



Developing students who actively engage Christ in their world.

# Youth Leader Handbook

Sparta Evangelical Free Church  
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## WELCOME LETTER

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Dear Potential Youth Leader,

I'm excited and thankful that you're interested in working with the Roots Youth team to shepherd students in Junior and/or Senior High here at Sparta EFC! We are always looking for committed leaders who love Jesus and care about students!

We believe that effective ministry is built on relationships between students and adults working side-by-side to reach this generation for Jesus. The relationships we, as adults, are able to have with students helps us develop them so that they can help develop one another as Christians. This naturally leads to students desiring to bring their unsaved friends into an environment where they see **A FAMILY LOVING WITH THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST** and come to a point of repentance and faith in Jesus, and then to be disciplined on how to **ACTIVELY ENGAGE CHRIST IN THEIR WORLD.**

The quality of our team is very important to us. We are looking for men and women who have a continuing, growing, commitment to Jesus. We are looking for men and women who wish to make a wise investment of their time, energy, emotions, wisdom, faith and life-experience in the lives of teens.

As a potential youth worker, please be careful not to view youth ministry *simply* as an extension of your social life or strictly as good times, or as a way to fulfill unmet emotional or relational needs. And if you are not sure whether youth ministry is the right place for you at this season in your life, embrace the "If You Believe God is Leading You to Serve with Us..." process (pg. 4) in order to avoid "testing" or "kicking the tires" of youth ministry. This process is designed to help us all discern this *before* students begin placing their emotional trust in new leaders. The process is not perfect, but it is beneficial to help us (current youth leaders as well as you) understand if this is the right season for you to join and make a commitment to our team.

This Youth Leader Handbook is designed to help you learn as much about us at the onset of your consideration of youth ministry so that you can make an informed decision as you express your interest and desire to commit to the youth ministry leadership team and students.

Once I have received your application, I will call you to schedule a time to meet and discuss your interest. All information will be kept strictly confidential between me and the pastoral team.

Youth ministry is a great way to invest your time as a follower of Jesus! I am looking forward to meeting with you and getting to know you more as we traverse this journey about your hopes and dreams for ministering to teens. Please feel free to reach out to me at any point in time.

Sincerely,



Matt Magee

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## IF YOU BELIEVE GOD IS LEADING YOU TO SERVE WITH US...

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- 1. Express Interest:** You may have an interest in serving God by loving people, but are not sure where the best place to get involved is. We will help you walk through this. Initially, though, talk with another youth leader or Pastor Matt to find out more information. This is a great time to write down, e-mail or ask any questions you have...all questions are welcome. You'll notice that we have a thorough process for joining the youth leadership team. This is intended to ensure that we help the right people serve in the right place at the right time. So whether or not you are sure if this is the right place for you, take the next step as you prayerfully consider joining the Roots Youth Leadership Team.
- 2. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment:** I cannot stress enough the vitality of your (and our) prayer throughout this process. If we are to have the mind of Christ ([1 Cor. 2:14-16](#)), we need the wisdom of the Spirit of God. So please pray specifically and seek the prayers of others on your behalf.
- 3. Receive this Youth Leader Handbook:** By receive, we mean read, take in and support. There may be some things you don't fully agree with, and that's okay. We know we don't do everything perfectly, and we're certainly open to discussing different approaches. But in the meantime, please honor our team and church by supporting us ([Eph. 5:21](#)).
- 4. Become Familiar with [www.rootsyouth.org](http://www.rootsyouth.org) and our [Facebook](#) page:** You've heard it before, but the times...they are-a-changin'. Our youth ministry is not limited to weekly meetings and periodic events. The internet has changed the way people communicate, connect and share their lives...especially for teens. Check out some ways we connect with students online.
- 5. Observe Activities and Leadership Team:** Before you fill out an application, or essentially in the same timeframe, please visit and observe 3 youth activities (Sunday School, Sunday evening youth group, special event/activity...this doesn't need to take a month). Please give Pastor Matt a heads-up when you plan to visit. We would also like you to attend a leadership team meeting so you can see how we interact. The goal of these observations is so that you can see at a glance how the ministry functions to help you determine if you feel like we are the right team for you.
- 6. Complete the Application & Background Check:** It is the policy of SEFC that every adult working with minors needs to complete a background check. This package helps us gather necessary information for our screening process and it is important that this packet be completely filled out and submitted, as well as three references received, prior to your assimilation into the youth ministry.
- 7. Meet with Pastor Matt:** This is an opportunity to share your observations, describe your spiritual journey and communicate your gifts and desires for working with the youth ministry. We will also discuss your application and specific areas of involvement. This is also the best time to learn one another's expectations so we can serve one another most effectively.
- 8. Beginning Ministry:** After you turn in the [Time to Commit](#) sheet and we have received your background check, we will talk about a beginning date and your role.
- 9. Evaluation Meeting:** At your two-month mark, we will meet to evaluate your feelings and perceptions regarding your involvement with the team so far. We will continue to evaluate through the year and adjust your role to better fit your style, personality, strengths and overall team needs.

