

# N.C. 3 YOUTH MINISTRY HANDBOOK



**ONELIFE**  
**ONECHANCE**

# PURPOSE & VISION

---

## PURPOSE

In keeping with the vision and direction our elders have given the North Central Church of Christ, our purpose statement keeps us focused on three essential aspects of the Christian life. **LOVE GOD; LOVE ONE ANOTHER; SERVE OTHERS.**

## VISION

God has given us a vision for the youth ministry at the North Central Church of Christ. There are three things we feel our teens need upon their graduation from high school to be able to keep their commitment to Christ as they make the major adjustment from high school to college. When our teens leave their families, friends, home, church and youth group, we want them to:

- **Have a DEEPER relationship with God. (LOVE GOD)**

Christianity is about a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We encourage our teens to focus their time and energy on getting to know who God is and understanding how God sees them because of His great love for them. It is not about rules; it is about the relationship.

- **Be More SELFLESS. (LOVE ONE ANOTHER)**

Jesus' life was about others. He lived to serve others. He died to save others. He rose to set others free from the chains of death. Everything He did was for other people. We want our teens to understand this and as Jesus said, to find life by losing theirs for the sake of others.

- **Be COMMITTED to Ministry & Service. (SERVE OTHERS)**

We want our teens to be active members of the Lord's body. We want them to be trained to see the needs of those around them and to know how to respond and help. We want them to be servant leaders in the church because that is what Jesus was.

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & INVOLVEMENT

---

One thing we hear a lot is “How can we help?” or “Why haven’t you called us to help?” Sometimes it is difficult to remember everyone who would like to help and, of course, our goal is to involve every parent in this ministry. Therefore, we are providing you with a list of ways in which you can help. Each year we will participate in 2 Ministry Fairs where you will have opportunity to sign up for specific things with which to help. You will find a list of those opportunities below.

## Chaperone Events

We are always in need of chaperones for all events, including: Youth Hayride, New Year’s Eve Lock-In, Spring and Winter Retreats, Mission Efforts, YIA, and many, many more. Please help us in this by signing up for specific events during the Ministry Fairs or by contacting us at the church office.

## Drive Church Vehicles

We are always in need of drivers for several of our youth events. No CDL is required to drive the church bus, you just need to be over the age of 21 and have a valid Indiana driver’s license. In addition to the 15 persons on the bus, we often need extra vehicles for luggage and/or more teenagers. If you have a larger vehicle (i.e. van, SUV, etc.) that you would be willing to drive or let us borrow we would love to have you sign up for this aspect at the ministry fairs.

## Food Preparation for Youth Events

Many of our youth events require a great deal of food preparation. We need as much help as possible with this. We will provide signup lists with enough spaces for the number of cooks we will need for each event. For overnight events, accommodations will be provided for those preparing food. Please help us with this important task.

## Life Groups

Our Sunday evenings during the spring and fall are filled with wonderful small groups. As our groups grow, we find ourselves in need of individuals who will either provide a home for the meeting or be willing to supply the food and drinks for a meeting here at the building. If you are interested in this and would like to sign up for the coming year, please indicate so on the sign ups at one of the ministry fairs.

## Youth Team

The Youth Team consists of parents and adults who have a desire to help our teens and are interested in our program. This group meets once a quarter to discuss activities and share concerns.

## Teach Classes

Every quarter we need at least 8 teachers for the Sunday and Wednesday classes we offer. Therefore, WE NEED YOUR HELP. You will have opportunity to scan through the quarters and the offered classes at the ministry fair. Please sign up for a particular class and quarter and help us out with this.

---

## SPECIAL NOTE!!!

Parents are always welcome to be a part of any Youth Ministry event. As a matter of fact, these events CANNOT happen without your help. Please make sure to involve yourself in at least one of these areas of need. Your signature is your commitment to us that we can count on you for this and we will not have to go looking at the last minute for help (we understand special cases). Thank you so much for your desire to serve and always let us know how we can better serve you, your teen(s), and this ministry. We are always looking to grow.

