**Thank you for your interest in becoming a Youth Sponsor.**

**Our church is always looking for volunteer leaders to serve on our team in the student ministry. We believe that solid ministry is built on relationships between adult staff and students. Relationships are the 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.**

**Before you make a solid commitment, please read everything in this packet and prayerfully seek God’s guidance about this decision.**

**Please sit in on one or two services before you make a final decision.**

**Student ministry is a great way to serve the Lord and this generation. You will be blessed by the students as you see them grow in Christ and into young adults with a solid foundation, because you took time to pour into them and model what a true follower of Christ is.**

**Attached in this packet is an overview of the vision God has given me for this youth group as well as helpful things to remember about teens. Also a full description of what is expected from adult and student leaders.**

**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me. I am looking forward to all the things God is going to do through you. Thank you!**

**Clint Poncy**

**Student Ministry Pastor**

**The MVP Principal**

MVP is the defining principles of what our ministry is all about, and includes the Mission, Vision, and Purpose. With these goals lined up and defined, we hope that students will be able to catch the magnitude of the vision that God has for One Student Ministry

***The P***

***The V***

***The M***

The Mission of One Student Ministries is found in Matthew 28, where Jesus simply gives the command to go into all the world and make disciples of all people, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey. Starting in 2013, God has given us the vision to double in number every year for the next five years. We believe that strong Christian young people with a heart for missions, foreign and domestic, is the key to seeing this goal achieved.

Our Purpose is based off a passage of scripture found in Luke 15, which asks a question to its readers, saying, “Who of you, having a hundred sheep, and looses one, does not leave the ninety-nine to go after the one?” One Student Ministries is purposed to seek after the one, relentlessly, bringing students into the kingdom of God

The Vision of One Student Ministries is to develop a generation of young people that are passionate about reaching their peers, serving their community, and changing their world. The main reason for this model is found in 1Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and in purity”

RESPONSIBILITIES

Our philosophy of student ministry is that we must teach our teenagers how to work for the Lord and then give them opportunities to do it. I believe that a ministry that does not expect anything from the teens will get what it expects.

With this in mind, you might ask, “What’s left for the leaders to do”? I have tried to free you from little jobs so that you are available on Wednesday nights to build relationships with our students. What I expect is for you to spend time interacting with our young people before, during and after the service, but to minister to the students of Rockwall.

 Every member of the One Crew should have these four qualities:

1. Breathing
2. Know that it is God’s will for you to be a leader
3. Have a passionate burden for young people
4. Be an example of what it means to live a life One with God.

BEFORE THE SERVICE

1. Be in the youth room by 6:45pm to pray
2. Greet students as they come in. Make it your goal each Wednesday night to learn the name of one student and spend some quality time with another.

DURING SERVICE

1. Sit with the young people. This is a great way to get to know them, to influence them and to stop problems before they start.
2. Participate during the service. Be an example to them by singing, clapping, giving in the offering, taking sermon notes, praying, etc…

AFTER THE SERVICE

1. Simply be available to the young people to talk, counsel, etc… After the service many students are looking for someone to talk to and you may be their answer.
2. Help police the grounds and make sure kids are not getting into trouble.

IN THE ALTARS

1. During the alter time help young people touch God and breakthrough. This must be our priority for each service.
2. If you are done praying, “guard the altars.” Don’t let others disturb those who are still praying. Service is not over until the last young person is done praying.

Don’t allow other youth group members to start playing around, screaming and being disruptive until everyone is through praying.

1. Be on the lookout for students who are making “spiritual hits” on members of the opposite sex.
2. Some tips for altar working:
	1. Always take your Bible with you
	2. Don’t just pray, but talk to the person in the altar and give them counsel from God’s Word
	3. Ask other teens to help you when you do go to prayer
	4. When you are finished praying and pouring into the student please let Stephanie or I know of any struggles the student is having so we can follow up.

ON SUNDAY

 Our job does not end on Wednesday. Remember anytime a student hits the altars or steps into the aisle for prayer, attack them. In order to build a relationship with our young people, you must be involved in their lives outside of Wednesday nights. From time to time we may also need your assistance in the lobby with youth information or fundraising efforts.