## A MINISTRY OF SPARTA EFC

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“Roots” is the youth ministry of Sparta Evangelical Free Church (Sparta EFC or SEFC). “Roots” exists to fulfill the youth ministry expectations for our greater church family. Therefore, all youth ministry leadership fully submits to the leadership, polity, practices and procedures established by the Sparta EFC.

I strongly encourage you to attend the next “Inquirer’s Class,” if you have not already done so. In this Sunday school class you will learn the history of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), the Sparta EFC, study our doctrinal beliefs and more. It is a great class and a wonderful time to *inquire* about our church and it is the first step toward church membership.

We value church membership as a vital part of healthy church commitment. Becoming a member is not simply checking a box. Membership is a public statement of one’s commitment to an organization. It is a statement of belief in what the organization stands for and indicates a desire for involvement and commitment. Specifically for a local church, there are a number of reasons why a Christian should go beyond involvement and join the membership.<sup>1</sup> Among them are:

1. Full identification with the church
2. Accountability to the church
3. Accountability and care within the church
4. Responsibility for the church

It is not a requirement to be a member to serve in many roles on the youth leadership team. It is important, however, that our Small Group Leaders, Sunday School Teachers and other teachers are members. If you simply need to complete the Application for Membership, please contact the church office, or [download here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM OUR TEAM

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Structure and Leadership

Encouragement

Training and learning opportunities and resources

Communication of support and direction

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<sup>1</sup> EFCA. *Welcome to the Family!* (pp. 46-47). Minneapolis: The Evangelical Free Church of America, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> <http://rootsyouth.org/resources/ApplicationForMembership.pdf>

Interest in your personal life and well-being

Exhortation to develop your ministry

Our best effort to help you succeed

## OUR VISION AND ROOT SYSTEMS

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### **Vision Statement: Developing students who actively engage Christ in their world.**

At Roots Youth and Sparta EFC, we're all about students, families and Jesus. We do more than just "hang out" with students, though that is a vital part of what we do. And at the right time, we dig in to help them dig down deep, within themselves, one another, their families and the Word of God. Our goal is to help students continue to **DEVELOP**...grow...mature.

The only way to develop biblically is in relationship with Jesus Christ, and so we disciple **STUDENTS** to **ACTIVELY**...continually...or moment-by-moment make the repeated decision to submit their will to God, which means to put into practice, or **ENGAGE**, the person and work of **CHRIST** in their lives, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The first step in this is to repent of our sin and believe in faith that Jesus is our propitiation ([Rom. 3:21-26](#)). Next we are to help students grow to maturity in Christ ([Col. 1:28-29](#)), while they are helping their **WORLD**...friends...family...classmates...teammates...church...enemies...see the difference Jesus makes in their life ([1 Peter 2:9](#)).

**Root Systems:** These root systems encompass how God has called us to live. And you'll notice that we've defined them with icons, words and phrases. That's just to help you remember the phrases, which are intended to be very conversational.

