

Dear Potential Youth Ministry Volunteer,

**WE ARE THRILLED YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN WORKING WITH STUDENTS**

We are always in the process of looking for volunteers to serve on our team in the youth ministry. We believe that solid ministry is built on relationships – between adult staff and with 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 commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. Please take the time to read the material and fill out the application with much prayer and consideration. We place great value on this ministry, so we place great value on our staff.

Once I have received your application, I will call you to schedule an appointment with me. All information will be kept strictly confidential. In the mean time, please feel free to observe our Sunday evening program.

What a great ministry investment to make! I’m looking forward to meeting with you and spending some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any need to reach me, please feel free to call me at the church 463-3730, or to e-mail me at benjamin.kreider@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Ben Kreider
Youth Pastor



QUESTION: Am I called to youth ministry? First, ask yourself this: how would you describe a good youth worker?

Top Ten "Stereotype" Responses:

- Young
- Funny
- Athletic
- Good in front of crowds
- Strong Teacher
- Has Bible knowledge
- Outgoing personality
- Charisma
- Understands youth culture
- Owns a van

What are we really looking for? 2 Qualities:

A LOVE FOR GOD
A HEART FOR STUDENTS

Do you have these 2 things? You can become a great youth leader!

Types of leaders we're looking for:

Senior citizens	Single parents
Introverts	Accountants
Young marrieds	Mature Christians
Musicians	People with rough pasts
High school dropouts	Computer nerds
Bowlers	Athletes
Bikers	Entrepreneurs
Parents	Busy people
Ex-cheerleaders	Cooks
Blue collar workers	Administrators
Artists	Professional wrestlers
Old marrieds	
College students	

If you love God and have a heart for students, you can become a great youth leader!

2 Steps You Can Take:

PRAY: Take some time to read through this packet. Then pray, talk to your family, and ask God if he might be asking you to consider some type of ministry with students.

CONNECT: Call or pull aside Pastor Ben or a youth staff person to let them know that you are interested in learning more. There is no commitment at this point – we just want to sit down with you and get to know you better. We want to hear your story and encourage you in the journey.

Finally, we believe God has put in all of us the desire to join our lives to his love for the world. Whether or not it's not youth ministry, we want to help you find out what that is. We would love to help you find the ministry God has called you to!

The Filling Station Youth Ministry:

“helping students and families experience full life in Christ for God’s glory”



John 10:10

Contact – Pastor Ben Kreider

First Church of God: (989) 463-3730

E-mail: benjamin.kreider@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook! And at

<http://almacog.org/connect/student-ministries>

YOUTH MINISTRY

“VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS”

This ministry has many different opportunities available to help make a difference in the lives of kids. We have short-term project teams, set-up teams, and “help” roles—usually for people who can only help during certain hours of the week. We also have a role that we call our “volunteer staff.” This page lays out the expectations we have for these volunteers.

Our volunteer staff members are people who commit to hanging out with kids regularly. This hanging out breaks down to three different times:

1. One-on-one times apart from youth group
2. Weekly youth group
3. Events and activities

Because ministry to students means a little planning as well as getting equipped with the tools we need to be effective in our ministry, we also ask that all of our youth volunteer staff meet one evening a month for an hour and a half.

I list these expectations for volunteer staff not so they can see the “rules” they must abide by, but so that they can evaluate and budget their time and energy effectively to include this ministry in their schedule. Prospective volunteer staff also need to see what kind of time commitment and duties can be expected.

One unique thing about being on the volunteer staff is the nature of the work we do. Being with kids, praying with others, and doing recreational activities is exciting. At the end of a rough day or week, this ministry isn’t another pressure or loathed time commitment; it’s a time when you can put all else aside and allow God to work through you while doing something you enjoy.

1. “ONE-ON-ONE” TIMES WITH KIDS (“Be-With” Time)

More than anything else, spending “one-on-one” time with kids is the most important thing we do. These kids are reaching for attention. They all want to be listened to, noticed, and appreciated. Many of these kids don’t get any individual attention at home. They don’t know what it is to be liked, heard, or cared about. We can help fill that void in their life.

Each staff person needs to be in contact with kids weekly. Sometimes this might just be a simple phone call or a “text” to see how things are going or if they are coming to the next event. At least once a month we need to see a kid outside of ministry events and activities. My hope would be that some staff could meet with kids weekly or every other week. These times include any activity with just one (sometimes two) kid(s). Staff members can take kids out for a milkshake, go shopping with them, go to the DMV to stand in line with them...almost anywhere! Some kids that drive you nuts during youth group are wonderful “one on one” because they are totally different away from their friends.

2. SUNDAY NIGHTS

Youth group is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Sunday night during the school year. It is an important time to attract kids, bring them in, and have a chance to get to know them.