DURING THE WEEK

 Each sponsor will be given a number of students. We are asking you to do the following:

1. Make contact during the week. (phone call, text message, e-mail, etc) At least 1 phone call a month per student in your care group.
2. Make contact with them each Wednesday evening.
3. Send “Birthday” cards.
4. Promote upcoming youth events to these students.

DISCIPLINE

 During all church services we would like you to sit with our young people. This will help maintain order and also allow you to meet with new young people. Help our young people to respect what is going on during the service. If a problem arises the following steps should be taken.

1. Tap the student politely on the shoulder and ask them to please be quiet.
2. If the activity continues, tactfully ask them to stop disturbing the service.
3. If the second warning goes unheeded, quietly split up the group that is causing the distraction.

At no time should a student be allowed to be disrespectful to a Sponsor. If a student is ever disrespectful to you, the youth should be brought to the Youth Pastor as soon as possible. Always be polite and keep your cool in dealing with disciplinary problems.

There are times when some youth will try to skip the service or leave during the service. At no time are students to be off wandering around the church. If a student refuses to be a part of the service the following steps should be taken.

1. Give them the choice of joining the service or having their parents come pick them up.
2. If they choose their parents, then you make the call and wait with them until their parents arrive.
3. If a student ever leaves without permission, please try to get their name and inform the leadership.

Consequences

Throughout the year if you have an issue with fulfilling the above stated responsibilities it will be handled as follows:

1. Meeting with myself.
2. Meeting with Pastor and myself.
3. Dismissal from your responsibilities as a sponsor

This is only to be fair for both sides involved.

COUNSELING STUDENTS

1. Be ready to counsel with our students. If a teenager approaches you with a problem:
	1. Listen and let them talk
	2. Refer them to scripture
	3. Pray with them
	4. Encourage them to talk with the youth pastor. All crisis counseling (ie: suicide, pregnancy, rape, incest, abuse, drug or alcohol related) should be reported immediately to the youth pastor or a member or the pastoral staff.
	5. Make sure they know you are only giving them advice. Remember you are not a certified counselor.
2. Listen now and freak later
	1. Too many times we are blown away by what they are saying, instead of just letting them get it off their chest.
	2. We don’t have to have all the answers. (magic answers)
	3. Most kids just want to tell someone, kind of like confessional.
3. Loose lips sink ships
	1. If a student chooses you, that means they trust you with very sensitive information (in their opinion)
	2. Never pass up a chance to keep your mouth shut (confidentiality)
	3. Remember, that they want a human, not a super hero. Be transparent
	4. Privileged Communication (legal term) you have to tell some stuff.
4. Lyrical assassination
	1. Don’t kill them with your words, don’t talk too much either.
	2. Keep it positive, even when confronting… be encouraging.
	3. Choose your fights wisely … don’t confront in front
5. Love unconditionally
	1. Unconditional Positive Regard. (1Cor 13, patient…) Joyce Meyer says that patience isn’t waiting, waiting is waiting, patience is how we act while we wait.
	2. Don’t let them get away, track’em (Amos 3:12)
	3. May not want your help initially, or accept your advice, but stay handy
6. Little tricks of the trade
	1. Reflective Listening – repeat back to them what they say
	2. Reflect Feelings – be empathetic with them
	3. Promote further self-exam of decision’s (why did I do that)
	4. Ask why 5 times to get to the core … don’t settle for Sunday School answers
	5. You are not a professional, don’t feel like you must be …just be willing to listen, and listen, and listen …

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

1. I WILL BE THERE – All full time staff are expected to be at all One SM events.
2. Sponsors – Different events call for various sized staffs. Our policy will be as follows:
	1. Leaders will pay ½ cost of the event
	2. If the event is less than $10.00 the sponsors are free, if the money is in the youth budget.
	3. Leaders are responsible for their own food and drink
	4. These expenses will be raised by adding a slight administration cost to the price charged to each student.
3. Leadership Training – Obviously you are not going to get rich being a student ministry leader. One way we want to say thank you is by helping to equip you to be more effective in ministry. We can do this by sending you to
	1. Conferences
	2. District councils
	3. Leadership training.

