



Spanish River Church STUDENT MINISTRY

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACKET

Dear Potential Student Ministry Volunteer:

We're thrilled you may be a significant part of our student ministry at SRC!!

At Spanish River Church, we believe everyone has something to offer and that **everyone will be a "10" in some area of our church**. Because God has entrusted us with over 400 students, we are constantly looking for men and women of God who might grow into becoming a "10" within our student ministry. Even if you feel like a "2" right now, we're thankful you're willing to explore opportunities to serve God within our student ministry.

We believe, **healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships** – between adult staff and students. Relationships are key to students feeling loved and understanding God's love in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in a student's life.

The quality of our staff is very important. We are looking for men and women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. Please take time to read the following material and consider your time commitment and availability – we encourage you to consider and pray about your decision.

Complete the card regarding your interest and we will contact you or you may call to schedule an appointment with one of the ministry staff leaders. In the meantime, **please feel free to visit and observe** our Sunday morning program, or FUEL our Jr High Activity Night (Wednesday evening 7-9pm) or UTURN our Sr. High Activity Night (Thursday evening 7-9:30pm).

We will request you complete an SRC Volunteer Application after you have attended a program and completed an interview with one of the ministry staff members. A background check will be completed and we can then determine where you best fit to begin serving.

As you know, Spanish River is a great church and our student ministry is a great place to **allow your time to make eternal investments in student's lives!** We're looking forward to meeting you and spending some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our student ministry office at 561.994.5000 ext 314.

Excited to minister with you,

Andy Nelson
Student Ministries Pastor

How To Become A Youth Ministry Volunteer: The Process

1. Express Interest

You may have an interest, but are unsure as to where you can help. Some of the most unlikely people make the greatest youth leaders, so take the next step as you prayerfully consider this ministry.

2. Initial Contact By Church Staff

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 arrange for you to visit and observe our programs.

3. Receive Youth Ministry Material

This packet gives you the basic information about different areas in our high school ministry, including a list of programs, meeting times and places and the philosophy behind the programs.

4. Observe Programs

While you are still in the process of completing the application packet, you are encouraged to observe our programs. This is an important opportunity to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities placed on you. You will have a chance to meet students, other staff, and write 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). This is a natural feeling and we encourage you to continue observing.

5. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek counsel of family and/or friends about your commitment.

6. Complete Application Booklet

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

7. Interview with Staff

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 high school ministry.

8. Follow-up Placement Meeting with Staff Leader

Based on your SHAPE and time availability we will discuss a more specific job description. You will meet with the staff leader in the specific area of ministry that best suits you.

9. Return Signed Commitment Sheet

Once you've decided you want to make a commitment, you'll sign a commitment contract that lays out agreements and expectations for ministry. We will also make sure all of your application material is received.

10. Begin Ministry

This date will vary depending on your involvement and desire. Typically we plug new leaders in three times a year, January, June and September.

11. Participate in Check-up Meeting and Volunteer Training Meetings

You will meet with someone from the student ministry staff to evaluate your feelings and perceptions of your involvement. Throughout the year we will continue to evaluate your ministry involvement in order to adjust your role to better fit your style, personality, and strengths. Volunteer training meetings are held regularly.



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What Students Need

We will only change the youth world, one teen at a time. Students are not connected to programs, only to people. The most affective way to impact these students is through significant relationships with key people in their lives. Our goal is to develop leaders that minister to students.

Teens 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
- say encouraging words
- believe in them
- go to “their world”
- remember their name and care for them
- share God’s love through personal experience
- be consistent to the programs to which you have committed
- be patient

How To Be Involved In Students’ Lives

It is important for you to understand what commitment we ask of our staff. For affective ministry with students you need to:

1. Understand the purpose and planned values of our ministry.
Take a look at the values and goals that make our high school ministry affective in reaching and caring for students.
2. Commit to a program.
Consider the role for which God has SHAPED you in order to build relationships with students.
3. Grow as a minister.
Develop your personal ministry to students.

Top Ten Myths About Being a Great Volunteer Youth Worker

- 1. You must be young.**
- 2. You must have adequate Bible training.**
- 3. You must be perfect.**
- 4. You must be a captivating communicator.**
- 5. You must be able to act like one of the kids.**
- 6. You must have plenty of free time.**
- 7. You must know everything about the latest youth culture.**
- 8. You must be wild, crazy and dynamic.**
- 9. You must be liked by all the kids and parents.**
- 10. You must own a 15 passenger van.**

Youth ministry is not comfortable! It's not easy! But it is normal and okay to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the longer you do ministry and you see how God can use inadequate people to do great things.