



## Teleos Youth Ministry Volunteer Meeting



Agenda

5.01.11

Introduction of new volunteer prospects

Explanation of changes to Teleos youth ministry and volunteer descriptions

*(Teleos Calendar Year: June - August, September - December, January - May)*

Overview of new volunteer and ministry changes

Review ECC and Teleos Youth Ministry Policy

Explanation of Student Groups

Corporately divide students into specific groups

Assign Sponsors over student groups

Explanation of changes to Sunday evening Outreach

*(discuss how many groups to have through the summer)*

Assign Outreach Hosts for summer months

Open Mic

*(time allowed to appropriately discuss the good, the needs improved & we gotta do something)*

Prayer Requests

Remember the government program "No Child Left Behind"? That is really good in theory and everyone would probably be in agreement that, no matter how down and out, every child should have a fair chance at life. I would love to be able to say that any student who frequents our youth programming at ECC will not be left behind, the fact of the matter is one person cannot ensure that much beyond 20 students.

Good news and bad news. The good news is we are well over 20 students in our youth ministry program. The bad news is we are well over 20 students in our youth ministry program which means, children will be left behind unless there are others who step up to fulfill **Jude 22 - 23a** *"Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy..."*

I know that not all adults interested in helping out with the youth ministry program want to be as involved as others may want to be. That is fine. We have different areas of need that require less commitment and time. ECC Youth Sponsors will be broken down into the following areas:

- 1.) Group Contact (Adult who contacts a group of students -see below for grouping)
- 2.) Outreach Host
- 3.) Teen Church Volunteer
- 4.) Special Even Volunteer

Some sponsors will serve in more than one area. These are simply specific areas of need in our youth ministry program that could include volunteers who don't have as much time to dedicate to the youth.

When I think of our youth I realize that they are all over the board of "Spiritual commitment". Traditionally, students would either be broken down into categories of gender, age or their last name. However, I want to utilize adults who are enthused and passionate about reaching out to the students involved in our youth programs at ECC, by bringing them together with students at specific spiritual levels.

1. Consistent members (students whose family is a member of ECC and make it a regular attempt to attend Teen Church, Outreach and other youth events). Youth Sponsors that 'oversee' this group will be ones who are also committed members of ECC. Weekly contact may not need to be as much as some of the other groups, but a biweekly 'check-in' with students in their group is a nice way to let them know they are being thought of and there is someone who misses them when they are gone.
2. Random attendees to Outreach and Teen Church. This is made up of students who just aren't as committed as we would like to see them. These are students that let the distractions, apathy and friends get in the way of their commitment to coming. This is the group we may call "fringe". They are on the fringe of committing their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
3. 'Weekend warriors'. Their parents are divorced and so they are only in attendance every other weekend. Unfortunately we sometimes categorize this group as ones that aren't committed, because they aren't here on any regular schedule. However, I want to make sure these students do not slip through the cracks, but there is someone who is aware of their specific situation and know if they are 'absent' or just at another parent's house for the weekend.
4. A) Students who have come more than three times as a friend of a member of the youth group. What I have noticed being in ministry this long is that sometimes those "friends" become pretty committed members of the youth group if they feel safe, loved and accepted.  
B) Students whose families are visitors to ECC. This will be a group of students who will initially feel nervous about being here because they won't know anyone. If they feel accepted and a part of our "group" right away, they are so much more likely to come back again.

## **General expectations of all Youth Ministry Volunteers**

1. Be committed to your own spiritual journey -I want adults who are living out in their private and individual lives the same message we are teaching. Students need to know that we are authentic in our own relationship with God and that Christianity is right and true because it works in our lives. A part of growing in your own faith is a commitment to be in attendance with other believers on the first day of the week in corporate worship. I would rather have sponsors take a short break from helping out with the youth in order to get their own faith 'back on track' than to remain committed to them, but not have that personal growth. Students need to see faith being practiced more than they need a pal.

2. Be committed to the spiritual growth of your own family and the biblical mandate to raise your children in the way they should go. Just as much as students need to see an authentic faith in individual sponsors, they need to see parents who are responsible in their role of teaching their children about God. The home life needs to be of utmost importance in our sponsors. If being a youth sponsor is hindering in any way that responsibility, I will ask that HOME come first, then come on back and help us with the youth.

3. Attend monthly or bimonthly youth sponsor meetings. These meetings will gather all Youth Ministry Volunteers (minus Special Event Volunteers) together to talk about your group, how they are growing or if there are any general concerns or changes that need to be made. We will announce upcoming events as we know them.