The icon helps you remember the word which helps you remember the phrase.



**CHRIST**

experience a growing relationship with Christ



**THE WORD**

know Christ by knowing God's Word



**FAMILY**

understand God's design for your family



**FRIENDS**

pursue & invest in godly friendships

# OVERARCHING MINISTRY GOALS

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You've heard it said, if you aim at nothing you'll hit it every time. Sometimes we aim for the sky and don't quite make it...but that's okay because we're further along because we went for something in the right direction. ***This outline is intended to help us get from a thirty-thousand foot view to ground-level intentional discipleship.*** (I tried to make it flow conversationally.)

## 1. Christ {experience a growing relationship with Christ}

- a. *Students will understand & articulate their faith*
  - i. because we have taught soteriology (the doctrine of salvation), and
  - ii. they will role play in a safe environment so they can sharpen one another, and
  - iii. they will use what they've learned in real-word scenarios in every-day life and through mission and service opportunities
- b. *Students will be involved in mentoring relationships*
  - i. with students and adults who are further along in their Christian journey, and
  - ii. by learning how to disciple someone else who is a younger and/or newer Christian
- c. *Students will demonstrate the Fruit-of-the-Spirit*
  - i. by understanding progressive sanctification, as they
  - ii. ask the Holy Spirit to reveal impurities in their heart, and
  - iii. are receptive to biblical truth from God and other Christians, and
  - iv. practice dying to self in a moment-by-moment way

## 2. The Word {know Christ by knowing God's Word}

- a. *Students will abide in Christ by abiding in the Word*
  - i. as they develop biblical rhythms of reading, thinking and praying,
  - ii. learn how to pray Scripture,
  - iii. develop various systems for reading and studying the Bible, so that they can
  - iv. develop a good biblical worldview, as they
  - v. stretch their 'faith muscle' by believing God and living out their faith
- b. *Students will see understand that the Bible is Christocentric*
  - i. by seeing that Jesus is the center of all Scripture,;
  - ii. the Old Testament points to Jesus; and
  - iii. all of the Bible's promises are fulfilled in Jesus
- c. *Students will be doers of the Word*
  - i. by following the example Jesus set for us;
  - ii. following adults who follow Jesus;
  - iii. deepening their faith by applying Scripture in difficult situations, and by
  - iv. seeing in their own life that God is faithful.

## 3. Family {understand God's design for your family}

- a. *Students will know that God designed the family for permanence and that each role is crucial*
  - i. when we teach them what the Bible says about the family,
  - ii. as they learn to live in community so they discover their role, and

- iii. learn how to handle the breakdown of God's design,
  - iv. by repairing broken relationships and learning to live with imperfect people.
- b. *Parents will embrace their God-given role*
- i. nurturing their teens toward godliness in all areas of life,
  - ii. by lovingly and diligently teaching the Word at home, and
  - iii. modeling Christlikeness in their own lives, while
  - iv. helping their teens understand and practice their spiritual gifts
- c. *Students will embrace their God-given role*
- i. learn how to be a blessing to their parents,
  - ii. by respecting and honoring them, as they submit to their authority,
  - iii. while learning how to disagree and discuss with honor and respect;
  - iv. edify and encourage their siblings
4. Friends {pursue and invest in godly friendships}
- a. *Students will pursue friendships with Christians that will help their walk with Jesus progress*
- i. choosing friends that will be healthy for their spiritual growth,
  - ii. developing healthy friendships with Christians teens whose personalities can clash,
  - iii. balancing time and energy between "closest friends" and "other Christian teens"
- b. *Students will invest heart, time, gifting and wisdom in their Christian friendships*
- i. learning to trust others, even though they're imperfect,
  - ii. by being wisely vulnerable about issues of the heart,
  - iii. forgiving when they are let down by people they have trusted,
  - iv. seeking to understand God's sovereignty in allowing hurts, and
  - v. edifying and exhorting Christian friends.
- c. *Students will pursue healthy and accountable friendships with non-Christians in their circle of influence*
- i. positioning themselves so they won't be overly influenced,
  - ii. by surrounding themselves with Christians who have influence in their life, and
  - iii. caring more about the person's eternal soul than the benefits their friendship offers.
- d. *Students will intentionally invest in non-Christian friendships*
- i. by aware of and taking opportunities to share Christ,
  - ii. serving them in the name of Jesus,
  - iii. introducing them to the Body of Christ, and
  - iv. challenging them to make a decision to repent from their sin and follow Jesus in faith

