

STUDENT MINISTRIES HANDBOOK

We're glad that you have shown interested in getting involved in one of our Ministry Teams. Please take a few minutes to carefully read the *Student Ministries Handbook* before making your commitment. Please contact the Student Ministries Pastor if you have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you find your place in ministry.

I. THE PURPOSE FOR STUDENT MINISTRIES

Our Student Ministries are divided into three groups:

- Jr. High Youth (Grades 6-8)
- Sr. High Youth (Grades 9-12)
- College Students

A. To connect young people with God

The main reason why we minister to youth is to connect them with God through worship, prayer, teaching, and service.

B. To connect young people with Christian leaders.

At an age when young people are looking for direction, we want to connect them with leaders who will support the families and be an example of a true God Chaser.

C. To connect young people with each other.

Relationships are important for young people. We want to provide an environment that will encourage friendships to be formed and developed through large group events, Life Groups, and weekly services.

II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEADERS.

- A. Complete Plug-In 1. We encourage you to complete the entire Growth Track.
- B. Fill out a Student Ministries Application.
- C. Read the *Student Ministries Handbook* and agree to follow the guidelines.
- D. Read the Honor Code and commit to keep it.
- E. Meet with the Student Ministries Pastor for a brief interview.

III. LEADERSHIP DESCRIPTION

- A. Student Ministry Leaders are to assist and be accountable to the Student Ministries Pastor.
- B. Student Ministry Leaders are to arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the service and stay until the Student Ministry Pastor releases you.
- C. The Student Ministry Pastor will assign young people to you to develop a relationship with, either through a Life Group or one-on-one.
- D. Student Ministry Leaders are asked to help with large group events, camps, retreats, and fundraisers.
- E. Interact with the young people, making them feel welcomed and building relationships with them. Look for the ones who aren't connected and introduce them to someone else.
- F. Sit strategically around the room so you can serve the students and help keep order in large group settings.
- G. Attend Student Ministry Leadership meetings.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Registration

Some leaders will be asked to help with registration. We need a Connection Card filled out by every visitor at services, Life Groups, and large group events.

B. Discipline

If someone is being disruptive, first ask them to modify their behavior. If the disruption continues, remove them from the group and talk with them individually. If they continue to be disruptive, and the young person is under 18, you may need to call the parent. If the person is over 18, you may need to ask them to leave.

C. Supervision

Young people under our care are always to be supervised by a Student Ministry Leader. They are not allowed to leave without our permission.

D. Safety

To provide a secure environment for minors, we have safety procedures that everyone must follow. We follow the “Two-Adult” rule – there are always at least two adults present while under the care of Student Ministries. This includes any function, transportation, or visit.

E. Absence

If you are unable to keep your scheduled commitment, please contact the Student Ministries Pastor with the name of your replacement. Your replacement must be an approved Student Ministries Leader.

V. STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage students to get involved in some area of ministry at the church. Here are some ways they can serve in Student Ministries:

A. Worship Team

Students with musical ability are encouraged to apply for the Worship Team.

B. Drama Team

Students with acting ability are invited to join the Drama Team.

C. Creative Arts Team

Students with creative ability are welcome to help with graphic design, stage decorations, etc.

D. Production

Students interested in audio/visual presentation are encouraged to help with Production.

E. Student Ministries Booth

During weekend services we want to communicate the Student Ministries to our guests. Students are asked to stand at the booth, hand out information, and talk to interested people.

Thank you for taking the time to read the *Student Ministries Handbook*. Please contact the Student Ministries Pastor for the next step in becoming a Student Ministry Leader!