

Creek Path Student Ministry
(LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK)

SECTION ONE

Introduction

Dear Prospective Youth Leader,

I am thankful and excited for your interest in serving in Creek Path Student Ministry!

Every believer has something to offer the body of Christ and we believe that every member of Creek Path should have an area of service. Not only that, but we believe God has uniquely given us abilities and desires to serve in particular areas of ministry. We are so happy you are considering making an investment in the lives of our students.

God has entrusted us with a variety of students that we minister to on a weekly basis and we believe that healthy relationships with adult leaders foster and encourage healthy spiritual growth. We are looking for adult leaders who love Jesus and have a huge heart for students. The quality of adult leadership is vital. We emphasize a high commitment and care for our students, I encourage you to prayerfully look over this adult leader information packet to understand the expectations of a youth leader.

Youth ministry is a great place to make an eternal investment in the lives of students! I'm thankful you are considering serving here! I look forward to talking with you soon about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 256-744-1620. (Text is the quickest way to contact me.)

Joshua Malone, Youth Pastor

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<http://www.creekpathbc.com/>

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To know Christ, become more like Christ, and to make Christ known.

FIVE PURPOSES FOR OUR EXISTENCE

“Christ For All!” – This was the motto adopted by our character members in 1971. It was their desire, and remains ours, to gather to engage God in worship and His Word and then go out to engage all the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- (Psalm 150:1-6; Philippians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

#1 – Evangelism: We exist to mobilize students to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#2 – Discipleship: We exist to equip students to become more like Christ every day.

#3 – Worship: We exist to provide students with a time of rest to connect with God through true & biblical worship.

#4 – Ministry: We exist “to equip [students] for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” (Eph. 4:11-12).

#5 – Fellowship: We exist to provide students with a fun and safe environment to simply enjoy and do life together.

EXPECTATIONS: Student Small Group Leader (Male), Student Small Group Leader (Female),
“Potential” for Middle School & High School Small Group (Wednesday Night)

DURING THE PROGRAM

Assist the youth pastor in leading the Wednesday night activities.

Assist the youth pastor in greeting the students with a genuine heart.

Lead a small group discussion based on the message or message series. (Will be given a curriculum w/ questions to follow). Also, welcome guests and include them in discussion time.

Create an environment of friendship and honesty within your small group to welcome students to do the same.

Participate in group activities with a positive attitude.

OUTSIDE OF THE PROGRAM

Communicate Effectively.

Attend monthly youth leader meetings. (each week via zoom, phone call)

Pray for your small group.

Plan an event with your small group or members of said small group (each semester).

For example:

If available, invite the small group to your home with a time of devotion, fellowship, snacks, or games.

If financially available through own or church expenses, bring two out to eat.

Weekly Time Commitment: 2-3 hours (Estimate is based off personal preparation time, communication, ministering through church or church events and extracurriculars of our students.

SECTION TWO

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

4 Step Plug-in Process: Youth Ministry Leader Process

Our goal is to make it as simple as possible for you to channel through the process of serving in our ministry.

OBSERVATION

Potential Leaders are encouraged to observe areas of ministry at least once before further steps and are given a Youth Leader Handbook (via paperback/electronically) that includes role descriptions and leader application.

APPLICATION

Potential Leader Interview & Application - All potential volunteers will fill out an application and turn said document into the youth pastor. He will meet with the applicant to help determine areas of interest, current needs, expectations, & a start date.

EDUCATION

Weekly leadership meeting will be held to equip leaders and provide important information regarding youth ministry operations. First time leaders are encouraged to attend the monthly meeting before jumping into service. This will help with acclimation to the youth ministry environment.

MOBILIZATION

It's go time! - After the previous three steps have been completed and a background check is completed, you will begin serving in the Creek Path Student Ministry.

(Creek Path Student Ministry)

VOLUNTEER

Application

Each person is required, before becoming an official youth leader, to fill out a youth worker application. This can be found at the end of this handbook.

Worship Service Attendance

The youth ministry team joins with our youth pastor in encouraging students to attend the main worship service (Sunday). Middle school and high school students are old enough to participate in the worship service. As such, a need lays on our students to be in church with one another. We are told in scripture - "to not forsake the assembly of the saints." – (Hebrews 10:25). It is so extremely important to gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ to be not only be equipped but to be encouraged. This need is emphasized even more strongly for our leaders, because as leaders you will be looked up to more by how you live than what you teach. Please make it a weekly habit of being a part of the life of our church body. Your soul needs care just as much as our students' do.