# YOUTH MISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

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Involvement in “missions” is indispensable in the life and spiritual formation of teens, so we place a high priority on providing multiple opportunities to involve as many teens as possible. Our desire is to help teens and families develop God’s heart for the lost in order to bring them to a place of surrender to the truth that God has called them to pray for, participate in and financially support His work of evangelism through the church and across the world.

For our purposes, “missions” involves a cross-cultural experience where students are encouraged to build relationships with the lost and/or support another group of believers as they build relationships with the lost in their community. “Missions” gives us an opportunity to take teens out of their daily, familiar environment for a day, weekend, week, month, etc. into an environment that requires them to seek and trust the Lord, while working with and depending on others and stepping out of their comfort zone. “Missions” is often a catalyst to develop and strengthen their “faith muscle” while “in the field” which most often has a direct and long-lasting impact on their daily walk with Jesus.

It is our prayer that every teen would participate in multiple mission trips while a part of Roots Youth. Through exposure to serving the Lord on the mission field we pray that God would raise up young men and women who would one day surrender their life to Him for full-time Christian service in missions or elsewhere.

## **Objectives**

- Increase students’ awareness of a potential calling to full-time ministry.
- Develop koinonia through serving the Lord together.
- Students will apply lessons-learned from the mission field.
- Students and families will make missions a top priority.
- Students will develop a passion for global ministry and cross-cultural sensitivity.
- Support students who are participating in SEFC mission trips that are not specifically “youth trips”.

## **Strategies**

- Provide multiple opportunities for students to engage in missions activities each year.
- Pray for and correspond with missionaries connected with our students.
- Make missions a priority in the youth budget.
- Develop ongoing relationships with churches that we are able to support in their effort to reach their community for Jesus.
- Teach students to develop a big picture view toward mission efforts in multiple areas in spite of their affection for a certain church, group, kid, etc.

# EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH LEADERS

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## LIFESTYLE

- Be committed to Jesus and fellowship at Sparta EFC by regularly attending worship services.
- Honor the pastors and elders of Sparta EFC
- Commit to regular prayer, Bible study, accountability and evangelism
- Seek to maintain the unity of the Spirit of God by diffusing gossip, rumors and conflict with students, leaders, parents and church family.
- Participate in problem-solving. Problems come with people, so we're not surprised by them. Fortunately with the right attitudes, extending grace and being willing to talk them through problems that once had disastrous potential can be turned into Christ-exalting wins for the Body of Christ.
- Commit to be sexually pure both online and in any guy/girl relationships you have. (Please talk with Pastor Matt or another pastor if you need help...we will help however we can.)
- Please dress very modestly, aiming to please and get the attention of the Lord. (Great resources: <sup>3</sup>[Modesty Heart Check](#) and <sup>4</sup>[God, My Heart and Clothes](#))