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

---

Our goals for Christian education at North Central are to:

1. Train up teens in the ways of God
2. Help teens build a closer relationship with Christ
3. Help teens understand and know what they believe and why they believe it

We have adopted a curriculum that we believe helps us provide this sort of Christian education. We realize that there are times that we will have to steer away from the plans in order to accomplish a specific task. However, we will make every effort to stick to these plans so that our teens will have every opportunity to grow in their knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of God and His ways. For a copy of these curriculum plans, please contact us at the church office or request copies by email at:

- [bfuller@nc3family.org](mailto:bfuller@nc3family.org)

# MISSION EFFORTS

---

The NC3 student ministry is working to provide quality mission efforts that will not only be a blessing to those we minister to, but also to the teens and adults who participate on these mission teams.

The mission efforts are broken down into two categories: 1) a Local Mission Effort and 2) a Foreign Mission Effort.

- **The Local Mission Effort** will take place every summer for no longer than a one-week period. The cost will be no more than \$200 and all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teens are eligible for this mission effort. It will be led by our staff and a group of parents.
- **The Foreign Mission Effort** will take place every other summer for a period of at least 1 week. This trip will be out of the country, therefore, the cost will exceed \$1,000 and only 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teens are eligible for this mission effort. It will be led by Brian along with help from other parents and adults. There are additional requirements for eligibility in this mission effort.

## **Additional Requirements for the Foreign Mission Effort:**

1. All teens wishing to take part in this mission effort must have taken part in the previous Local Mission Effort.

\*Those who have participated in a previous “Out of State” mission effort have already met this eligibility requirement.

2. All teens wishing to take part in this mission effort must have participated in at least two of the three Service Projects throughout the school year prior to the Foreign Mission Effort.

\* Outside service and evangelistic efforts can take the place of this requirement upon approval by Brian.

3. All eligible candidates must sign up for the prospective mission effort and attend an informational meeting concerning the trip where they will receive an information sheet, application and study guide for the mission effort test.

# EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

---

We realize that expectations and guidelines can be quite ambiguous in many areas of life. Therefore, we believe that it is important to make it known to you as a teen or parent what you can expect from us and what we will expect from you.

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

### FRIENDS

We will provide a Christian peer group. We will make every effort to provide an environment where spiritual growth and fellowship can occur in the midst of Christian friendships.

### LEADERS

We will strive to provide a team of responsible adult leaders who desire to serve others with hearts and hands. These individuals will also model a devoted and passionate relationship with Christ.

### TRANSPORTATION

You can expect safe, efficient, and dependable transportation while traveling with the NC3 Youth Group. All trips will include “youth ministry approved” transportation and drivers....very rarely will we allow any teen to drive on their own if we are leaving as a group. Safety is paramount to us!

### RESPONSIBILITY

While on youth functions, we will take the responsibility of the teens in our care. We take that responsibility very seriously. **(see our “safety and staffing guidelines” section of the handbook)** *However, responsibility of teens during worship service, before and after classes, on the church parking lot, etc. lies in the hands of parents.* When teen actions are brought to our attention during these times, we will direct those comments to you as parents.

### COMMUNICATION

We will make every effort to communicate to you as a family in every way. This will include communicating things that come to our attention about what is going on in your teen(s) life. It will also include communicating with you ways in which you can grow as a family. Communication will also be provided to you concerning what is going on in the youth ministry program (i.e., Calendars/Newsletters, Year-at-a-Glance, Sunday Stuff announcements, Web site, Infopacks, and so forth).

## COOPERATION

We will involve you in any discipline situation that may arise involving your teen(s) (see “**Discipline Policy & Procedures**” sheet). We strongly believe that a cooperative approach to correction returns the God-given responsibility of discipline to you as parents.

---

## WHAT WE EXPECT FROM PARENTS

### PRAYER

We covet your prayers as ministers and for this ministry. We will only move forward as God’s people if we petition Him daily for strength, humility, growth, and the ability to look beyond ourselves. Pray for your teen(s), the youth group, and the North Central Youth Staff.

### SUPPORT

We ask you to help and support us in this ministry. When decisions are made that the teens may not like, please help us by supporting us (knowing that we are making these decisions to help the group as a whole). If there is something that we do that you do not agree with, please come to us personally and share it with us so that we can grow and learn together. Please do not go to someone else and share it with them. **You can be assured that we are supporting you and will also come to you with disagreements that may arise.** This is a Biblical principal that we must all work hard to follow (Matthew 5:22-24 & 18:15-17). We are making every effort with the teens to help them in the area of gossip and talking about others. We need your help in this as we model this principle to our teens.