3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mission trips, youth convention, monthly events, winter retreats, camping, etc. are not only free to staff members but also an excellent time to spend major, bonus hours with kids. Only a few local activities will have minimal costs to volunteer staff (e.g. gas to a host family's home), but we do our very best to ensure you never worry about finances limiting your involvement and impact.

Youth Ministry Volunteer Staff Promises

Here are the promises (what we call a covenant) that we make to one other each school year:

As people who have received Christ by faith, follow him as Lord, and serve him together on this ministry team, we make these promises to one another.

- We will be a distinctively Christian group. We will seek God together prayerfully, work within the guidance of Scripture and be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We will do our work as Christ followers.
- Realizing the importance of our meetings, we will make our attendance a matter of high priority, missing our meetings only when it is truly necessary.
- We will begin and end meetings on time.
- We will make every effort to be prepared, on time, and fully participative in meetings.
- We will each be responsible for providing our own childcare or coordinating care.
- We will strictly guard confidentiality, when required.
- We will respect one another and speak openly during meetings, each person expressing his or her opinion for themselves. We will accept difference, listen carefully, and work to achieve understanding. While differences of opinion are good and acceptable, when the group makes a decision we will speak with one voice to the congregation.
- We will each do our assigned tasks.
- We are each committing to pursuing at least one student to mentor/Be-With this year.
- We are each committing to the youth ministry for a one year, renewable commitment.
- We have made our family members and spouses aware of our commitment.

As people who are members of the Body of Christ at Alma First Church of God and are therefore part of this community of faith, we make these promises to the church:

- We will each do our part to serve the mission of the church.
- We will regularly participate in the worship of the church.
- We will work for the unity and integrity of the church.
- We will make choices and lifestyle that are "above reproach" knowing that our lives are a model for the students (1 Timothy 1:1-3)

Youth Ministry Teams

The Purpose of each ministry team is:

“...to **introduce** non-believing students to Christ, to help them to offer themselves in **worship** to God, **connect** them with other Christians and **equip** them to live for Christ and **discover** their ministry.”

What does this look like in my life? Hopefully a few things!

- I can know God
- I can experience something greater than myself
- I can be part of meaningful, long-lasting relationships
- I can have confidence in God’s power and live without fear
- I can know my purpose and see God at work in my everyday life

Whether or not you are able to be a volunteer staff, check out the many other ways you can have an impact in the lives of students!

Cheerleading Team

Those who support and encourage the youth ministry. Anytime someone says something positive about our ministry, students, or staff, they are automatically a part of this team!

Behind-the-Scenes

Event Volunteers: Helping plan or set-up for one-time youth events, meetings, and gatherings

Prayer Partners: Committing to pray for and perhaps meet with one student throughout the school year

Chaperones/Drivers for activities: Driving students to events, camps, retreats, and host families

Kitchen Team: Organizing families to provide snacks for students, providing food and hospitality on Sunday nights during hang out time, or even just keeping the kitchen clean and updated!

Tech Crew: Largely student-led, but if you have a passion and expertise in sound, video, or lighting presentation and are willing to help teach students new skills, we want to know!

“Full Service” Worship: If your desire is to bring God glory through music, by empowering students to lead their peers in worship, we have a place for you!

Other? There are always new possibilities for ministry Behind-the-Scenes!

Front Lines Ministry

Small Group Leaders – Those willing to lead or learn to lead Bible study with a small group of students on Sunday nights. This is a huge opportunity for growth! Because small groups are also central to our ministry, this is the only specific role where small group leaders are asked to make a “Youth Volunteer Staff” commitment (see “Volunteer Expectations” above).

Sunday School Teachers - Going deep and equipping students to live for Christ. All current and potential youth Sunday school teachers have an opportunity to learn the ropes of teaching Sunday school through an apprenticeship with another current teacher. Remember the 2 qualities? LOVE FOR GOD and HEART FOR STUDENTS. If you have these and a desire to teach, please talk with Pastor Ben.

Host Families

Q: What does a host family share with students? H.E.L.P.

Host families share their...

Home – Having someone in your home lets them know that they are welcomed, loved, and belong

Excitement – Having fun with the students in your own unique way – (food, games, activities) communicates that you want to know them and are excited by their presence!

Lives – Sharing part of your testimony, your family story, or something God has taught or is teaching you

Prayers – Praying with and for students lets them know that God cares for them and opens the door for ongoing friendships

Service Team- Organizing and Taking students out to serve. This can be anything at any time! All it takes is identifying a need and finding others to go with you. Great opportunity to reach our neighbors outside of regular youth programming (e.g. snow shoveling, visiting homebound families, etc)

Other? There are always new possibilities for ministry on the Front Lines!