

Sponsor Handbook & Job Description

First off, thank you SO much for volunteering to be a sponsor! We truly appreciate you giving up your time & money to spend with these teens.

But now that you have signed up, you probably have questions.

In this document, you will find the characteristics of a valued sponsor, the different roles you will play, and specific responsibilities for sponsors at particular events.

Characteristics

Hardworking

You are so important to our ministry! We need you! So please show up on time, give it your all, and be faithful with the responsibilities entrusted to you.

Kind

Ministry is all about people. To be effective in ministry, you'll need to reflect God's heart for people. So treat students, parents, other volunteers, and our ministry staff with gentleness, forgiveness, patience, kindness, & love.

Be like Jesus

The teens are watching you. Your words, choices, and relationship with God will be carefully observed and replicated by the students that you influence. While we don't expect you to be perfect by any means, we do expect you to be striving to 1) make wise decisions, 2) glorify God with your life and choices, and 3) to look more like Jesus every day.

Good Attitude

Sometimes it's the little things that disqualify us from effective ministry. All volunteers are expected to strive to look like Jesus by exhibiting humble, teachable spirits (particularly in the midst of conflict or correction) and must not voice critical opinions of any church, staff member, volunteer, parent, or student in front of a student in our ministry.

Roles

Crowd Control

Often times, we will need people to help getting teens to where they need to be. This doesn't have to be done like a drill sergeant, but rather as a guide.

Helper

There will be times when Bruce will ask you to do something. He may ask you to sit in with a small group, go get something, stay with the group while he does something else, etc. Be flexible and open to helping. Bruce won't ask you to do anything too difficult or anything you are not comfortable with.

Responsible Adult

This does not mean that you have to be a "wet blanket" when it comes to fun, but always use your best judgment when playing games, hanging out, or talking with the teens. Be mindful of when jokes/conversations could go too far or a teen's behavior is risky or unsafe.

Respected Voice

Every teen needs adults in their lives that can give them counsel and direction. You may have that opportunity while serving as a sponsor (Don't freak out!). Realize that your voice carries weight with a teen simply because you are older. That being said, you may lose that voice with them depending upon how you choose to use it with them.

Specific Events & Responsibilities

Area-Wides

Description: An event that involves youth groups/churches from the area. This involves a meal, a mixer or game, a time of worship & speaker.

Responsibilities: You provide adult support and supervision to/from the event and during activities. We encourage you to sit with the teens and participate in activities/games (if possible).

MS Retreat

Description: An area-wide retreat, this involves worship times, a speaker, games, free time around the camp.

Responsibilities: During this weekend, you provide adult support and supervision to/from the retreat, in the dorms, and during activities. We encourage you to sit with the teens, participate in activities/games, and be "present".

Fuse Retreat

Description: Designed solely for our youth group, this retreat involves worship times, a speaker, games, & free time around the camp.

Responsibilities: You provide adult support and supervision to/from the retreat, in the dorms, and during activities. You will also have opportunities to serve as a small group leader and will be assigned to a group for the weekend. We encourage you to sit with the teens, participate in activities/games, and lead by example. Also, because of the nature of this retreat, Bruce may need your help in moving/setting up equipment, setting up games/activities/prayer stations, & administering activities/games.

Winterfest and/or Soul Link (Retreat)

Description: Winterfest is a 3500+ person gathering in Arlington, TX. Soul Link is a 1200+ person gathering in Houston, TX. Both involve worship times, multiple speakers, dramas, entertainment, & some times free time.

Responsibilities: You provide adult support and supervision to/from the retreat, in the hotel rooms, and during worship/speaker sessions. We encourage you to sit with the teens, engage with the teens, and be "present" during the weekend.

For more information about other trips/events, contact Bruce.