### RESPONSIBILITY

As we always say, parents are the number one influence in a teen’s life. We ask that you remember that you bear the primary responsibility for spiritual growth in your teen(s). There is little we can do to replace the training and instruction of a Godly parent (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

### INVOLVEMENT

We NEED your help. Please make every effort to be involved in this ministry for your teen(s) and all the other families in this ministry. We are not perfect and we definitely do not have all the answers. But if we work together as a team, we feel confident that God will use us all as instruments in helping our teens grow in the Lord. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ATTEND OUR BI-ANNUAL YOUTH MINISTRY FAIRS AND QUARTERLY YOUTH TEAM MEETINGS.

## **FEEDBACK**

Please provide us with any feedback that could be beneficial to us and this ministry as a whole. Let us know of special needs and prayer requests for your teen(s) and your family.

## **PUNCTUALITY**

It is important when working with a group this size that we get going on time. We will always communicate a time of departure and arrival. This is to help both you as parents and us as ministers/leaders. If your teen(s) are late, they may find that we have already left. We do not wish to leave anyone behind, but we also have reasons for leaving at a designated time. We need your help in this. We also commit to you to be on time ourselves. We will be early to meet the teens and we will make every effort to arrive back at the designated time. If, for some unseen reason, we will not make it back at the designated time, we will communicate to you through phone calls using Brian's cell phone. That is our easiest way to communicate to you while on trips.

**ONE OTHER NOTE:** *After events we have adult leaders who are tired and ready to go home. Please make sure to be here promptly to pick up your teen.*

# **WHAT WE EXPECT FROM TEENS**

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

We expect each teen to take responsibility for his/her own actions.

## **RESPECT**

- 1) We expect each teen to cooperate and respect all adults and adult leaders.
- 2) We expect each teen to respect others by lifting them up rather than tearing them down.
- 3) We expect each teen to respect the property of others, the church building, and the areas and property we visit while away.

## **PARTICIPATION**

We expect each teen to participate in all activities with the entire group when deciding to be a part of a particular event, trip, or class. Exceptions for this are made in case of illness, injury, and other special circumstances.

# RULES & GUIDELINES

Rules and guidelines are not put into place just to hold people down and use authority over them, but to help maintain the group and shine as Christian examples out of love for God. The following are rules & guidelines to minimize conflicts among the group and maximize spiritual growth. Most of these are common sense Christian guidelines. **NOTE: visitors are expected to abide by these guidelines as well, so please inform your friends of this BEFORE they come to one of our activities.**

1) All teens are expected to ride the church vehicle when it is running (ha-ha) and when space is available. Those driving to the church will be able to leave their vehicles on the church property. Some exceptions will be made, but only by the permission of a Youth Ministry staff member.

2) No drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, fireworks, weapons, pornographic material or anything of the sort will be allowed on ANY event.

3) Prescription and non-prescription medicines should be discussed between a parent and appropriate adult leader attending the event. Instructions in writing are always preferred.

4) No disruptive behavior is allowed. That includes, but is not limited to fighting, cussing, vandalism, pranks, disrespect of authority, etc.

5) **“Medical Release/Commitment to Christ”** forms must be signed for your teen for each overnight event in order to attend. (The medical forms are good for one calendar year and do not need to be signed every trip.)

6) Dating couples should remember to set a Christian example to everyone. Physical contact should be kept to a minimum. Holding hands is the limit of PDA that is allowed of all dating couples in the youth group.

7) When audio players and video games are allowed, we ask that there be nothing in question played or listened to (USE COMMON SENSE AND CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES!).

8) Clothing should be modest. The following guidelines must be kept while on youth events or the teen(s) will be sent home:

1. Shorts must reach the bottom of your fingers when arms are down, fully extended and close to your side.
2. Shirts must go below the belt area by three inches or have a t-shirt that is tucked in underneath. We do not wish to see bellies.
3. Shirts must have a modest neckline.
4. Sleeveless shirts must be tight around the arm. We should not see bras. No “wife-beaters” gentlemen.
5. Skirts must be no higher than two inches above the knee.
6. No low-rise pants unless shirts are tucked in.
7. Pants must be worn at your waist and not at your knees (ha-ha).
8. No clothing promoting alcohol, drugs, or obscenities.

