



Students Together

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Youth Group Volunteer Leader

Description and Responsibilities: Volunteer Leaders are adults who develop relationships with the youth grades 6-12 during **Youth Together** meetings. They help build personal relationships with the youth, model the faith and are a part of shaping their lives. They participate in the worship, fun, fellowship and small groups.

A Volunteer Leader:

- Is committed to growing in his/her own faith journey through the spiritual disciplines
- Creates an atmosphere where youth feel comfortable asking questions and exploring and understanding the Bible together
- After training, facilitates small groups of youth during Youth Together
- Pray for the youth program, students and the volunteer leadership team
- Works with the Pastor or Youth Staff on challenges or issues that come up
- Is willing to explore his/her spiritual gifts

Area: Youth Together Ministry, Reports to Youth Staff and Pastor

Team Composition: 1 Small Group Leader per 5 students

Commitment: 2 hours on Sunday afternoons (11:45 am-1:45 pm). Arrive at 11:45 a.m. for prayer and if needed a youth ministry team meeting. Attend fellowship activities as desired and/or as needed.

Also attends trainings provided for volunteer leaders. The commitment is 12 months from beginning date.

Benefits: Helping make “God’s love real” by teaching, leading and relating to the youth as they learn about Jesus’ love and grow in their love of God and love of neighbor. Servant volunteers Make God’s Love Real by offering their presence, knowledge and life inspiration to our youth. This position is one that is intended to groom our youth into mature Christians and to help make them capable of becoming life long followers of Christ and serve as future church leaders. Volunteer Leaders grow spiritually as they support youth grow in their spiritual journey.

Special Talents, Skills Preferred: Previous teaching experienced helpful, not required. Volunteers should be loving, patient, and encouraging. A basic understanding of the scriptures and how to relate Biblical principles to youth’s lives is helpful. A willingness to grow spiritually. A desire to help build relationships with the students and their parents.

Spiritual Gifts: Encouragement, Teaching, Hospitality, Shepherding and/or Leadership

Resources and Training Required: Attend training sessions as scheduled

Covenant

I understand that as a **Youth Together Volunteer Leader**, I have certain commitments to myself as a Christian, to the pastor, to the youth staff, to the youth whom I serve, and most importantly, to my Lord. Because of these commitments, and my determination to serve Christ in the most worthy way possible, I understand that the following is expected of me:

1. To pray regularly for God's ministry at Church Together, the pastor, the youth, and the staff.
2. To support the pastor and staff of Church Together.
3. To be a Christian example in character, conduct, and speech for the youth and adults.
4. To enable all youth and adults involved in Youth Together to feel loved and accepted through my words as well as my actions.
5. To drive in the safest manner possible by following all traffic laws, preventing distractions, and enforcing safety rules with youth and adults.
6. To avoid being alone with any one youth at any time.
7. To refuse to participate in a courting or dating relationship with any youth.
8. To address issues that arise between Youth Together leaders in a loving and private manner.
9. To report to the Pastor and Youth Together staff any proven or suspected cases of abuse, or threatened or suspected suicide attempts, or self-mutilation.
10. To avoid participating in any activity that would be in opposition to Christian character, this includes but is not limited to, underage consumption of alcohol, drug use, pornography, sexual relations outside of marriage.
11. To understand the confidentiality of youth ministry and keep discussions regarding persons, families and situations in the youth ministry within the confines of the Youth Together adult leaders.

Signature of Youth Together Volunteer Leader: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Church Together Pastor: _____ Date: _____

Tips for engaging with the Youth

Know something about 5 students

Establish a recognize-level relationship by making it a point to know something about a student and refer to it throughout the repeated interactions. For instance, sports, projects, band, cheerleading, etc.

Just ask questions

They way to get to know students is just to ask questions. When you ask them the next time you see them about what they shared with you the week prior, they will know that you cared... just by remembering!

Know Students' Names

More than anything else, students love to be known by their name. As our group grows, so does the need for knowing students' names. This is the only thing a student owns and they take pride in their name. Students are amazed when we remember their name. It really shows that we care.

Be a greeter

Help students feel they are welcome and that their presence is valued.

Encourage student interaction

Introduce students to each other and facilitate group interaction. YOU create the kind of atmosphere that exists. Students don't usually go up to each other and introduce themselves. [Esp. with Mid High.] You can look around the room and see different groups all NOT interacting. It's quite humorous to watch.

Help Visitors and Guests with the Information Card

Help new students fill out the information card that places them on our mailing list and attendance sheet. This allows us to follow up with them.

Model Genuine Worship

Seekers can be effectively witnessed to by the genuine worship of believers. Singing during worship models a true heart after Christ.

Tell Students: "I hope to see you next week!"

Foster a recognize-level interaction.

Follow-up for Regulars

Write a quick note (3 lines) to regular students who missed 2 weeks and/or new students you met and turn it in so that it can be mailed the next day.

Respond to Noise and Disruption

Encourage students to pay attention and to respect the attention of others during a lesson in a positive way. This happens best when you are sitting with them. Sitting with them and not on at a different table or standing behind them like security guards will show that you are interested in their lives and not just babysitters.