Safety Precautions

1. Never be alone with a student in an area where you can't be seen.
2. Never leave a guest waiting alone for their parents.
3. Do not allow teens to sit on your lap.
4. The following are appropriate touches: handshakes, fist bumps, high-fives, and church hugs.
5. If unauthorized adults remain in your classroom too long, please direct them to the youth pastor.
6. If you are alone and do not have the parents' consent, do not give students a ride home, or taxi them to any location. A phone call to the parent, youth pastor, or head pastor to ask what to do is an appropriate action in this situation.

Appropriate dress

Appropriate dress is expected of our leaders. Modesty is the rule. Modesty is an outflow of a heart condition. When in doubt, it is better to choose something else. This applies to any youth ministry function, or anytime you are with students. Our basic guideline for modest apparel is anything that doesn't draw scandalous/derogatory attention to oneself.

Relationships with Students

Developing an emotional/sexual relationship with a student is unwise and COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE as an adult leader at Creek Path Baptist Church. Leaders may NOT date students while they are in our ministry.

Contact Info

Contact info is to be given to the youth minister if not already available. This info is critical for our ministry to operate efficiently.

Leadership Meetings

Attendance is HIGHLY recommended, unless seriously hindered, we need to gather together for every leadership meeting. These are important for our ministry to function well.

FOLLOW-UP EXPECTATIONS

Follow-up is a very high priority for our youth ministry. Here are some expectations for follow-up...

Every guest that attends your small group should receive a text or card the same week from you thanking them for attending and encouraging them to return.

Every student that has been missing for more than two weeks within your Sunday or Wednesday small group should be followed up with. It is important to follow up consistently. Intentions are good and clear, but repeatedly persuading someone can feel burdensome to said students & may turn them away. So be wise with following up too much. Make sure EVERY student who has been missing for over two weeks is followed up with. Just make sure each contact is made with intentionality.

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH STUDENTS

GroupMe App, and social media platforms respectfully and healthily.

When you're communicating to parents, email, text, and phone calls will be your most efficient way of communicating.

Texting can be utilized in Two ways: individual and mass. Both work incredibly well. Note that when texting a student's personal phone number – it should ALWAYS include the parents number or one other adult for safety purposes.

Examples: Two female adults chatting with one student female. One adult female with one adult male (leader) chatting with one male student. Healthy safety precautions protect you, your family, the student, and the church itself.

STEREOTYPICAL LIES ABOUT SERVING IN YOUTH MINISTRY

1. You must know everything about the latest youth culture.
2. You must know how to do everything off the start.
3. You must be young.
4. You must always feel comfortable.
5. You must be able to act like one of the students.
6. You must have plenty of free time.
7. You must be a captivating communicator.
8. You must be wild, or crazy.

Youth ministry is not a comfortable thing to do because it is not easy! It is absolutely worth it though! In addition, it is normal to feel unexperienced within your skill or ability. Your confidence will grow the longer you do ministry and you will see how God can use the least likely to do great things for His kingdom.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED

We will only change the hearts of these youth when we realize it is not us that can change hearts. We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and we are to be children of light. Essentially, allow Jesus to shine through you by being who God has made you to be and walk in obedience to His Word. Today's students do not connect to programs; they connect with people. The most effective way to impact students is through genuine relationships with caring adults in their lives. One of the common roadblocks for adults getting started in youth ministry is they have misconceptions about what it takes to be a youth leader or apart of a youth ministry team. If you believe God has called you into youth ministry, you have been given a important task in the kingdom to invest into these students. God enables the called and Creek Path is here to help equip and resource you as well.

Here's the honest truth about what students need:

- Students need people who will.....
- Love God and live for Him.

- Be interested in their life.
- Take initiative to pour into them by spending time with them or having conversations.
- Pray for them.
- Be real. (Students are like vultures in the wilderness, they can smell when something is fake.)
- Speak life into these students via encouraging words.
- Believe in them.
- Laugh with them and have a good time.
- Remember their name and care for them.
- Share God's love through personal experience.

THE NEXT TWO ARE BIG ONES

- Be consistent in their attendance. Most of these kids lack consistency in their life. Be the person that is and that will minister to great lengths.
- Be patient with them. They are young, still trying to figure out life, be a building block in their life who leads them to spiritual rest not a stumbling block who leads them to destruction.

