



Name: Sydney Ferrell
Major: Psychology
Job Title: Volunteer Coordinator
Graduation Year: 2017

What is the day in the life like at your job?

Every day in ministry looks different. The tasks that carry over from week to week are communicating and scheduling volunteers, meetings and planning Sunday experience. Some of my job is like an event planner. I work with a team to make the Sunday experience positive for our members as well as making the programming happen.

What do you love about your job?

People are the best part of my job. I love being able to connect with people, get to know them better, listen to their life's story, and help them grow closer to God.

What is challenging about your role?

While people are the best part of my job, working with people's many different types of personalities can be a challenge. It is important for me to assess the types of people I work with and minister to. I must communicate with people in the way that suits them best, even if that means I have to give up doing things my way.

What are the benefits of working in this field?

I enjoy being on the front lines of watching life change happen. Ministry is very fulfilling when you see how the love of God impacts people hearts and minds.

What experiences did you have that prepared you for this role?

During college I found that volunteering at my church and leading student organizations were the areas where I felt like I used my God-given talents. Relationships with people and showing the love of Christ drove me to volunteer consistently with a church. I also really enjoyed getting to know the students on my college campus and take the lead in event planning.

What do you see happening in the future for these types of careers?

I believe leadership in ministry is ever-changing but feel there will be new positions created that we can't even imagine at this time. People seek community and relationship in both good times and bad. The church will always have a need for ministers to support those who are hurting and also to maintain educational programming for both young and old.

What should a student know about your field?

You can't lead a person anywhere you haven't been. So if you want to grow in ministry you have to grow in your own walk with God first. Learning about how your faith has developed through experience is very important. You also really have to enjoy people and getting to know them. Ministry is less about your goals and more about others.

What advice do you have for a student considering a career in your profession?

The best way to test drive a career in ministry is to become consistently involved in a church family. Within that church family, select at least 1-2 ministries in which you volunteer. Once you have volunteer experience to reflect upon, you are more equipped to obtain internships. Many church internships are in the summer or the academic year. The Career Development Center can be help or contacting the churches directly.