***We understand that each family determines what is modest for their teen(s). However, while on youth group events, these are the guidelines that must be followed or the teen(s) will be asked to change clothes or leave.***

---

# SAFETY AND STAFFING GUIDELINES

The leaders are free to schedule outdoor activities that are “normal” for teens and their parents. This includes snow skiing, swimming, hiking, camping, going on retreats, to amusement parks and similar activities. This excludes hang gliding, skydiving, rock climbing, cliff jumping, and any kind of hunting and any other activity deemed by the parents and youth staff to present an unacceptable risk.

## **OVERNIGHT EVENTS:**

1. Parent permission slip/medical release form and Commitment to Christ form required.
2. “Brian’s Infopack” to be available at least 2 weeks in advance, giving exact destination, times of departure and arrival, packing list, emergency phone numbers and a list of adult staff attending.
3. It is assumed that young people attending overnight events/retreats will not leave the event while it is going on. Exceptions must be specifically addressed with the youth ministry staff.

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

1. All vehicles taken (church owned or borrowed) will be driven by youth staff approved personnel. There are a few events during the year that will necessitate transportation that the church will not provide (i.e. Life Group). In these cases, it is up to the parents to determine if their child should drive “on their own” or not.
2. Vehicles will not be overloaded. All those riding will wear seat belts\* (when available).
3. Rowdy behavior (for example wrestling) is not permitted.
4. The driver of the vehicle has final authority to determine what is safe behavior.

## **WATER:**

1. Around water where no certified lifeguard is present, an adult will be designated to watch the water for swimmers in trouble or for unsafe behavior.
2. In lakes with no lifeguards: Kids must stay within 15 yards of shore unless accompanied by a floatation device (i.e. inner tube or raft). No one is allowed to swim across any lake.
3. No jumping off rocks or trees if higher than 15 ft., and only after an adult has checked the depth and safety of the water below. No diving allowed.
4. Water-skiing or boating: All will wear life jackets. Outboard will be driven by adults and include a spotter as well.

### **HIKING:**

1. No off-trail hiking without qualified adult guide.
2. No one hikes alone.
3. Mines and caves will not be entered (Unless part of a tour group or guided expedition).
4. Adult supervision appropriate to the conditions will be provided.
5. It is recognized that on some day hikes part of the group may choose to relax in the sun, while others want to walk around the lake or otherwise explore. Those wishing to do so must be with at least one person and will be briefed as to the time they need to be back.
6. Parents not wishing their son/daughter to be allowed to leave the main group in such fashion should inform their son/daughter accordingly as well as the youth staffers leading the trip.

### **MALE/FEMALE:**

Boys and girls are not allowed in each other's rooms or tents. (Exception: When a group meeting/gathering has been called/approved by one of the leaders and designates a certain room or tent as the meeting place).

### **STAFFING:**

1. On overnight trips or events 1:7 staff to student ratio.
2. On day trips 1:10 staff to student ratio.
3. For junior high age kids, an adult leader will be with the group at all times. Sr. High age kids will be allowed more responsibilities, but must stay with another youth group member (the buddy system.)
3. "Staff in Training" (college age) may be used, but are not to be the majority of the staff.

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:**

1. In rare cases where the group splits and goes to separate locations, all staff will have been oriented on emergency procedures including how to reach the person in charge of the event.
2. At the end of each school year, parents will be provided with a medical services authorization form. Those who wish, may sign, have the form notarized, and return it to the church office. These forms will accompany the youth staff on all outings where emergency medical assistance might be required and the parent cannot be notified.

