

What Students Need From Caring Adults

Changing the student world happens one teenager at a time. Students do not connect to programs; they connect to people. The most effective way to influence students is through significant relationships with key people in their lives. Our goal in the Wildwood Student Ministry is to develop leaders who minister to students.

Students need adults who will:

- Love God and live for Him
- Be interested in their lives
- Take initiative to spend time with them
- Pray for them
- Be real
- Say encouraging words
- Believe in them
- Laugh
- Get on "their turf"
- Remember their names and care for them
- Share God's love through personal experience
- Be consistent in your attendance to our programs/events
- Be patient
- Enjoy life

How To Be Involved In Students' Lives

We will later explain the application process, but first it is important for you to understand what commitment we ask from our staff. For effective ministry with students, you need to:

1. **Understand the Purpose and Planned Values of our Ministry.** Take a look at the values and goals that make our student ministry effective in reaching and caring for students.
2. **Commit to a Program.** Consider the role for which God has shaped you in order to build relationships with the students.
3. **Grow as a Minister.** Develop your personal ministry, which will ultimately influence students.

Understand the purpose and planned values of our ministry

Purpose Statement:

The goal of the Wildwood Student ministry is to **expose** students to God's love, to **equip** them to **exalt** God, **enjoy** other believers, and **experience** the work of the ministry.

Planned Values:

Planned values are descriptive words that reflect our values, attitudes, styles, and beliefs that “influence” our purpose. We try to incorporate these key elements into our programs and our lives. It is all built on RELATIONSHIPS.

- R**elational approach
- E**ncouragement
- L**aughter and celebration
- A**cceptance
- T**ransparency
- I**nvolvement of students
- O**utreach oriented
- N**umerical growth
- S**piritual growth
- H**ome-like
- I**ntimacy
- P**rofessionalism
- S**trategic follow-up

Commit to our Programs

Sunday Morning LIVE!

This is a time to grow together by worshipping together and then diving into the Word of God with some solid words from some incredible teachers. This time is designed to encourage students in a caring and safe environment.

Gathering & Worship	9:15-10:00 am	&	11:00-11:30 am
MS & HS Breakouts	10:00-10:30 am	&	11:30-12:15 pm

MINISTRY ROLES: Adult team teachers, worship band, greeters

dig Groups & LIFE Groups

These same-gender discipleship groups go deep in God's Word, learning what it really means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. And they hold one another accountable in their daily walk.

Middle School dig Groups	Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
High School LIFE Groups	Various Times & Nights throughout the week

MINISTRY ROLES: Large group teacher, small group leader, dinner preparation/server

Large Group Gatherings

Our large group gatherings are designed to have a friendly, fun, challenging and exciting atmosphere. This program shatters the "church is boring" stereotype and helps students celebrate life. It is filled with laughter, antics, videos, games/rec, singing and a relevant message on issues that matter to today's students. It's action packed and a very comfortable environment where students from across the area can find a place to call home.

Middle School Wildlife
High School koinonia

Sundays, 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm (off campus)

MINISTRY ROLES: worship band, greeters, counselors, discussion leaders, activity coordinators

Jesus with Skin

This is the student's opportunity to literally be "Jesus with Skin" taking on a hands-on approach to ministry. Monthly large group ministry projects will take place at various venues specifically targeting local ministry to our congregation and community.

MINISTRY ROLES: team leaders, transportation

Ministry Teams

Our philosophy is to equip students to develop their God-given talents and gifts to be used for His glory and to build the Kingdom. If they can dream it and have a passion for it, we will make it happen. Ministry teams like CORE Team, Student Leadership Team, Tech Team, Worship band, etc. meet at various times throughout the week.

MINISTRY ROLES: team leaders & facilitators

Student Camps/Retreats

Students have the opportunity to get away and spend some intentional time with God and with fellow believers at various points throughout the year. These are usually 'spiritual landmarks' in their lives as many students make decisions for Christ at these events.

MINISTRY ROLES: counselors & chaperones, transportation

Annual Mission Trips

Mission trips either domestic or foreign gives the students an opportunity to participate in what God is doing across the world. Teaching a biblical worldview and training our students to have a heart for the nations is at our core. Students are encouraged to take ownership in the work of the mission and develop and ongoing relationship with its community.

MINISTRY ROLES: team leaders

There are many other opportunities to get involved in our ministry. The ones listed above are the best place to start. If you have a specific gift and desire, please talk with our Student Pastor about how you might express it in the context of our student ministry here at Wildwood.

What am I committing to?

- Consistent attendance at our programs. (Be prepared to arrive early and stay late – these extra minutes become key relational times with students)
- Relational ministry with students during the week
- Attendance at staff meetings, staff retreats and leadership training
- Growing as a minister

Our goal is to help all of our volunteers and student staff move from program-directed ministry (dependent on the program) to self-directed ministry (independent minister). A few keys to help you develop as a minister are:

- Time: Be patient; feeling comfortable and connecting with students takes time
- Participation: Going on special events and camps will help intensify and solidify your relationships with students.
- Initiative: The more you invest, the more you will get out of it. Your relationships will grow deeper as you invest your time.