## MINISTRY

- Be on time for all activities and meetings (at least 15 minutes early to all events/activities unless otherwise specified).
- Make leadership meetings a priority and attend regularly. Sometimes things come up that prevent you from coming, but this should not happen regularly.
- Participate wholeheartedly. Any game can be fun if you want it to be...model this for our students. Be the first to jump in when it is time to get in a team or a line. Look for ways to pull in students who are not participating. In general, help the flow of the activity.
- Actively look for ways to help/contribute to making meetings and events run more smoothly.
- If you are driving students, seatbelts and speed limit are a must!
- Be aggressive in getting to know parents of our teens (more than name-sharing...try to get to know them and see what's on their heart).
- Follow through with commitments and responsibilities.
- Mingle with students from any school and make newcomers feel welcome. It's best, if possible, to take a student with you when welcoming a newcomer so you can model for them how to observe and be intentional. If you're in a conversation and someone new walks in, pause the conversation to welcome them...whoever you're speaking with will understand.
- Support parents of students at all times. This doesn't mean always agreeing with them, but it does mean honoring their role and their decisions and steering their teen **to them**. If you are in a situation where you feel you just can't support a parent, speak with Pastor Matt right away!
- Be positive in tough situations.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.girltalkhome.com/blog/Modesty\\_Heart\\_Check](http://www.girltalkhome.com/blog/Modesty_Heart_Check)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org/Blog/category/Modesty.aspx>

## QUALITIES OF A YOUTH LEADER

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**Positive Attitude:** The ability to work with and see people and situations in a constructive way.

**Servant-hood:** The willingness to sacrifice time and energy for others without needing anyone to notice.

**Team Player:** The mind-set of looking out for others and being intentional to lift others up.

**Growing Edge:** Have a hunger for personal and spiritual growth. We cannot lead where we have not been.

**Follow-Through:** A commitment to be responsible and to fulfill any specific ministries or jobs that have been agreed upon.

**Timeliness:** The world runs on schedules, so timeliness and punctuality are important. Put others before yourself and do what is necessary to be on time (5-10 minutes early).

**Integrity:** Trustworthiness and solid character; consistency in words and walk are key.

**Discipline:** The willingness to do what is required regardless of your mood; youth meetings and events are for students so please stay student-minded.

**Relational:** The ability to make others feel comfortable and cared for. Every student counts and needs to be known, greeted, and connected.

**Sense of Humor:** Ability to laugh at yourself, try new things and have a good time learning from your mistakes!!

**Be Patient:** Be patient with yourself. Don't stress if you're learning curve is high. Just be willing to learn. Also be patient with others. Remember everyone is at a different place in their life. Reach out and love people where they're at! Feeling comfortable and connecting with students takes time – going to camps, retreats and special events will help intensify and solidify your relationships with students. The more you invest, the more you will get out of it, so take initiative.

**Teachable Spirit:** The ability to be humble, open to loving criticism and able to learn from others. Sometimes truthful criticism comes from a sinful attitude. Be mature enough to separate the means from the message and ask the Lord to help you see what is true.

## YOUTH LEADER BOUNDARIES

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We want to do everything we can to honor Jesus in our ministry, and that means willingly taking precautions and gladly sacrificing some freedoms for the sake of the ministry.

Use careful judgment at all times in the exercise of personal freedom, particularly when associated with and/or relating to students, either publicly or privately. We recognize that many of us have opinions and practices on certain lifestyle issues that differ from one another, such as how we conduct ourselves and the words we use. Furthermore, the Bible, our authority for all Christian life, is not explicit on every issue within our culture. Nevertheless, many Christians have historically condemned the use of certain words and body language. If ever you're unsure, don't do or say what you're unsure of.

Lifestyle issues are complicated further by the reality that we are in a position of trust and influence in the youth ministry. Therefore, with respect to such issues as the use of language, entertainment, drinking and other behavioral matters that are open to abuse, misuse and misunderstanding, the following biblical principles must be followed:

- The Bible condemns self-indulgence while commanding self-control ([Gal. 5:19-25](#)).
- The Bible commands respect of one's body ([1 Thes. 4:4](#); [1 Cor. 6:18-20](#)).
- Community interests are to be put ahead of self-interest ([Phil. 2:3-5](#)).

Personal liberty is to be set aside:

- When its exercise could hinder a student's spiritual development;
- When its exercise could be misunderstood in such a way as to hinder one's own witness, or that of our student ministry;
- When culture abuse suggests the need for Christian leaders to exercise self-restraint;
- When an action could endanger another person's safety or well-being.