# DISCIPLINE POLICY & PROCEDURES

---

Though the majority of our teens are raised to respect authority and rules and are a joy to be with, there are those occasions when (for a variety of reasons) it becomes necessary to enforce a degree of discipline on certain individuals who are not cooperating. During the years, we have found you, the parent, to be the key to appropriate behavior and respect. The following are the discipline policies and procedures that we will follow while on youth group events. **Also, please make sure to read the “Commitment to Christ” form; students and parents will need to sign one for each overnight trip.**

- While on North Central sponsored events, we ask that all participants understand that we represent Christ first, then our congregation and our family. We ask that teens conduct themselves in the best possible manner. If a teen is guilty of inappropriate behavior or if they have not adhered to a given rule or guideline, the only recourse is for us to send them home (at the parents' inconvenience and/or expense). In these circumstances, we will inform parents of the reasons for the discipline and why the actions were taken.
- While in classes, Life Groups, or other small group meeting, we expect teens to behave appropriately and with respect. In the case where a teen chooses not to follow this guideline, we will accompany them to their parents' class or ask a parent to attend with them.
- We encourage parents not to use the withholding of church activities as a means of punishment. We feel that this sends the wrong message to the teen. We do understand that it may be the only measure of discipline at the time and we will always respect your judgment in this area.
- In extreme cases, we will involve our shepherds in the process of discipline for guidance and prayers.

# SIGN UP PROCEDURES & EXPENSES

---

**Sign up and expense procedures are always something that families question. How do I sign up? When do I pay? These are the questions we would like to answer for you.**

## **SIGN UP PROCEDURES**

When putting together events, it is necessary to know how many people we will have attending (for food, lodging, transportation, etc.). Our sign ups are not a means to brag over how many of our teens show up. As a matter of fact, numbers in that way do not matter at all. Our commitment is to always work with the number of teens who come because that is who God has blessed us with. Therefore, there are a few guidelines that will help you in signing up:

### **PROCEDURES:**

1. We ask that teens (and parents) sign up by the deadline of two weeks ahead of the event (this will not be the case in Mission Efforts, Wilderness Trek, etc.). The sign up will be up at least one month ahead of the event (in most cases).
2. If a teen approaches us after the deadline, we will then inform them that they have missed the deadlines and either they will not be able to attend or (in some cases) will be allowed to attend at a higher (already disclosed) fee.
3. Once a signature has been placed on a list and has not been erased before the deadline, that signature becomes a commitment and money will be expected to cover their cost whether they actually attend or not.

## EXPENSE PROCEDURES

We always consider expenses when planning events. We realize funds are limited in families; therefore, we make every effort to make the cost of our youth events and trips as minimal as possible. Please also realize that the funds required from you will always be supplemented by the Youth Ministry Budget. All our events are “non-profit” events. We would like to also convey that **MONEY SHOULD NEVER BE A DETERRENT FOR A TEEN’S SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ATTENDANCE TO AN EVENT!!!** We are blessed with built-in funds and contributors to help in this. Having said this, there are some procedures that we must follow when it comes to expenses:

### **PROCEDURES:**

1. We ask that teens (and parents) pay the designated amount for a trip by the deadline of two weeks ahead of the event (this will not be the case in Mission Efforts, Wilderness Trek, etc.).
2. Beyond the deadline, fees are non-refundable (except in special case-by-case situation; this must be approved through the Youth Staff). This, unfortunately, includes illnesses. We cannot predict illnesses anymore than you can. Therefore, we must recoup funds that have already been paid in reservation and preparation for someone. Otherwise, it impacts our budget in a negative way (funds paid out for nothing).
4. The signup list is the only way for us to gauge who is participating. If your name is on the list after the deadline, you are expected to pay for the event.

We will make every effort to help teens and our families out in these matters and we are also understanding of many particular or unusual circumstances and we want to help you out in anyway. All we ask is that you contact us and work it out with us personally so that we can be involved in the decision process. Always let us know of anything we can do to enhance these procedures to help you out as a family.

---

## **NORTH CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

### **Youth Ministry**

2121 North Dunn St.  
Bloomington, IN 47408

**PARENTAL CONSENT FORM**

**Subject: Waiver of Liability/Authorization for Medical Treatment of Minor**

I (we) give my (our) permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the following:

**I (we) realize that this trip is being offered by the North Central Church of Christ and will not hold them responsible for accidents. I (we) give the sponsors on this trip the right to correct and discipline the above mentioned child for behavior we deem inappropriate and in order to promote a good atmosphere for all involved.**

I do hereby authorize adult workers with the North Central Church of Christ as agents for the undersigned to consent to any examination, x-ray, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis, or treatment and hospital care which is rendered under supervision of any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of a licensed hospital, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or at said hospital.

