

ADULT ORIENTATION PACKET

St. Mark's Church



Thank you for showing interest in becoming involved in our Student Ministry. The following pages have been put together to give you a brief summary of what you will be committing to and what will be expected of you. As you read through these pages please write down any questions that come to mind so that we can discuss them during our personal meeting. We are excited that you are considering helping students grow in their relationship with Christ!

Do You Know What Students Need?

We will only impact this generation one student at a time. Today's students do not connect to programs, they connect with people. The most effective way to minister to students is through building caring relationships with them. One of the common roadblocks for getting started in youth ministry is the misconception about what it takes to build those relationships.

Common misconceptions are . . .

- You must be young
 - You must have adequate Bible training
 - You must be a perfect example of a Christian
 - You must be a captivating communicator
 - You must feel secure
 - You must be wild, crazy and dynamic
 - You must have plenty of free time
 - You must know everything about the latest youth culture
 - You must be liked by all students
 - You must own a 15 passenger van

Student ministry is not the easiest ministry in the church and it's normal for you and okay for you to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the more you're around students and you see how God can use inadequate people (like you and me) to do great things.

Here's the truth about what students need . . .

Students need adults who will . . .

- love God and live for Him
- be interested in their life
- take initiative to spend time with them
- pray for them
- be real
- say encouraging words
- believe in them
- laugh and have a good time
- remember their name and care for them
- share God's love through personal experience
- be consistent in their attendance
- be patient
- value local Church commitment

Will you be one used by Christ to help meet those needs?

How To Get Involved In Students' Lives

We will later explain the application process, but first it is important for you to understand what commitment we ask of our volunteers.

For effective ministry with students you need to:

I. Understand the purpose, environments, and planned values of the student ministry

The first key to be involved in students' lives is to understand the purpose, environments, and planned values of our ministry.

Purpose Statement

Crossings Exists to CONNECT students to Christ and to one another.

Crossings desires to CONNECT STUDENTS in 3 ways:

CONNECT DEEPER

with their story and God's Story
(Therefore we will incite wonder)

CONNECT WIDER

to include new lives and friends to share the journey with.
(Therefore we will provoke discovery)

CONNECT FARTHER

to feel and meet the cries of human need
(Therefore we will fuel passion)

ENVIRONMENTS:

SUNDAY NIGHTS – is our weekly gathering where we communicate truth and celebrate God's love as a student and adult community.

LINK GROUPS – is our small group environment where relationships are formed and Jesus-style spiritual formation happens.

CONVERGE – is our quarterly guest environment where all of our attention and focus goes to welcoming and forming relationships with guests and newcomers.

SUMMER TRIPS – are all about taking students out of their normal surroundings to experience God and each other through Mission Trips, Summer Camps, and Rite of Passage Retreats.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – is our Sunday morning gathering where we dig deep into God's Word and help students to feed themselves through Scripture.

Planned Values

Planned values are descriptive words that reflect our values, attitudes, styles and beliefs that help fulfill our purpose. We try to incorporate these key approaches into all of our programs. It is all built on RELATIONSHIPS.

R elational approach	We want to spend time with students
E ncouragement	We want to make students feel encouraged
L aughter and Celebration	We want to help students enjoy life
A cceptance	We want to take students where they are
T ransparency	We want to be real with students
I nvolvement of students	We want to get students participating
O utreach oriented	We want to reach students who are far away from God
N umerical growth	We want to reach the masses
S piritual growth	We want students to mature Spiritually
H omelike	We want students to feel like they belong
I ntimate	We want students to feel cared for
P rofessional	We want to do things well
S trategic follow-up	We want to know where students are

II. Commit to a role in our ministry

You need to commit to an **Environment**.

Option A: Sunday Night Crossings

(Weekly Middle School 4-6:30 / High School 6-8:30)

These are our large group meetings that are designed to have a friendly, fun, challenging and exciting atmosphere. These programs shatter the “church is boring” stereotype and help students celebrate life. They are filled with laughter, antics, videos, singing, dramas and a message that challenges students toward spiritual maturity.

Leadership Role: We need adults to greet, learn names, talk to students, lead link groups and help create an accepting atmosphere. We also need Adults to manage “Ministry Impact Teams” which help make our weekend experiences effective.

Option B: Sunday Morning Bible Study

(Sunday Morning 9AM)

These are classes that provide opportunities for students to connect with an adult leader and each other through learning and digging deep into God’s Word.

Leadership Role: Leading a class is a great way to develop relationships with students. It requires study preparation and weekly follow-up with students to develop trust, deal with needs, develop relationships, etc.

