

Dear potential volunteer,

The Middle School Ministry staff at Christ Community Church would love to invite you to be a part of our team of amazing volunteers! Our ministry is largely based on strong relationships between our leaders and our students. When those relationships develop, students feel loved and understand God's love in practical ways. When this happens, spiritual growth takes place in a student's life!

Because of the importance of relationships, the quality of our leaders is important. Many people think that a leader must be young, funny, outgoing, have a vast understanding of youth culture, can work a crowd, is an excellent Bible teacher, and even own a van. **However, the two values that we look for in a leader are a heart for God and a heart for students.** Leaders who possess these qualities will be exponentially effective at impacting students' lives! Keeping that in mind, people who might make a good Middle School Ministry volunteer could be:

Senior citizens
College students
Introverts
Young marrieds
Professional wrestlers
Single parents

People with rough pasts
Bowlers
Mature Christians
Busy people
Cheerleaders
Musicians

Computers nerds
New Christians
Athletes
Parents
Husker fans

We encourage you to observe our ministry and the opportunities available before making your decision to commit. Once we receive your application, we'll contact you to schedule a time to meet and talk through everything. All information will be kept strictly confidential. We are looking forward to spending time with you to talk about your hopes and desires for ministry! We pray that God guides you as you seek His will throughout this process.

If you have any need to reach us, please feel free to contact me!

God Bless,

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WHAT STUDENTS NEED FROM CARING ADULTS

Making an impact in the lives' of middle school students happens one student at a time. Students connect to people, and the most effective way to influence students is through significant relationships. Our goal is to develop leaders who minister to students. Middle school students need adults who will:

- Love God and live for Him
- Go to "their world"
- Be interested in their lives
- Remember their names
- Take initiative to spend time with them
- Share God's love through personal experience
- Pray for them and with them
- Consistently attend Middle School programs
- Be patient
- Be authentic
- Create a loving environment
- Readily give encouragement
- Display a positive attitude
- Believe in them
- Communicate a proper understanding of God
- Laugh with them

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN STUDENTS' LIVES?

It's important to understand the commitment level we ask from our leaders. For effective ministry to students you need to:

- 1. MAINTAIN A HEALTHY SPIRITUAL LIFE:** We don't expect our youth leaders to be perfect, but we do ask that they make their relationship with God a priority because this has an immense impact on ministry effectiveness. A few ways to cultivate a healthy spiritual life are to:
 - Develop a lifestyle of regular prayer and Bible reading
 - Faithfully attend church
 - Have friends who challenge you and hold you accountable
- 2. UNDERSTAND AND MEMORIZE THE MISSION STATEMENT OF OUR MINISTRY:** Our mission statement, based on Matthew 22:37-40 (the Great Commandment) and Matthew 28:19-20 (the Great Commission) is: ***To make disciples of Jesus for kingdom impact.*** Our vision is to accomplish this mission by creating environments where students are challenged to:
 - LOVE God and their neighbor
 - LEARN through studying God's word, prayer, and community
 - LIVE in obedience and surrender to God
 - LEAD others closer to Jesus through sharing their faith and discipleship

3. COMMIT TO A SERVING ROLE

OPTION #1: JOURNEY GROUP LEADER (Sundays / 6 - 8 PM / Gym)

In Journey Groups, students meet in a fun and relaxed atmosphere where they feel at ease to make social connections with other students and our volunteer leaders. We play games, have large group teaching, and a discussion-oriented bible study within students' respective Journey Groups. Students are encouraged to go deeper into their relationship with God, and also encouraged to bring their friends so they too can experience an authentic picture of what it means to follow Jesus.

Role: We need adults to relationally shepherd a group of students through studying the Bible, encouragement, prayer, and follow-up throughout the week.

Length of Commitment: We ask that Journey Group leaders commit to one year (August - April) with their group. We've also discovered that long-term relationships result in increased life change, and although it's not mandatory, we encourage leaders to stay with a group of students for longer than the one-year commitment.

OPTION #2: SUNDAY MORNING LEADER (Sundays / 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM / Student Center)

At our "Sunday Morning at the Student Center" service, we combine an atmosphere of fun, a safe and open environment, worship, and a discussion of the Bible that is relevant to students' lives.

Role: We need adults to oversee groups of students in areas like greeting and welcoming students (both new and old) and tech (audio and video). We also need adults to serve in our café, help lead discussion groups, to help with occasional up-front responsibilities (announcements, leading games, etc.), and to pray before or during services.

- Hospitality Team: Providing snacks and food for students while getting to know names and creating a fun, relational environment
- Welcome Team: Leading a team of students who greet and check in students, welcome visitors, and connect in students who are disconnected
- Tech Team: Leading a team of students who run sound, lights, and computers to help create a dynamic environment to meet God
- Discussion Leader: Hang out and connect with students to help create a welcoming environment, and lead times of discussion and prayer during the service

Length of Commitment: No set time - just as long as you are able to commit.

WHAT AM I COMMITTING TO?

- Consistent attendance at a program. We ask that you arrive ten minutes early and stay ten minutes late if possible; these are key relational times with students.
- As a Journey Group leader, following up with students during the week. Connect with students via phone calls, social media, texts, hanging out, etc.
- Attend 2 - 3 Middle School volunteer meetings a year for training and encouragement.
- Keeping up with communications. Because we value you and your time commitment, once a week we'll be sending emails with training tips, new initiatives, and information that you'll need to know. These are important to read!
- Attendance at as many special events as possible. Retreats and events provide great opportunities for building relationships with students.
- Personal growth in your own relationship with God.

Remember a few of these keys for successful ministry:

- It takes time to develop relationships and to feel comfortable with students.
- The more you participate in students' lives, the more solid your relationships with them will be.
- The more you initiate and invest your time, the more you (and students) will get out of it.