Further, as parent or guardian of the minor named above, I do hereby expressly consent that my son/daughter may receive emergency medical treatment from any physician, hospital, or other medical center without the necessity of first notifying me, and do further agree to hold harmless any physician, hospital, or other medical center for rendering of such services.

**I have read and accept the following statements:**

1. Travel with this group may include trips within and across the state lines of Indiana.
2. I will keep the adult leaders informed of any medical conditions that my child might have, including allergies and current medications.
3. That this form is valid and in effect from the date signed below until May 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. I also understand that this form will be used at various times during this period, and assumed as valid unless told differently by me or another of my child's guardians.

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

**(Please fill out the insurance information on the reverse side of this form)**

## INSURANCE INFORMATION

INSURANCE COMPANY  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POLICY NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

POLICY HOLDER (Full Name/Middle In.): \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY # OF POLICY HOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYMENT ADDRESS:

EMPLOYMENT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Any allergies or medical information that needs to be known:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Commitment to Christ

## *Behavioral Guidelines for Youth Activities*

Because I (we) understand that the purpose of this youth activity/trip is to serve God and others, I commit myself (my child) to the following:

I fully agree and commit while on this activity/trip:

1. Not to use or possess alcoholic beverage(s) of any kind, at any time.
2. Not to use or possess any illegal substance(s).
3. Not to use or possess tobacco in any form.

If suspicion of any of these occurs, I (we) agree for an adult supervisor to search my person, my room, my luggage, and/or my personal belongings.

In order to support the purpose of this trip and to uphold the group goals, I (we) understand that the following consequences will result if I violate the above commitment:

1. I will be asked to go home, at parents' expense.
2. Parents agree to bear expense for child to go home

This commitment is intended for the greater good of the group as well as the individual, and is intended to be exercised by all concerned in the spirit of Christ.

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH  
PARENT/GUARDIAN AND TEEN.**

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Teen: \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

# EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

---

*We felt it would be beneficial to you as a family to have a brief description of each of the events that you will find on the yearly calendar. This will help you as a family decide the events in which you would like to take part. If you have any more questions about these events, please contact Brian.*

## SCHOOL YEAR EVENTS

### **RENOVATE**

Each January, we will host the best youth rally in the state of Indiana (as voted on by the youth staff)!! RENOVATE is designed for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and will include top notch speakers, class teachers, entertainment, prizes, etc. The rally is run by our “staff” (our teens) and will be a great way to kick off the new year! The weeks and months leading up to RENOVATE will be filled with opportunities for parents to be involved, so come to the ministry fair to see where you can serve!

### **Spring Family Series**

Every spring quarter (March-May), we conduct our Spring Family Series (SFS). This time is designed to give our members some practical skills that build and strengthen families. Throughout the month of March, our parents and teens will meet together to work on growing in their relationships. In April, our parents will move on to a class discussing the latest teen trends. This series, “Understanding the American Teenager,” is designed to give adults a more in depth look into the teenage world. In May, the adults enjoy a general parenting class designed to sharpen their skills as providers for this generation. Our teens are not left out during these two months; they will be enjoying a Life Skills class that will cover topics ranging from “how to prepare for college” to “checkbooks and credit cards”

### **Family Days (Fall & Spring)**

These days and fellowships are planned to give families an opportunity to come together, have some fun, and grow closer to each other and the Lord through worship, devotionals, and family time. It also provides the family of God a chance to be together and share in ways that God intended us to.

## **Family Retreats**

Each fall, we provide a family retreat specific to certain needs. It is designed as a three-year rotation where the first year is dedicated to Fathers & Boys, the second year to Mothers & Girls, and the third year to Families together. A family that is a part of this Youth Ministry throughout a teen's Jr. High and Sr. High years will have the opportunity to take part in each of these retreats twice. We pray that these special weekends will enhance family life and relationships.

## **Life Groups**

In keeping with our desire to strengthen families, we have special small groups for 'families with teenagers.' Starting in September and concluding in May, these groups meet once each week (often on Sunday evenings) for a meal and devotional time.

