

Welcome Letter

This is where you welcome your volunteers and then help them to know just how excited you are to have them as a part of your team. Take the time to tell them just how much their time and willingness to serve will impact students.

Your Mission

This is where you put your mission/vision for your youth programming. Also, state the mission statement of your church. The more you share about where the ministry is headed the better. Your team needs to know clearly the “point” of your ministry.

Doctrinal Beliefs

Reinforce the basic beliefs your church holds.

Contact Information

How can they get a hold of you?

Calendar

If at all possible include a calendar with all the important and expected events for a year out. If not a year, at least 3 to 6 months. If you want to offer regular trainings, or meetings put them on the calendar from the beginning. What are key student events you would love to have your team a part of? This is the perfect place to inform them. In addition this is a place your team can keep handy to put dates if you add anything in.

Commitment

If you are a new volunteer, you must complete our volunteer application and interview process, as well as an FBI background check, before you can begin working.

All volunteers are expected to commit to one calendar year of service. With scheduled breaks this equates to approximately 10 months. Special considerations will be made for all college students, as well as volunteers who are unable to commit to this time frame due to extenuating circumstances.

All volunteers are expected to participate in volunteer trainings, including a mandatory bi-monthly training. It is important to treat your volunteer work as if you were a paid staff person. Therefore, if you are going to be late or cannot make it to your program, please make every attempt to call you lead at least three hours before the program will begin.

Any deeper involvement with a student (i.e., mentoring time outside of programmed hours) must be approved by your supervisor.

Whenever volunteering, you are expected to follow the structure, curriculum, and discipline procedures already set in place by our ministry. Biblical references for this area include John 10:10-15, James 5:12, and Luke 14:27-30. Most importantly, you are to live out the mission of our ministry. If you do not agree with the mission and vision of this ministry, this may not be the place for you to volunteer. It is important we all stay in one unified vision and mission. Biblical references for this area include Galatians 2:11-14 and Luke 10:1.

Moral Excellence

As a team member you are to conduct yourself in the highest order of moral, spiritual, and professional excellence, both in programming and in your personal life. The manner in which you live reflects on the Lord, Youth Programming, and the leadership of this ministry.

Therefore, it is vital that you retain an intimate walk with the Lord. Doing so is the only way that you will be able to work effectively with our students. As Jesus said in John 15:5-8: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears

must fruit, for **without me you can do nothing**. If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask for what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples.”

Personal Conduct

We may never know the full extend of the homes lives of our students. Their lives may include daily battles with drugs, alcoholism, smoking, violence, and abuse. Due to the delicate nature of activities such as drinking, smoking, using inappropriate language, and clubbing, we ask that even if you feel the freedom to engage in these activities outside of your time with students, that you not talk about these activities in ways that glorify them. If you have any questions about this subject, please speak with your supervisor.

On a similar note, when you are with the youth, we ask that you do not play secular music. Acceptable options include the local Christian radio station, Christian hip-hop music, or other Christian music. Do not allow the kids to talk you into playing other radio stations or their own music. TV should only be watched for relational involvement or teaching purposes. Any TV shows that you watch with students must be approved by your supervisor. If you take children to the movies, your supervisor must approve the movie first. Unacceptable movies include R-rated horror or psychological thrillers and movies with excessive violence, gratuitous sexual content, or inappropriate language. Our reasoning is that students have ample opportunities to listen to what the “world” has to offer. This is not meant to be a legalistic point of view, however, a way of teaching students to navigate ways media either pulls us towards or away from the Lord. As we teach students how to make wise decisions in the media we want to ensure the team is on the same page. Biblical references for this area include Titus 3:1, Philippians 4:8, and Galatians 5:19-26.

Dress Code

Often the first impression that a volunteer makes is a visual one. The following guidelines are listed to help volunteers determine what is appropriate and what is not. Biblical references for this area include 1 Peter 3:3 and 1 Timothy 2:9-10.

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