

Welcoming Environment for Youth

Develop a plan for implementing welcoming events that are casual w/ the intention of inviting friends.

Volunteers Needed:

- Student Leadership Team
- Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team*



Calendar Space Needed: 10-12 months

- At least two intentional bring-a-friend events each year
- Regular Student Leadership Team meetings, each focusing on the priority of building a friendship epidemic in the youth group
- At one adult volunteer youth leader meeting each year dedicated to the priority of establishing a friendship epidemic in the youth ministry
- Monthly update meeting between the youth ministry staff and the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team* (to troubleshoot and prepare for student leadership meetings)

Information Needed:

- A database of visitors updated weekly by the Coordinator of the *First Timer Ministry*
- A database of all members of the *Student Leadership Team*

Job Description for the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team*:

- Read Jeanne Mayo's Thriving Youth Groups.
- In coordination with the youth ministry staff, meet regularly with the *Student Leadership Team*.
- Check in monthly (by email, textphone, or?) with all members of the student leadership team, modeling for them the priority process of building friendships.
- Train the *Student Leadership Team* in processes for creating a welcoming environment (learning everyone's name, speaking personally to each person in the group, inviting new (or disconnected) people to sit with a welcoming group of students, etc.).
- In the regular *Student Leadership Team* meetings, pray with the *Student Leadership Team* for any new students who have visited since the last meeting.
- Ensure that all weekly youth ministry volunteers are prepared to give special attention and provide an intentional welcoming climate for all students, particularly visitors and those who appear uncomfortable.
- Ensure that in each weekly youth ministry program and every special event members of the *Student Leadership Team* are present and take responsibility for creating a welcoming environment.

Staff Responsibilities:

Youth Elder/Rep

- Recruit and train the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team*.
- In coordination with the youth ministry staff, schedule regular *Student Leadership Team* meetings.
- Maintain the database of all members of the *Student Leadership Team*.
- Ensure that the entire visitor database receives invitations to "bring a friend" events.
- Based on attendance records, create a monthly MIA list of students who have not participated in any way in the life of the church in the previous month.
- Know the names and faces of 75% of the parents of youth on the youth directory.

Youth Ministry Staff

- Read Jeanne Mayo's Thriving Youth Groups.
- Work with the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team* monthly to troubleshoot and prepare for regular *Student Leadership Team* meetings.
- Equip the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team* to support, encourage and train student leaders in creating a friendship environment for each program of the youth ministry.
- At least quarterly, contact all youth (email, card, voice mail) who have not participated in the youth ministry in the previous 3 months.
- Make personal contact at least once each year with all youth and/or parents of youth in the youth directory who have not participated at all in the life of the church in the previous year.
- In cooperation with the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team*, identify a ("top ten"?) list of youth who are inactive in the youth ministry but would be most likely to participate if invited (e.g., youth who attend worship but not youth programs, or youth who are only in the youth choir, etc.).
- Know the names and faces of all participating youth and 75% of non-participating youth on the youth directory.

Welcoming Environment Implementation Process:

- 1) Recruit the Coordinator of the *Student Leadership Team*.
- 2) Determine the process of selecting student leaders.
- 3) Set meeting dates for the *Student Leadership Team*.
- 4) Recruit members of the *Student Leadership Team*.
- 5) Develop clear job description for members of the *Student Leadership Team*.
- 6) Schedule an adult volunteer leader training in which volunteers will focus on the priority of developing a friendship culture in the youth ministry.
- 7) Determine at least 2 intentional bring-a-friend events for the youth ministry.

Timetable:

October	Coordinator of the <i>Student Leadership Team</i> recruited.
January	<i>Student Leadership Team</i> is recruited and the first meeting is scheduled. <u>Thriving Youth Groups</u> is read by Youth Ministry Staff and the Coordinator of the <i>Student Leadership Team</i> .
February	Weekly adult volunteers trained in creating a friendship culture in the youth group.
March	Bring-a-Friend events calendared.
March	<i>Student Leadership Team</i> has completed orientation meeting. Clear job description for members of the <i>Student Leadership Team</i> completed.
September	Welcoming Environment Processes in place and fully functioning The <i>Student Leadership Team</i> is prepared with specific responsibilities for creating a friendship culture at the fall Kick Off event.