OPTION C: SUPPORT TEAM

There are many other opportunities to get involved in our ministry. There are tons of behind the scenes needs that you can chip in with at your leisure! If you have a specific gift and desire, we would love to talk with you about your ideas.

III. Grow as a leader

The third key component to being effective in ministry is to develop as a leader. Our goal for our volunteers is to move people from *program-directed ministry* to *self-directed ministry*. As you grow in this ministry, you will develop a strong sense of your purpose in the life of our students.

The keys to developing as a leader are:

- **TIME** - be patient in developing relationships; it just takes time.
- **PARTICIPATION** – going to special events, school activities and retreats will help solidify your relationships with students.
- **INITIATIVE** – the more you invest, the more you will get out of it. Your relationships will grow deeper as you invest your time.
- **GROWING** – spending time investing in your personal relationship with Jesus so you can minister out of experience and not duty.

IV. Detailed Expectations:

Our goal is to create a loving, caring environment for students. This loving/caring environment includes facilitating conversation, remembering names, caring for immediate needs, and helping students get plugged into our Small groups. This is a vital role within our ministry because a student won't become aware of God's love if he/she doesn't feel loved in a crowded room.

Arrive at the pre-determined time prior to the start of the service. Early arrival demonstrates care. Arriving before the students will allow you to greet students as they arrive and enter the service, as well as allow you an opportunity to sit with a teen you are developing a relationship with.

Be a greeter. Shake hands, touch, and help students feel welcomed and valued.

Encourage student interaction. Introduce students to other students and facilitate group interaction in any way possible.

Know Students' Names. More than anything else, students love to be known by their name. As our group continues to grow, so does the need for knowing students' names.

Model genuine worship during singing. Seekers can be effectively witnessed to by the genuine worship of believers. Singing during the worship songs models a true heart after Christ.

Communicate with students outside our Service Times. Write a quick note or email to students you are developing a relationship with. Start a Facebook or Myspace Account and enter their digital world. Attend school events to show you care.

Respond to noise and disruption. Encourage students to pay attention and to respect others during the message.

Join a Ministry Team. Ministry Teams will be explained in Orientation. These Teams run important aspects of the services and provide specific roles for our leaders.

Be Committed to St. Mark's Church. Understand your attendance at St. Mark's Church is watched and modeled by teens you are trying to reach.

Complete Membership Classes. These classes are mandatory for involvement in Crossings.

Character

We need leaders who consistently pursue an authentic and growing faith in Christ. We want our student ministry leaders growing spiritually and relying on God's power and wisdom. We want our leaders praying that they will see students the way Jesus sees them, listening to students the way Jesus listens, and speaking to students the way Jesus would speak to them.

V. How to Become A Student Ministry Leader: The Application Process

1. Attend Orientation Meeting

This is an opportunity for us to briefly get to know each other and for us to hear your desire to be involved in student's lives. We will give you a general overview of the ministry and you will receive the Student Ministry Packet. This packet gives you the basic information about different areas in our ministry, including a list of programs, meeting times and places and the philosophy behind the programs.

2. Observe Programs

While you are still in the process of completing the application packet, you are asked to observe our programs. This is an important step to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities placed on you. You will have a chance to meet students and other volunteers, and write down questions and thoughts for an upcoming meeting. Observing can often be overwhelming or uncomfortable (students don't typically go out of their way to make you feel welcome...until you get to know them).

3. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment

You will want to take time to pray and think through, as well as seek counsel of family and/or friends about your commitment.

Working with teens is a big investment.

4. Complete Application Packet (included in folder)

This application packet was developed with care in order to obtain appropriate information to be used in the selection process. Two references are required. You can choose a 1) pastor, 2) close friend, and or 3) an employer within the last year.

5. Discussion with Student Ministry Leader (the Student Ministry pastor or their representative)

This is an opportunity for you to share thoughts from your observations, describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in the student ministry.

6. Begin Ministry

This date will vary depending on your involvement and desire.

7. Participate in Monthly Adult Leader Meetings & Huddle Times.

You will be asked to participate in monthly Adult Leader Meetings and short Huddle Times before services. This is the only opportunity we have to work through scheduling, training, and problem solving as a Team and is an important part of being a Leader. Many Teams will also need to meet separately to walk through their Team responsibilities.

What You Can Expect from Us ...

- Structure and Leadership
- Encouraging words
- Training and learning opportunities
- Prayer and support
- Challenges to develop your ministry

Congratulations, you made it through this packet. I know it seems like a lot of information, but through this “process” you will learn valuable information to make your transition into the Student Ministry easier. We hope you will continue on and complete the application process. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact us at 584-8983 or jarm@stmarkschurch.org.

Serving the Generation that will soon have the keys to the car,

Jarm Turner

Pastor to Students