



LEMC Youth Leader's Handbook

Leading and Discipling
STUDENTS

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OUR MISSION *And* GROUP VALUES

‘We are cultivating growing and passionate relationships with Jesus - Embodying the fullness of Christian Life, we inspire and empower the Next Generation to own their influence and build the Kingdom.’

Broken - Real over Perfect

We recognize that we are broken and provide safety for others to be broken. As a leader, this might look like being authentic and vulnerable sharing life stories and creating a space where they can also be open.

Caring & Generous - People before programs

We believe in each other, and believe that we can live a fulfilling life. As a leader, this might look like you spending intentional time with students outside of Wednesday nights, fostering deep conversations and striving to really get to know them.

Visionary - Eyes on Eternity

We believe that Christ is for everyone, and desire to see the Spirit working in all our areas of influence. As a leader, this should look like you leading and discipling the students, living out your faith and being all in.

QUALIFICATIONS

- You love God.
- You are currently living a life in pursuit of God.
- You care about the next generation.
- You are committed to consistently investing in and caring for your few over a period of time.
- A strong team mindset and willingness to work together with other Youth Leaders to accomplish goals
- You attend Church regularly.
- Become RISK approved by completing a volunteer application, reference checks, interview process, criminal record check, and Plan to Protect training.



ACCOUNTABILITY

LEMC Sr. Youth Leaders

- Stays accountable to the Sr.Youth Directors (Beth Metzger & Kara Greydanus)

LEMC Jr. Youth Leaders

- Stays accountable to the Jr.Youth Directors (Laura Koopmans & Neil Klassen)

LEMC Youth Leader Expectations

THE CORE FOUR:

- **ENGAGE:** BE INTENTIONALLY REACHING OUT TO TEENAGERS – GOING TO THEM BEFORE THEY COME TO YOU. KEEP A PRESENT FRAME OF MIND.
- **PLAY:** CARRY THE ATTITUDE OF INVITING, CELEBRATING, AND AFFIRMING STUDENTS.
- **GUIDE:** YOU’LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHEPHERDING THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF EACH MEMBER OF YOUR SMALL GROUP, HELPING THEM TAKE NEXT STEPS THAT DRAW THEM CLOSER TO CHRIST.
- **PRAY:** YOU’LL PRAY PERSONALLY AND COMMUNALLY FOR YOUR STUDENTS, AND WITH YOUR STUDENTS.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS:

- BE ON TIME
- COME PREPARED – REVIEW THE QUESTIONS AND THE MATERIALS THAT WILL BE USED IN YOUR SMALL GROUP EACH WEEK.
- PARTICIPATE IN OPPORTUNITIES/EVENTS TO CONNECT WITH LEADERS, TO LEARN AND DREAM TOGETHER.
 - **THIS INCLUDES SELECTING 1 DAY/TIME PER MONTH FOR A 15-60MIN CHECK-IN WITH PASTOR AARON**
- COMMUNICATE – “SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”

TRAINING & EQUIPPING



WINS – WE WANT TO CELEBRATE THE WAYS GOD IS MOVING IN OUR YOUTH. WE WANT TO SEE STUDENTS...

- Consistently show up to events and excited to be there
- Make connections and establish relationships within the group
- Feel safe to be vulnerable and honest with each other, sharing about things happening in their lives
- Ask questions about their faith/show a desire to dig deeper
- Use their Bibles at Youth and in their personal lives
- Encourage others to come to youth/invite their friends
- Express interest in leading and sharing within the group
- Have Jesus-centered conversations, encouraging others in their faith
- Show growth in Christian character, lifestyle and understanding of their faith
- Feel equipped to share about Jesus and are able to share their life and faith with others
- Decide to follow Jesus/get baptized

We are going to look for, pray for, and celebrate things like this together, as a youth ministry team!

Time COMMITMENT

First Season:

- If this is your first season helping with youth you will be asked to take a 3 month probationary period.
- This means you will have minimal responsibilities and will be expected to just begin building basic relationships with the students.
- The goal is to see if serving with youth is both a good fit for you and for the students.
- After 3 months you will have a follow-up meeting with Pastor Aaron and discuss the transition into full-time serving with youth.

Returning Leaders:

- You will be asked to sign on for a 1 year term of serving (from September until August)

Wednesday Schedule:

- Started at 7pm – please be there by 6:45pm
- As students arrive, begin looking for and connecting with members of your small group and acclimatize potential new ones. Ask how their week was, check in about tests or projects, and find out what has been happening in their life.
- When we move into large group time, transition WITH your group. Bring as much energy as you can, be present and alongside your small group. Play the games OR cheer on other groups.
- During the teaching and study part of the night, your goal is to help your group focus and to minimize distractions for others.
- At the end of large group time, you will be dismissed to small groups. You are trying to help students wrestle through the truth they just heard and to discover how it applies to their life.
- Students are dismissed at 8:30pm – Before this make sure you have prayed with your group.
- From 8:45–9pm there will be a debrief and prayer time in the boardroom. This is a chance to share wins and to join in prayer over any areas of concern.

YOUTH EVENTS



- **4 times a year** (roughly bi-monthly) we have a designated Small Group Connect Night – These happen on Wednesday Nights from 7–8:30 and are designed for you to build deeper relationships with your group members.
- **Once a month** we join LEMC at Serve Saturday. This is a great opportunity to model for our students what it looks like to love our community in practical ways, and how to engage in faith based conversations with others.
- **Twice a year** we attend a conference and host a retreat. The conference happens on a weekend in October and the retreat in April or May. These are one of the BEST ways to intentionally dive deeper with students into scripture, to engage in meaningful faith-based conversations, and to help students navigate experiences with God.
- **The expectation is that you would prioritize these events.**

You will receive a full-year calendar of all dates/times for youth events (September – August) . Please put these dates in your calendars now so that you are not surprised by them later!

Monthly Wednesday Night Rotation:

Topic Night

DBS Study Night

DBS Study Night

Experiencing God Night

Small Group Connect Night (Bi-Monthly)

LEMC Youth Leader Resources

1. LEADERSHIP GUIDANCE

We will support and encourage you by offering regular guidance, teaching, and prayer. Our Pastors and Youth Coordinators are always available to help you grow in your discipling!

2 TEXTING CHAIN

Join the LEMC Youth texting chain by scanning this QR code for updates on events and more! This will add the number as a contact.



3. CHURCH CENTRE

A great resource that helps us stay organized with our schedules! Log in online at www.listowelemc.churchcentre.com. You can also download the app for free – contact us if you need help.

4. WHATSAPP

Scan to join the LEMC Youth Whatsapp Community. Here you can join the Sr. or Jr. youth leaders chat, see announcements, prayer requests, join a chat for photos and videos, etc.



5. YOUTH GAMES INVENTORY

Scan the QR code to join an instagram group chat of youth game ideas.



6. NEW HERE PACKAGE FOR STUDENTS

There are New Here brochures available for LEMC Youth in the foyer at LEMC. Also, here is the link to the new here package for students. Scan the QR code for everything a new student needs to join LEMC Youth and get connected; the WhatsApp, social media, text chain and more.



7. YOUTH CALENDAR

Scan the QR code below to join the LEMC Youth calendar, here you can see the schedule for both regular youth nights and special events for the year.



GOOGLE



OUTLOOK



APPLE

LEMC Youth Leaders Handbook



Lemconline.org / @lemcyouth on social media / Listowelemc on Slack & Church Center

WWW.LINKTR.EE/LEMC