4. Alert the youth minister immediately if a student in your group is displaying any type of signs that would put themselves or others in danger. Even if you "overhear" a student or notice something going on that concerns you.

5. Go directly to the youth minister if there is something you are struggling with in regards to his teaching or the way he has handled a situation. As a team of adults who care about the youth in our church and community, we need to be in either agreement or at least be able to handle disagreements biblically.

6. Youth Ministry Volunteers are not required to attend Teen Church, Outreach or other youth events. However, to help in crowd control and consistency. Four to five adults at Teen Church. We have a ministry group of volunteers that JUST help with Teen Church to lessen the responsibility of other volunteers. \*Note: Please make sure you and your family are corporately worshipping outside of just Teen Church (see #1).

7. On occasion we will be going off-site to different youth events in the area. During those times we are asking that our youth sponsors be available to help with transportation. We do have volunteers that JUST help drive students, to help lessen the responsibility from other volunteers. The youth minister will notify you in advance to arrange drivers for off-site events.

### Specific expectations of Contact Group

1. Once a week "check-ins" with students on the Facebook walls, email, phone calls or letters.
2. Occasionally go to sporting or extracurricular events students your group are involved in.
3. Send out reminders of upcoming special events. Please communicate with parents as well as students.
4. Send Birthday cards and special "Thinking of you" cards to students when appropriate.
5. Help keep youth minister informed of any needs or concerns you may have about a student in your group.
6. Occasionally meet with a student or a few of the students in your group. Please communicate with their parents that you would like to spend some time with their child. Please keep the setting public (i.e. Jiffy Treat, Chicago's Pizza, McDonald's, etc.)
7. Fill out biweekly online contact form for the youth minister to track your contact with students.

### How to communicate with youth

Unfortunately we have come to a point in our society that requires us to be extra careful how we communicate with students. Below are some standards we have established to make sure we are above any reproach.

1. Public comments need to be simple, basic and non-revealing (eg =if you know a student is struggling in a specific area, don't say, "I hope you are doing ok with \_\_\_\_\_.")
2. Be careful about any private messaging. It is important to let kids know you are thinking about them and care about them and yet saying it in a way that doesn't make for any mixed messages. It would also be a good idea to save a copy of any I.M. or emails you have with students in your group. This does not include communicating upcoming events.
3. Don't share any confidential information about a student in your group with another student or parent or adult other than the youth minister.
4. Don't over communicate or message students. Once a week "missed you this week" or "glad to see you this week" or "how did the game go?" is enough for students to know they matter and you are thinking of them.
5. Don't try and "fix" or "analyze" students problems or situations, especially publically on FB walls or in front of other students. The main thing they need is to know that you will listen to them and offer simple, "I'm sorry you are going through this. I'll be praying for you. Let me know how I can help." If a problem or situation concerns you, **you must let the youth minister know immediately.**
6. Don't leave students in your group "out" because they don't have a convenient way to contact them (i.e. Facebook, email or cell phone). People still have landlines and I am still convinced a letter or card sent in the mail means a lot more than we think.
7. If a student has a Facebook page, email or cell phone, please talk to the parents first and get their approval to contact their child using those different forms of communication. One time is all you will have to do this.

### Biweekly online contact form

Part of being a sponsor is letting the youth minister know the amount of communication students are getting. An online form will be created where you will be able to report your communication with students in your group. You will also have an opportunity to include notes or comments that need to be brought to the youth minister's attention.

### **Job Description of an Outreach Host**

Outreach is going to undergo a major shift in design. I want there to be more of a focus on students coming together in a smaller group setting for games, snacks and devotions. Outreach will work like this: Students will be divided into 3 - 4 groups (depending on turnout). Each of those groups will be made up of boys and girls in the same age range and will meet in a host home on Sunday night from 6:00-7:30. The "host" will provide light snacks (or schedule students to bring snacks), lead a fun indoor or outdoor game or activity and then lead in a short Bible study discussion or devotional. I want to suggest to include the youth in bringing snacks, leading games and even leading devotions/Bible study.

Students will meet in the same host home for three weeks, then on the fourth week we will have all the groups meet at the church building for the traditional Outreach program of games and malts. I will provide books of games, discussion starters and youth Bible studies and devotionals as needed. Each group is encouraged to go in a direction in their Bible studies that the group decides. I can also provide movies and video ideas to use.

