

YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF GUIDELINES

WE ARE ABOVE ALL A CATHOLIC YOUTH COMMUNITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THOSE MINISTERING WITH THEM . WE ARE NOT A YOUTH GROUP, SCHOOL, OR TEEN CLUB, BUT A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS UNITED IN CHRIST. OUR GOAL IS THE EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH, SO THAT THEY MAY NOT ONLY TAKE OVER YOUTH MINISTRY AND THE EVANGELIZATION OF THEIR PEERS; BUT ALSO TAKE THEIR PLACE WITHIN THEIR PARISH & OVERALL CHURCH FAMILY.

STAFF SUPPORT

THE YOUTH MINISTER IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING YOU IN ALL YOUR EFFORTS TO BRING THE TEENS INTO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. IF IT WOULD EVER HELP, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU PUT TOGETHER GROUP SESSIONS & CLASSES. DO NOT EVER HESITATE TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE.

PLEASE KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN. THE FACT THAT I AM PART TIME MAY MEAN AT TIMES MAKING AN EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE. PLEASE BE WILLING TO BE PATIENT AND CALL ME AT HOME AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON VOICE MAIL.

STAFF RESOURCES

I WILL GET FOR YOUR USE, ANY RESOURCES YOU NEED TO PROFESSIONALIZE AND EMPOWER OUR STAFF AS YOUTH MINISTERS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF ANY VALUABLE RESOURCES WE SHOULD GET

YOUTH SAFETY

- NEVER TAKE CHANCES WITH THE SAFETY & WELL-BEING OF THE TEENS
- REPORT ANY DANGEROUS SITUATION TO THE YOUTH MINISTER
- NEVER TAKE STUDENTS ON A TRIP WITHOUT CLEARING IT WITH THE YOUTH MINISTER & NEVER WITHOUT PARENTS PERMISSION & RELEASE FORM
- NEVER MEET WITH A STUDENT ALONE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
- APPROPRIATE TOUCH ONLY
- CHECK OUT OR REPORT ANY UNKNOWN PERSON IMMEDIATELY
- BY LAW REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR ANY SITUATION WHERE YOU SUSPECT A TEEN IS BEING ABUSED AT HOME

YOUTH DISCIPLINE

- LAY OUT AT THE START; & REINFORCE WHENEVER A NEW MEMBER JOINS, THE 2 BASIC RULES OF:
 - 1- CONFIDENTIALITY- NOTHING SAID IN THE GROUP MUST EVER LEAVE IT (THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS WHEN HUMAN LIFE IS AT STAKE)
 - 2- RESPECT-
 - 1-ONE ONE IS TO EVER BE ABUSED IN ANY WAY
 - 2-DISAGREEMENTS ARE TO BE DONE RESPECTFULLY
 - 3-ONE PERSON SPEAKS AT A TIME
 - 4-EVERYONE WILL GIVE THEIR FULL ATTENTION & EFFORT TO MAKE THE GROUP GO WELL
- FIGHTING IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANY GATHERING AND SHOULD BE BROKEN UP BY THE STAFF IMMEDIATELY

- WEAPONS, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, SMOKING, CURSING & INAPPROPRIATE ABUSIVE LANGUAGE ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME
- YOUTH MUST RESPECT PARISH FACILITIES-REPORT ANY VIOLATIONS
- DO NOT HESITATE TO CORRECT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS. YOU MUST CONVEY TO THE GROUP THAT THE RULES WILL BE ENFORCED. DO SO IN A CALM AND RESPECTFUL MANNER- REFERRING BACK TO THE RULES. WHENEVER POSSIBLE CORRECT IN PRIVATE. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO EXPRESS YOUR OWN FEELINGS.

EFFECTIVENESS WITH THE TEENS- SOME TIPS

- KEEP IT REAL- DON'T PRETEND
- KEEP IT SIMPLE
- LOVE THEM, ACCEPT THEM- SEE THEM WITH THE FATHERS EYES
- STAND FOR SOMETHING-HAVE STANDARDS & HOLD TO THEM
- CHALLENGE THEM
- LISTEN
- RECOGNIZE WHEN YOU ARE IN OVER YOUR HEAD

STAFF PARTICIPATION

- STAFF MEMBERS WILL ATTEND THE FEW BUT IMPORTANT STAFF MEETINGS & TRAININGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. A PHONE CALL OR EMAIL IS EXPECTED IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.
- STAFF ARE ASKED TO STICK AROUND AT THE END OF THE YOUTH MEETINGS TO REVIEW ANY CONCERNS & EVALUATION OF THE NIGHT
- STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE FAITHFUL TO THEIR COMMITMENTS FOR THE YEAR, INCLUDING BEING ON TIME, SUFFICIENTLY PREPARING ETC.
- STAFF MEMBERS WILL PROFESSIONALIZE THEMSELVES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AS MUCH AS YOUR SCHEDULES ALLOW
- STAFF WILL TAKE THEIR OWN SPIRITUAL PATH SERIOUSLY- PROVIDING YOUTH ROLE MODELS OF ADULTS WHO ARE STILL GROWING IN FAITH & LOVE
- WELCOME & INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS -REG. FORMS FILLED OUT & COLLECTED- CHECK FOR LEGIBILITY
- HELP WITH SUPERVISION OF GATHERINGS & SMALL GROUP MEETINGS
- REPORT TO YOUTH MINISTER ANYTHING HE SHOULD KNOW