

ON-LINE Youth Ministry Track -

Section #1 – Theology of Youth Ministry – Weekend #1

This first weekend together will be a special weekend getting to know each other, explaining the course details and beginning our journey into understanding the important Theology of Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry is more than planning an event, having a Bible study, teaching Sunday School and playing games. This weekend is important for each student as we establish a new beginning and a new place in which we will begin to understand the theology of a powerful spirit filled youth ministry.

Time will be giving to discuss what Youth Evaluation Teams are and how each student will need to organize one to help them in their course studies. Each student will also begin developing their Networking Notebook in which they will keep their notes and class projects. The hope is for each student to have a notebook full of resources gathered throughout the year long course they can use for future youth ministry development.

Section #2 – Adolescent Development

As a teenager grows, special care needs to be given to the teen's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth. Understanding the stages of life teenager's move through is critical in understanding how to minister appropriately to them. We will look at the characteristics of a growing teen, current issues and their effects, creative methods in teaching and the faith formation of an individual from birth to death.

Section #3 – Models of Ministry

What does it mean to have a strategic plan for youth ministry? This section will focus on the high value of having a plan. We will discover different models currently being used in ministries across the country and evaluate them. The word *Disciple evangelism* will be introduced to describe why discipleship and evangelism cannot be separated. Creating a mission, vision and values will allow the student to process how important it will be to build a plan and stick to that plan. Students will also work through developing ideas and plans for creating outreach events.

Section #4 – Programming for Retreats and Week Long Trips – Weekend #2

Weekend retreats and week long trips are valuable tools in youth ministry. It has been proven teenagers are more likely going to make a decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ at a camp or retreat. We will process what it will take to plan a weekend, week long camp or mission trip. Everything from timeline planning, programming, transportation, insurance to what style of event, etc... will be taught.

Section #5 – Programming to Build Disciples

Starting with the Nuts and Bolts of Youth Ministry is an important place to start. Time will be focused on creating a plan for building disciples, creating a Bible study, creative communication—giving a youth talk and developing a peer ministry through bible studies, worship, drama and music.

Section #6 – Counseling Youth – One Class and Weekend #3

Class - There is no questions teenagers are complex! How does a youth leader go about counseling a teen? Where can you go to get help? The class will focus in on referring and networking with Christian counselors and centers within your community. There will also be special time given to the self-care for youth pastors/workers.

Weekend – Students will have the opportunity to discuss, share and learn more about what it means to counsel teens with the help of a seasoned Christian youth counselor. The professional counselor will help students explore different methods of counseling, how to help students find professional crisis counseling and how to navigate working with students with special needs. Time will be given to discuss current trends, family dynamics, crisis counseling, drug and alcohol abuse, premarital sex, etc...

Section #7 – Leading the Ministry

What about recruiting, training, budgeting, insurance, legal issues, dealing with conflict, discipline and maintaining a volunteer staff? Yes, in youth ministry there is paperwork too. The focus of this section will be on how to manage your time wisely, develop a team and think through budgets and insurance. Special time will be given to conflict management and dealing with legal issues.

Section #8 – Implementing an Evangelistic Youth Ministry Event

Section 8 will be discussed in the spring along with the Field Study Work. Students will be required to create a team of people from other churches in their association to create and implement an evangelistic youth event.

Section #9 – Research Paper – Weekend #4 – Wrap up.

The paper will entail creating your own Model of Youth Ministry, a 3 year plan and creative ways to reach the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By the time the class is over, the student will have gathered enough knowledge to implement a youth ministry program for a church or ministry organization. The paper should reflect their growth and ideas for their future youth ministry adventures.