### **Specific expectations of an Outreach Host**

1. Open your home to a small group of students three Sunday evenings a week.
2. Provide snacks, games and a Bible study or devotional for students. OR schedule students to lead or bring snacks.
3. Contact via Facebook wall post, email or card, students who have missed Outreach at your home.
4. Inform youth minister of any concerns you may have regarding a student in your group.
5. Occasionally attend a sporting or extracurricular activities students in your group are involved in.

### **Job Description of a Teen Church Volunteer**

Teen Church is our bread and butter program of our youth ministry. It meets each Sunday morning during the 10:30 service downstairs in the youth room. It is a time when students in Jr. and Sr. High come together for real, authentic worship, communion and biblical teaching. We take our time in Teen Church very seriously. For the most part students are very well behaved, but occasionally they need a gentle "Shhhh" from an adult. There are other times when we offer a time of 'invitation' that adults are needed for students to go to for prayer or just someone to talk to.

#### **Specific expectations of a Teen Church Volunteer**

1. Commit to being in Teen Church for a month at a time.
2. Sit with students being supportive of them and aware of the needs of the students around them.
3. Occasionally be available to talk with students and pray with them during special invitations.
4. Look for students who are sitting by themselves or are first time visitors. Introduce yourself to them and to others in the group.

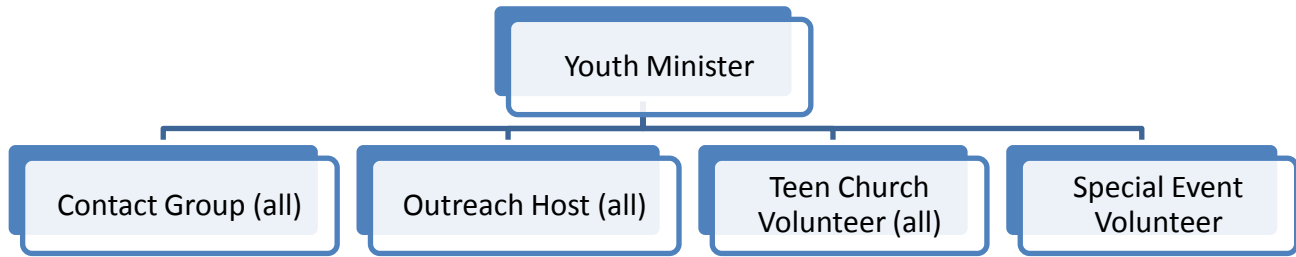
### **Job Description of a Special Event Volunteer**

On occasion we attend local youth gatherings and events that require us to go off-site. Because of our church policy and common sense, we are pretty strict on allowing students to drive to such events. They are allowed to drive to homes where a youth event is being held, but they are not allowed to leave from the church building. They must leave from their homes. They are allowed to drive either siblings or friends to and from their homes, but not from the church. Because of this policy, we need adults who are willing to help transport students from the church building to the youth event. Volunteers would use their own vehicles to drive to location and back to the church. Volunteers are not required to drive students home, but sometimes it works out well to drop students off at their homes.

\*NOTE: We do not allow an adult to be alone in a car with a student of the opposite sex. If you are driving students home please be aware of this.

#### **Specific expectations of a Special Event Volunteer**

1. Confirm with the youth minister you are able to drive to and from the event on that specific date.
2. Have a 'reliable' automobile that can hold at least 4 students. (Please remove any car seats prior to event)
3. All passengers are required (by Indiana law) to be in a seatbelt.
4. No reckless driving or dangerous car games allowed (i.e. =Chinese Firedrill, racing another volunteer).
5. Have a cell phone on your person and make sure youth minister has that number.
6. Maintain a "Christian" environment in your car (play Christian radio (Air1 103.1, or CD) keep language, attitudes and conversations in check.



The youth minister assumes complete responsibility for all the events, programs, youth sponsors and youth involved in the youth ministry at ECC. Because it is too big of a ministry to be involved in every aspect and life, a hierarchy of sorts needs to be established. The above chart simply shows this breakdown. Periodically we will meet together to discuss progress, changes, concerns and upcoming events. Not all volunteers will need to be at this meeting, but will primarily involve the Contact Group, Outreach Hosts and some Teen Church Volunteers. Different ministry groups will have other students under them that they will contact and be "responsible" for.

Some of the ministry groups require more time throughout the week, therefore we don't expect volunteers in each group to do anything other than what they have committed to. However, it is perfectly acceptable for someone who is a Group Contact Volunteer or Outreach Host to help drive to a youth event or help at Teen Church on occasion.

Eventually if it requires, we will appoint ministry group heads over each group. Then the dynamic of hierarchy will change at that time and will look something like the chart below.