 Please inform us if there is something in the area that you would like to attend.

4. The Youth Minister also pledges you his loyalty. I will never undermine your authority or do anything to hinder your ministry with our young people. I believe that we are a team and together we can help the students make an Impact in their schools and their community.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST
	1. Have a relationship with Jesus Christ, having accepted Him according to Romans 10:9-10.
	2. Be filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4 or actively seeking the baptism.
2. A COMMITMENT TO THE LAKES ASSEMBLY
	1. Regularly attend all of our church services at The Lakes Assembly. That means Sunday morning and of course Wednesday night. Missing Church not only hurts your leadership, but it also hurts you. Most of what we do as sponsors takes place on Wednesday night. Faithful attendance for at least 6 months is necessary.
	2. Be an official member of The Lakes Assembly.
	3. Be faithful in your giving. Remember modeling faith
	4. Support the Pastoral staff of The Lakes Assembly(husbands and wives) in carrying out the vision God has given them. There will be times when you will disagree with something that is said or done, but the students should never know it. You must be loyal to this church staff. If you have a problem the proper response is to approach the Youth Pastor and share it with them. If you can’t follow His direction the appropriate response is to resign quietly. You should never bring harm or dissension to the church.
3. A COMMITMENT TO BE AN EXAMPLE
	1. Avoid questionable forms of behavior and entertainment. Remember as a leader you must always be one step ahead of those who are following you. When in doubt, do without.
	2. Live a model life before others and God … show the compassion of Christ, display the fruit of the Spirit, be tolerant and patient, allow the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in your life and hold a good reputation and testimony in our community.
	3. Show a good attitude in all that you do. Every event and service you attend should be the best. Never complain in front of our students.
	4. Be willing to be stretched spiritually. Students need to see adults growing in God. We should never give them the impression that we have arrived. Leaders must be transparent with their feeling so that teens will feel free to express theirs. Students can spot a phony a mile away so simply be yourself.
	5. Have a good marriage. If you are married. We want our students to see good examples.
4. A COMMITMENT TO OUR STUDENTS
	1. Make a one year commitment to being a sponsor. This keeps us from having to chase down replacements throughout the year. Each year in January sponsors are given the opportunity to resign or jump in again.
	2. To disciple students and help them grow spiritually.
	3. To “hang” out with our young people. Whether at services, activities, football games or school lunches, students need your influence in their lives.
	4. To assist with at least one One SM activity each month. Attendance at all events is not required; however, these are usually times when relationships can be built. Leaders should make themselves available to the Youth Pastor to help with the preparation and cleanup of events. I am not the type to call and beg for help. I rely on you to take the initiative in volunteering your services.

ROPES

 TO GET TO KNOW A STUDENT

 They are more afraid of you than you are of them. Here are some simple tips to ease the tension.

1. Ask their name and remember it
	1. They like their name whether they’ll admit it or not.
2. Listen
	1. Never lecture them
	2. They don’t care about your “war stories”
	3. Admit you don’t have all the answers (but Jesus does)
	4. Most students just want someone to listen to them
3. Be positive
	1. You are not here to share your problems or complaints
	2. Always look for things to brag on them about
	3. Catch them doing right
4. Join their “world”
	1. Face it, things are different then when you were growing up
	2. Meet them in situations outside of church

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT MINISTRY

1. Loneliness is their heart condition

Most students today are raised in homes with working parents so these students come home to empty houses and in many cases are raising themselves.

They struggle with conversation because they are not use to talking due to today’s media (ie. Facebook, texting and gaming). Because of this, their relationships tend to be superficial because they haven’t had practice. They talk about trivial surface subjects that are pretty meaningless and do not create real closeness.

Today’s students tend to be explosive instead of expressing their feelings. They are not good at getting deep into how they feel.

Since they are not good at most relationships, this makes the especially vulnerable to sexual relationships, because sexual relationships are based on the physical rather than the emotionally.