SECTION THREE

YOUTH MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Programs and Times

Sunday (Student Small Group)

Location: Youth Center – Big Discipleship Room

When: (Sunday) mornings from 9:15a – 10a

Female Student Small Group

Location: Youth Center – Small Discipleship Room

When: (Wednesday) nights from 5:45p – 6:45p

Male Student Small Group

Location: Youth Center – Big Discipleship room

When: (Wednesday) nights from 5:45p – 6:45p

Creek Path Student Ministry Vision

We exist to equip students to know Christ, become more like Christ, & to make Christ known.

OUR TARGET AUDIENCE

1. A COMMUNITY student – This is a student that we have never made contact with. We don't know them yet.
2. A CROWD student – This is a student who we have made contact with, but they do not yet attend any of our programs. We know them and they know us.
3. A CONGREGATION student – This is a student who occasionally attends our programs. Most of these students are also Christians.
4. A COMMITTED student – This is a student who regularly attends our programs. This student is committed to growing spiritually and has relationships with other Christians.
5. A CORE student – This student is a leader within our youth ministry. This student has a specific ministry and is working to reproduce his or her self (active in disciple-making)

SECTION FOUR

SMALL GROUP SKILLS

Living a life with & for Christ is more important than skills; however, being skilled is not unimportant. Here are some guidelines to help you be a better small group leader.

Do not be afraid of silence. Let the students sit for a moment and think. On average, it takes a student a few seconds to process a question, formulate an answer, and then develop the courage to say it.

Value student input. Affirm the comments of student input, but do not be fake, or sound fake. Be delicate with answers which are clearly wrong. Do not feel like you have to finish, complete, or correct a student's answer.

Don't feel like you must know all the answers. We are human, and it is good for your students to see that you are limited. None of us are perfect but most of them have this idea that you are.

Don't simply read questions off the leader's guide. Understand the questions and be prepared to ask them in your own terms. YOU HAVE FREEDOM. Therefore, feel free to generate your own questions during your preparation AND when led by the Holy Spirit during the time as well.

In order to open up discussion and engage participation: Ask questions that generate discussion and ask students to explain their answers and go into depth with them. Grow from one another.

Ask students if they have questions. This will give you a good feel for the group dynamic.

Echo input. If a student's answer or input is long-winded or unclear, repeat it back for clarity. This proves you are listening to him or her and it keeps the attention of the rest of the group.

Don't move to a new question too quickly. After a student answers a question, ask, "Would anyone like to add to that?"

Answer questions with questions. This isn't a universal rule, but often a question in a response to a question will draw out the answer that they already knew. And it communicates that you value their thinking process.

Keep the group focused and on purpose. Don't leave the topics and passages of the lesson unless something "big time" comes up (ex. a family crisis or great struggle in kids life). Be sensitive to the Spirit.

Communicate and maintain confidentiality. This allows students to open up; however, don't keep potentially dangerous information to yourself or the student. There will be extreme cases that require transparency with appropriate authorities.

Don't be discouraged...if you don't have many students in your small group.

Don't be discouraged...if you have a "bad day." There's not a small group leader alive in the world who hasn't had bad days.

(See the last page of this packet for a form to read and sign.) – "Thank you for taking the time to read and understand this information."

Creek Path Baptist Church

Youth Ministry Team Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Primary Cell: _____

Birth Date: _____ Driver's License # _____

SS # _____ Occupation: _____ School (if
student): _____ Grade: _____ Previous Church(es):

References: #1: _____ #2 _____

Answer the following questions:

Please read before signing:

I recognize that the church to which this application is being submitted is relying on the accuracy of the information contained herein. Accordingly, I attest and affirm that all of the information that I have provided is absolutely true and correct.

I authorize the church to contact any person or entity listed in this application, and I further authorize any such person or entity to provide the church with information, opinions, and impressions relating to my background or qualifications.

I voluntarily release the church and any such person or entity listed herein from liability involving the communication of information relating to my background or qualifications. I further authorize the church to conduct a criminal background investigation if such a check is deemed necessary.

I hereby give Creek Path access and authority to use this information for a background check. This information will be stored safely in a locked file cabinet.

I have carefully read the policy and procedures of the church, and I agree to abide by them and to protect the health and safety of the children or youth at all times.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____