinner after the church meetings to congratulate the graduates, YM and YW. We have given them balloon bouquets in the past, these can be purchased at a dollar store. We also make large cards out of poster board and the ward members sign them. ~Kris in Indiana

9. With our YW being so small we don't have many up for graduation at a time. Last year I had purchased a 5 x7 spiral bound cardstock scrapbook. On each page I printed out and made mini scrapbook pages of quotes of inspiration to help her as she goes on to Relief Society and University. I also had the other girls, her parents, other leaders and thei bishop, write a letter 4x6 sized and included it in the book. This took up most the pages so my part only took a couple of hours. On the outside cover I glued a postcard sized picture of the London temple and glued scrapbook paper flowers around the edges. Inside I used a few addon scrapbooky things which I had, and stickers that I also had. She was quite chuffed and speechless :)

Like I said, thankfully they don't come up often so I can make that extra time on the gift. It was really inexpensive. I think the scrapbook was about \$5-6 from Michaels. So depending what your scrapbook supply is like you can either make it really simple or really decorative.. all my scrapbooking stuff got shipped with me when I moved otherwise it might be more in the \$15 range....but you could DEFINITELY do one for under \$8. ~ Cheers, Alyson

10. Our YW pres makes cross-stitched bookmarks for our graduating Laurels each year. There are some gorgeous and cute ideas at <http://www.mormonchic.com/crafty/needlepoint.asp> of some stitched and framed sayings that I think would be adorable as gifts! ~Erika
11. We gave our graduating senior last year a cute apron (at Wal*mart/Joanne Fabrics for not too much money) that all the girls had signed with their best wishes - something that she could use at college - or in our case in her new married life. She loved it. The Bishop (but it could be anyone with the knowledge/time) put together a cd with pictures of her life to her favorite church music/efy medleys. We presented this to her at her recognition night and watched it with all the girls. This gift is really meaningful as they see the progress they have made over the years. Just some thoughts... ~Jill, WA
12. Here's what I have done in the past. I include this, with a brand new shiny penny attached:

Our graduation gift to you is a penny, but why?

Look at the penny and you will understand. The year is 2007 -- so you will always remember this special time.

"Honest Abe" Lincoln is on the front -- always be honest with yourself and others.

The word LIBERTY -- as they say in the Navy, you are now "at liberty," and that means free to do as you like. Don't waste that freedom.

IN GOD WE TRUST -- you must trust in someone or something, you can't go through life alone.

Trust in yourself, trust in God, trust the life you make.

A penny may only be worth one cent, and you can't buy much with a penny any more. But every dollar is made up from 100 pennies, and every kid's piggy bank starts off with one penny. The penny, like you, is not made of pure silver or gold -- but surely if you put enough pennies together, they will amount to something.

We ask that you will go out into the world and amount to something. Set your own value on life, set your own standards and goals.

And, in case you need it...Here's a penny for luck.

~Joyce, UT