All this leaves this generation asking the question, “What must I do to be loved?” They will run to anyone who loves them unconditionally, with no strings attached.

1. Relationships matter to them most

While they are not good at creating relationships, it’s what they all crave. They would rather have something that is false with a semblance of a relationship, than the truth without one. Cults can take advantage of this by giving them a “family” regardless of what they are teaching.

1. Music is their language

Kurt Cobain, the late singer for Nirvana said, “Grunge music is what happens when the kids of divorce are left at home with guitars.” The music of today’s students is filled with anger and rage, anything that smacks of tradition. Many times this is turned toward the church.

 4. Self-Worth is their struggle

Since many of their parents appear unavailable to them, they feel that their lives are of little value. These students are looking for someone who will affirm them, love them, listen to them, believe in them and tell them they are doing OK. The Greek word for honor in scripture is “time”. Whoever honors them by giving them their time will have their hearts.

5. Anesthetic is more important than cure

Most of today’s students are not as interested in getting an answer as they are in getting the pain to stop. That’s why drugs, alcohol, sexual relationships and suicide are so prevalent today. They want something to dull the pain. They view cures as something that takes too much time and work. Pain relievers solve nothing but, they are quick and easy which is what they are looking for. Too many of them are a generation looking for a shortcut.

6. They know no boundaries

This group of students is the first to grow up in a post-Christian America. As a result they believe in no absolute truths. The idea that there are some things that are right for all people at all times and in all places is absurd. To them truth is relative to your own personal situation. What may be good and right for one person, may not necessarily be good and right for the next. Because of this many of them have thrown off authority. Their most quoted scripture is not John 3:16 but instead, “Judge not.” In something is a judgmental bigot.

 7. They want authority

While they practice the belief that there are no moral absolutes, deep down inside they are crying out for someone to tell them, “No.” They want someone to care for them enough to tell them that something is wrong. They desire structure and discipline, but are not willing to make it happen themselves.

 8. Their now matters more than their future

They want to know, “What difference will it make now?” They are willing to sell their tomorrow to pay for their today. “If it feels good do it” is their catch phrase. They need to understand that the Jesus we offer changes not only their eternity, but each day as well.

 9. The world does not interest them

A principal said, “During the 60’s I had a problem with student unrest in the school, now I have a worse problem, student rest. I cannot get them interested in anything.” This generation may care about the environment, but politics and what happens overseas, carries very little weight with them. This is why teaching them about missions is so important

10. Commitment is too risky

These students are very non-committal. You will hear them say, “I’ll try, I’ll see, I might, I hope so” over and over again. Anything that requires commitment is scary and will most likely be avoided.

 11. Sex is expected … and confusing

They live in a world that makes sex something that is recreational and common place. They feel an incredible amount of pressure to be involved. Most of the boy band, girl band music they listen to, continually promotes the idea of teenage romance. Their TV shows also make it look as if all teens are involved in sex before marriage.

 12. These students are post-Christian

Because most of them have not been raised in church, they are spiritually and Biblically illiterate. They do not know how to dress or act in a church setting.

**Sponsor Teams**

**Games/ Preservice:** Oversees pre-service games on Wednesdays, and does the facilitation of ice breakers and welcome time.

**Registration:** These people oversee the greeting and welcome area, they sign people in and maintain the database for One Student Ministry

**Worship Team/Fine Arts:** Help lead students into the presence of God through vocals and instruments. This team requires a weekly practice and high level of commitment, includes overseeing all aspects of Fine Arts.

**Audio/Visual Team:** Behind the scene crew that runs sound, videos, lights, cameras, and overall stage production for Lift services.

 **Media :** Advertises ONE SM Youth and its events using videos, flyers, posters, banners, web sites, and apparel.

**Creative Team:** Does the main planning of events, Outreaches, Vision, est. The people will be

**D-Group:** Is the General Leadership team. Adult and Student. This group member could be part of any part of the leadership, and can be called on to do an assortment of tasks by the adult/senior leadership.

I want to Help with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite candy: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Drink: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Movie: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read this packet and have prayerfully thought it thru and am ready to make a commitment to Impact youth.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_