*Please Note: This is not intended to be a legalistic definition of right and wrong. It is meant to provide principles to limit the experience of Christian liberty because of the position of influence in which we find ourselves.*

- Be purposeful in who you talk to and hangout with at youth. ALWAYS, ALWAYS watch for the new person or someone who looks like they are feeling left out.
- No driving girls alone in your car if you are a guy; no driving guys alone in your car if you're a girl – EVER! **It is not acceptable and there is no exception.** Sometimes there are sticky situations that may seem unavoidable, but they are avoidable (inconvenient, maybe, but avoidable). Call someone, get help, make two trips, be honest, do whatever it takes to avoid the situation. This sets parents' minds at ease, covers the ministry's reputation and watches out for you as well as students! Along these same lines, be careful about even being alone in a room at church for too long with a student of the opposite gender...always be in view of others.
- No dating youth members. Staff/student romantic relationships are an ABSOLUTE NO! It may be flattering to you, but have nothing to do with it. Talk to Pastor Matt immediately if you sense something developing.
- Girl leaders will work closely with and minister to girls and guy leaders will work closely with and minister to guys. Mingling is cool, but a defined standard of boundaries is an excellent

example for students, as well as making a disciplined attempt at maintaining focus while removing distraction.

- Dating: It is no problem if you are dating a fellow youth leader, but please keep your focus on the students while at youth group. Please set the example for students where Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are concerned. If you're married, then appropriate PDA with your spouse is great! We want students to see married couples in love, but keep it clean, keep it Christ-centered and set a godly example for our students.
- Language boundaries: no swearing permitted...ever. In no way can foul language be accepted. This includes coarse joking, rude remarks, gossip, inappropriate sarcasm and negativity. We also need to set an excellent example where stereotyping and prejudices are concerned, so please refrain from anything that is not uplifting and encouraging. Please and Thank You 😊

## WHAT STUDENTS NEED FROM YOUTH LEADERS

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Helping students learn to love Jesus and make Him their highest priority happens one student at a time! Students do not connect to programs, they connect to people. Programs have their place and are a necessary part of what we do, but long-lasting change happens in life-on-life relationships. The most effective way to influence students is through significant relationships with key people in their lives. Our goal is to develop leaders who will minister to students.

The students in Roots need leaders who will:

- Love God and let Him live through them
- Show genuine interest in their lives
- Take initiative to spend time with them
- Keep confidence in appropriate times
- Make it clearly known that confidence cannot be kept if a student is in danger, a danger to others, or involved in illegal activity
- Pray for *and with* them
- Be real and *appropriately* vulnerable
- Say encouraging words
- Believe in them
- Laugh
- Go to “their world”
- Remember their names and care for them
- Share God’s love through personal experience
- Be consistent in life and ministry
- Be patient

- Be a leader, not a peer

## WHAT PARENTS NEED FROM YOUTH LEADERS

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Youth ministry naturally provides a large and diverse age range of people to whom we minister. In a day's time you can care for a twelve year-old whose "world is crashing" (and in their shoes it really is) and then only hours later have a conversation with a parent about anything ranging from their desire to make the right decisions as a parent to challenging the advice you have given their son or daughter. Sometimes it is tiring. Sometimes it feels defeating. Sometimes it is really rewarding!

For this reason, we need to have a clear understanding of what parents need from youth leaders. [Deuteronomy 6](#) gives us a clear picture that it is a father and mother's responsibility, along with the community of their extended family (and in our context the Body of Christ), to train and disciple children by showing them what the LORD has done and reminding the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to fear and love the LORD.

As youth leaders we are called to support parents in their calling. This support can take various forms, but the key is that it must be support. Parents need to know that we are here to assist them and support them.

This can be difficult because we spend so much time with their students that it is easy to forget the parents and only sympathize with the student. **Know this: as much as you think you love students, in almost every case their parents love them far more than you or I can hold a candle to.** In this light, please be very familiar with these things parents need from youth leaders.