## **New Year's Lock-In**

The night of New Year's Eve, we will have the teens 'lock-in' at the building for fun, reflection, and goal-setting for the New Year.

## **Spring Retreat**

In the spring, we will have a retreat for the entire youth group designed to be an inreach/bonding effort. (only youth group members are invited on this outing...no visitors please)

## **Open Activities**

There will be a number of activities that you will find on the calendar that we call Open Activities. Some of these activities include: Youth Hayride, Bonfires, Super Bowl Sunday, Christmas Progressive Dinner, Sr. High Banquet and more. Each of these is a great opportunity for our teens to invite their friends to come and be a part.

## **Outreach Sundays**

Each quarter, our teens will be encouraged to donate to OR participate in an outreach opportunity. These four weeks will be connected to a different service program (TORCH missions, Mi Esperanza, Community Kitchen and Bloomington Housing Authority).

## Rites of Passage

By and large, as a society, we no longer honor rites of passage as our children grow older. We feel that it is very important to honor these to help our teens and their families understand the seriousness physically, mentally, and spiritually of these transitions in life. Therefore, we provide celebrations to honor four particular rites of passage: 1) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Induction, 2) Becoming a teenager, 3) Getting a Driver's License, and 4) Senior Baccalaureate. We hope all families choose to participate in these wonderful events.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip

In May (before their induction in June), we take our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade class away for a trip designed to help them get to know us better and become more comfortable with the youth group as a whole.

## Service Projects

Each quarter, our group will have an opportunity to serve the Lord by serving those in need. These service projects will normally take place on a Saturday and will include things like raking leaves, repairing roofs, painting houses, Christmas Gift Delivery, and much more. We hope both our teens and their parents will be willing to give of their time to help those in need and demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.

---

# SUMMER EVENTS

## **Bloomington Work Camp (Local Mission Effort)**

We are working in conjunction with the city of Bloomington to sponsor a work camp for one week during the summer. Our group will work scraping and painting houses, landscaping, power washing, and pretty much anything else we can physically do to help our community.

## **Back to School Bash**

We will kick off the school year with our annual Back to School bash. It will be held at one of Bloomington's parks and we will spend the afternoon together eating and playing games.

## **Foreign Mission Effort**

**The Foreign Mission Effort** will take place every other summer for a period of at least one week. Because this will be an "out of the country" mission effort, the cost will exceed \$1,000 and only 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teens are eligible for this mission effort. It will be led by Brian along with help from other parents and adults. There are additional requirements for eligibility for this mission effort.

## **Girls' Getaway**

Several adult female volunteers will plan a getaway each summer especially for our girls. We encourage all of our youth group girls to plan to participate!

## **Guys' Getaway**

Several adult male volunteers plan a getaway each summer especially for our guys. This usually involves camping! We encourage all of our youth group guys to participate!

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Induction Banquet**

Our new 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be formally introduced to the NC3 Student Ministry on **the first Saturday in June**. Please come and show them your love and support.

## **Sunday Evening Activities**

Note the Sunday Night Activities scheduled throughout the summer. We will be doing a variety of activities including devotionals, Movie Nights, Laser Tag and, several others. We will need chaperones and help at these activities. If you are able to help out with one of these activities, please let one of us know. There will also be some impromptu activities that may take place on Sunday evenings.

## **Wilderness Trek**

Every other summer we will take a group of our teens to Colorado for a week long trek in the Rocky Mountains. They will spend time learning how to be alone with God and how to work together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **Church of Christ Day at Holiday World**

The NC3 Family is the sponsoring congregation for this annual Saturday in Santa Claus, IN. Discounted tickets allow for area churches to bring large groups to share in the rides and food at this family friendly theme park.

## **Destination Unknown**

Once a month, during the summer, we will load up the church bus and head to an undisclosed location for a devotional. Usually these locations are within the city limits of Bloomington and are intended to relate our everyday surroundings to God.

## **Senior Trip**

Near the end of the summer (usually August) we have a special trip designed for our senior class to help them grow closer together and prepare them for their leadership role in the youth group.

## **Youth In Action (Louisville)**

In August we will travel to Louisville, KY for this annual youth rally. This trip is open to all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and pretty much wraps up our summer activities for the year.