

Information For Prospective Volunteers

If you are considering becoming a volunteer for any of our youth programs, this information is for you! After reading this material, feel free to contact any of our staff to ask specific questions. At that point, we encourage you to visit any of our programs to get a feel for the kids and what we do. Once you determine what program is right for you, you will be required to submit an application and have a background check before you assume any responsibilities.

Volunteers are a vital part of our ministry and we have a niche for nearly everyone. However, we realize that this may not be the ministry God has for you and we're OK with that. So, whether or not this is the opportunity God has for you, thank you for checking us out. May God guide you on this journey!

We've enclosed:

1. A Volunteer Checklist.
2. Our Child Abuse Policy which includes steps on becoming a volunteer.
3. Job Descriptions.
4. An Application for becoming a volunteer.

Volunteer Job Description:

This position exists to provide young people with a consistent godly role model, to minister to students, and to give input to the program director.

All volunteers must have the following qualities:

1. Be a follower of Jesus Christ who is faithfully living a consistent godly lifestyle. Growth in your relationship with Jesus Christ must be evident.
2. Are faithfully involved in a local church.
3. Desire to minister to urban young people.
4. Be available to be regularly and consistently involved in this ministry.
5. Be teachable, that is possessing a willingness to learn and to put into practice what has been taught.

Ways You Can Help

1. **Be a presence.** Many of the kids attending our club program get very little discipline at home. Thus, they tend to run around YFC in a reckless fashion. During free times we need leaders who will constantly patrol the property. You can converse with kids, settle minor disputes, and protect our property from damage.
2. **Be a gatherer.** Whenever we announce a main event, game, or session, it can be quite a task to gather our entire group together at one place. Pick a section of our building and help to funnel kids to the appropriate meeting place.
3. **Be a silencer.** During times when the group is to be quiet, it takes many leaders to accomplish the task. Move in among a group of kids and seek to quiet and control that small area. During teaching times, please sit with the kids and spread out from other leaders.

4. **Be an encourager.** Throughout the evening look for opportunities to share God's love with a kid or two. Help them with their craft project, shoot baskets with them, play games, compliment them on a job or act well done.

5. **Be a discipliner.** Help us enforce these basic rules:

Agree To Participate

- Agree to have fun and learn.
- Agree to have appropriate behavior during the teaching time.
- Agree to follow directions.
- Agree to use the bathroom at the appropriate times.

Agree To Respect

- Agree to respect leaders and those around you.
- Agree to use appropriate words.
- Agree to respect YFC property.
- Agree to enter appropriate bathrooms.

Agree To Be Safe

- Agree to create a fun safe place to hang out.
- Agree to resolve conflict peacefully.
- Agree to keep YFC a drug free zone.

During your first few visits, please ask a veteran YFC volunteer to help you if you encounter a disciplinary matter. DO NOT, however, overlook misbehavior because you feel helpless to stop it. If nothing else, either bring the child to another leader or point the young person out to a leader and let them deal with the situation. Our program will become nothing but chaos if we let the kids dictate their own behavior!

6. **Be a teacher.** There are opportunities to teach sessions in large or small group settings. Please inform a staff member if you have interest in this area.

7. **Be a facilitator.** Bring a favorite game or activity along with you and then seek to involve a group of kids.

8. **Be a suggestion giver.** Please feel free to offer any opinions or suggestions you may have. We are constantly seeking to make our program more effective and your suggestions are valued.

Our ministry is truly a mission field. We are reaching kids who in most cases are not being told or shown God's love by anyone else. Many are neglected, some are abused, and many do not bend easily to our structure. We will warn you, don't expect to feel a warm glow or to go home with a deep sense of being loved and appreciated by the kids. Certainly there will be rewards and blessings along the way, but we urge you to be prepared for difficulties. You must know in your heart that this is the ministry that God has called you to. Thanks so much for your willingness to consider your involvement with us. Blessings!

The YFC Staff