- Parents need to know the adults that spend time with their teens...you
- Parents need to know that we will not undermine their authority
- Parents need your consistent prayers
- Parents need to have confidence in the advice you will give their student
- Parents often need to glean from your insight about their teen's world
- Parents need youth leaders to instill confidence in their ability to be excellent parents
- Parents need to know that we want them involved in our ministry

## MINISTRY AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

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No one can do everything! But everyone can do something. [1 Peter 4:10](#) tells us that "*as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of God's varied grace.*" Our passion is to help you find your passion and use it to develop students and support the ministry of Roots Youth. With that in

mind, here is an overview of the ministry areas we have. [Note: this page is closely related to the [Ministry Interests and Gifting](#) page in the application.]

- 1) Small Group Leader
  - a. Facilitate weekly small group Bible study lessons
  - b. Communicate with small group host
  - c. Connect with one student per week outside of your small group meeting
  - d. Care for student's needs
  - e. Get to know your student's parents as you are able
  - f. Let your assistant know how they can support you
- 2) Small Group Assistant
  - a. Assist the small group leader in whatever way they need (short of foot massages)
  - b. Interact with one student per week outside of your small group meeting
  - c. Disciple teens
  - d. Teach occasionally
  - e. Help the kids support the leader
  - f. Care for students
- 3) Small Group Host
  - a. Welcome students into your home on a regular basis
  - b. Provide great food/snacks for a small group of students/leaders (usually 5-9)
  - c. Be involved in their open conversation before and after their Small Group meeting
  - d. Give them space to have their small group meeting
  - e. Care about students more than your couch :)
- 4) Prayer Team coordinator
  - a. Put together a team of adults who will pray for students and leaders regularly
  - b. Communicate prayer needs
- 5) Greeting Team
  - a. Attend youth group on a regular basis, rotating with others to welcome students
  - b. Greet ALL students who come
  - c. Put out the friendly, good-times vibe
  - d. Introduce and try to connect new people
  - e. Distribute event flyers, calendars, student info cards, etc.
  - f. Follow-up with new students during the week
- 6) Game-Master
  - a. Plan a wide variety of games, hunts, activities and competitions for youth group
  - b. Plan small-room icebreakers
  - c. Get all necessary supplies
  - d. Work with Leadership Team for special events
- 7) Helps Team
  - a. Arrive before special events to help set up or after events to help tear down and clean
  - b. Organize many behind-the-scenes tasks
- 8) Office / Administrative Help
  - a. Data entry
  - b. Stuffing, labeling, mailing letters
  - c. Etc.
- 9) Worship Leader

- a. Work with Pastor Matt, Pastor Bill and Pastor Greg to build and develop student worship teams
  - b. Lead worship semi-regularly
- I0) Sunday School Teacher
- a. Teach or assist teaching on Sunday mornings
  - b. Work with other youth leaders to develop future SS plans
- I1) RootsYouth.org Website Content Manager
- a. Website development and maintenance
  - b. Recruit content contributors
  - c. Help families connect with the website
- I2) Online Community Coordinator
- a. Work to create a unique community using the social networking tools that students are already using
  - b. Teach students how online activity is part of actively engaging Christ in their world
  - c. Upload lots of photos and videos to Facebook, RootsYouth, YouTube, Vimeo, etc.
  - d. Work closely with RootsYouth.org manager
- I3) Service Project Coordinator
- a. Identify & coordinate 2 large-scale service projects per year
  - b. Help small groups identify service projects that they can do as a group
  - c. Communicate upcoming service projects with students regularly
- I4) Drama
- a. Work with Pastor Matt and Pastor Greg to coordinate students for drama
  - b. Help students develop their skill and use it for the Lord in church and the community
- I5) Videographer/Video Editor
- a. Attend events/activities semi-regularly to capture quality videos
  - b. Create brief video montages to help the church see what happens at Roots
  - c. Work closely with graphic designer and motion graphic artist
- I6) Photographer
- a. Attend events/activities semi-regularly to capture quality photos
  - b. Edit select photos for publicity/promotion
  - c. Edit photos for website
  - d. Work closely with video editor and graphic designer
- I7) Graphic Designer or Composer
- a. Graphics to highlight teaching series'
  - b. Large-scale graphic packages to promote and use throughout big events
  - c. Ongoing design for monthly activities and communications
  - d. Work with Pastor Matt to design Roots booklet
  - e. Work closely with video editor and photographer
- I8) Motion Graphic Artist
- a. Work with Adobe After Effects, Apple Motion, etc.
  - b. Design series trailers and event promotional materials
  - c. Design motion graphics for hallway kiosks to be incorporated into videos

## MINISTRY INTERESTS

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- Small Group Leader
- Small Group Assistant
- Small Group Host
- Prayer Team Coordinator
- Greeting Team
- Game-Master
- Helps Team
- Office / Administrative Assistant
- Worship Leader
- Sunday School Teacher
- RootsYouth.org Website Content Manager
- Online Community Coordinator
- Service Project Coordinator
- Drama
- Videographer/Video Editor
- Photographer
- Graphic Designer or Composer
- Motion Graphic Artist

## TIME TO COMMIT

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After spending time in prayer, observing the youth ministry and leadership, discussing with my family and close friends the commitment involved with being an adult leader in the youth ministry, I choose to commit the following:

- I acknowledge that Jesus is my Savior and that I have a growing relationship with Him.
- I am committed to growing and maturing my relationship with Jesus through regular time in the Word of God, prayer, active fellowship with the Sparta EFC church family, giving of my resources to the Lord for kingdom work and involvement in my own accountability relationships.
- [If married] My spouse is fully in support of my commitment, realizing that in many ways it is their commitment as well.
- I am committed to biblically-informed choices and a lifestyle that is both godly and above reproach, because I am aware that my lifestyle is a model for the students that I serve (see *Expectations and Boundaries*).
- I am making a commitment to Roots Youth for a period of one year (specify if other commitment was agreed upon). Time commitment if other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I will attend youth meetings and will make a commitment to make leadership team meetings a priority.
- I will work hard to help Sparta EFC fulfill the vision and ministry goals of Roots Youth.
- I am committed to supporting parents as a part of youth ministry.
- I am committing to go directly and quickly to Pastor Matt when I have concerns, frustrations, or differences. And I commit that I will not gossip about youth leaders, parents or students.
- I commit to giving Pastor Matt two-months' notice when preparing to step out of the youth ministry so that adequate time is available to find my replacement. Sometimes this is not foreseeable, but in most cases it is.
- I am committed to pray for the students, leaders and parents of Roots Youth.

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Signature

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Date

# PRAYER SUPPORT TEAM

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Ministry is to be done in the power of the Holy Spirit and as a natural outpouring of our personal walk with Jesus, so it is important to know that people are praying for you. Each leader is required to have a prayer-support team of at least five people who will commit to interceding for them and their ministry.

Regular updates should be provided to your prayer support team, without gossiping about students, families or leaders.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commitment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commitment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commitment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commitment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commitment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# ROOTS YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATION

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## GENERAL INFORMATION (Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Home No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERESTS AND LIFE QUESTIONS

How do you like to spend your free time? What do you do for fun?

How do you make decisions about which movies to see or which music to listen to?

How is God at work in your life now? (Please be specific)

What struggles do you have as a Christian? (We all have them)

Would you feel comfortable recommending all of your music to a student? Why or why not?

What is your desire for working with students?

How well do you feel you know the Bible?

- Bible? What's that?
- I know where my Bible is.
- I can name some of the books of the Bible.
- I read it rarely.
- I read it weekly.
- I read it more than four days per week.
- I feel comfortable teaching lessons others put together.
- I am excited to put Bible studies together to teach.

Do you have a spiritual accountability partner?      Yes    No

Are you open to spiritual accountability?      Yes    No

Are you a member of SEFC of another EFC church?    Yes    No

Are you open to church membership?      Yes    No

I am aware that I must also complete the Sparta EFC background check, submit three references, sign the Time To Commit sheet and gather my prayer support team.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