What you can expect from our church:

- Structure and leadership
- Encouraging words
- Training and learning opportunities
- Feedback with support and direction
- Prayer and accountability
- Challenge to develop your ministry

STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Synopsis of the Beliefs of the Presbyterian Church in America

1. The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. There is one God, eternal and self-existing in three Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who are to be equally loved, honored, and adored.
3. All mankind participated in Adam's fall from his original sinless state and is thus lost in sin and totally helpless.
4. The Sovereign God, for no other reason than His own unfathomable love and mercy, has chosen lost sinners from every nation to be redeemed by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit and through the atoning death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ.
5. Those sinners whom the Spirit quickens come to believe in Christ as Savior by the Word of God, are born again, become sons of God, and will persevere to the end.
6. Justification is by faith and through it the undeserving sinner is clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
7. The goal of God's salvation in the life of the Christian is holiness, good works, and service for the glory of God.
8. At death the Christian's soul passes immediately into the presence of God and the unbeliever's soul is eternally separated from God unto condemnation.
9. Baptism is a sign of God's covenant and is properly administered to children of believers in their infancy as well as to those who come as adults to trust in Christ.
10. Jesus Christ will return to earth, visibly and bodily, at a time when He is not expected to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
11. The Gospel of God's salvation in Jesus Christ must be published to all the world as a witness before Jesus Christ returns.

STUDENT STAFF/LEADERSHIP COMMITMENTS

After observing the student ministry, praying, discussing this decision with my family and completing the interview process, I choose to commit to the following:

Committed to Jesus

- I acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ in my life and have a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Committed to Spiritual Growth

- I am committing to spiritual growth through involvement in a weekly Bible study, LIFE Group with persons my age/stage and strive to maintain accountable relationships.
- I am committing to spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.
 - Consistent prayer life
 - Accountability/Mentoring with another believer
 - Memorization of Scripture
 - Commitment to the church body
 - Giving/tithing
 - Personal Bible study/devotional life

Committed to Living an “Above Reproach” Lifestyle*

- I am committed to a lifestyle that is both Godly and above reproach. I commit to making wise choices. I realize that my lifestyle and decisions are a model for our students and it communicates without a doubt, my commitment to Christ.
- If at any time my lifestyle or decisions become compromised, I am committed to being honest, seeking forgiveness and receiving appropriate guidance on reconciliation.

Committed to the Student Ministry

- I will attend the monthly (1st Sunday of every month) leadership training and student staff strategic meeting. I will also attend the student staff retreat(s) or training times throughout the year.
- I will make a committed attempt to help find at least one other college or adult leader for our growing need for leadership in the Wildwood Student Ministry.
- I understand the five purposes of the church as well as the strategy of the Wildwood Student Ministry and commit to help fulfill the purposes and care for the students God brings in my ministry.
- Because I am making a significant commitment and my presence is important, I agree to be consistent, prepared and on time (on time means early) to the programming and activities of the Wildwood Student Ministry. I understand that the programs and events of this student ministry require my presence except for being sick or on approved time away.

Committed to Wildwood Church

- I am committing to offer my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.
- I am committing to encourage and support my church through my conversations and actions. I commit to bringing my disagreements, concerns or problems about the church or student ministry to the Student Pastor without talking or gossiping to the students, church members or other student staff and leadership.

ABOVE REPROACH LIFESTYLE PITFALLS

Because of who we are in Christ, the organization we represent, and the impressionable age we work with, each of us must be willing to pay the price of leadership in every area of our lives. The following areas are very important if you are to maintain a good reputation and live above reproach as a leader. We need your compliance in each of these areas for you to be in leadership.

Media & Entertainment

- Be discerning of what activities you participate in your personal life, but especially with our students – even on their 'turf'. They will justify what they watch/hear/do (movies, TV, music, etc) based on your presence with them.

Dating & Relationships

- If you are single, be discerning of who you date and how you live out your relationship before our students. They are watching how you live and act with your significant other especially in areas relating to conversation (in person & online), PDA (public displays of affection) and the status of the relationship.
- Single persons in a relationship should not be co-habiting, sleeping over or engaged in sexual activity, but striving to maintain purity in relationships.
- Leaders are expected never to date middle or high school aged students.

Drugs & Alcohol

- Do not use illegal drugs or abuse prescription drugs.
- Do not get drunk, and be discerning of your use of alcohol/tobacco in public areas if you are over 21/18. It is a good practice not to drink or use tobacco products in the presence of our students. Do not drink alcohol or use tobacco products at any student ministry sanctioned events.

Physical Contact

- Be discerning in initiating physical touch (back-rubs, hugs, etc.) with our students – especially the opposite sex. If a student initiates a hug, don't refuse; just master the art of the side hug!

Activities & Driving

- Male leaders are expected to spend time primarily with male students, female leaders with female students. Hanging out, discipleship and in-depth conversations are most effective when kept gender specific. Activities need to follow the two-adult rule.
- When driving students you must obey all laws and use safe driving habits. Students are not permitted to drive your personal vehicle – with or without you present. You must carry personal auto insurance.
- Never drive a student or group of students of the opposite sex.
- We encourage leaders to hang out with students or do a small group activities. Please make sure you have prior parental approval and let the student ministry office know of the activity so we can help with promotion and logistics.

BIBLICAL GUIDANCE POLICIES

1. You are not a licensed counselor and you should not make claims to be such. Please advise any student that you are simply giving them advice and counsel based on God's Word. If you feel the situation is beyond your realm of knowledge, then please refer them to the Student Pastor.
2. If the concern warrants immediate attention – seek the services of law enforcement or a professional counseling center. The Big Bend Suicide line is 211 and can be dialed from any phone.
3. Since Biblical guidance appointments are confidential, you should not share details with any person other than the Student Pastor for the purpose of gaining wisdom on how to best handle the situation or to make them aware of the situation that may need further attention.
4. In all situations, men build relationships with young men, women build relationships with young women. Inappropriate displays of affection should be avoided within the confines of Biblical guidance.
5. You must report to the Student Pastor any of the following situations within 24 hours:
 - Physical abuse reported to you.*
 - Sexual abuse of any minor reported to you.*
 - When a student tells you he/she is suicidal (take them seriously).*
 - When a student is in a life-threatening situation.*
 - When a student confesses pregnancy to you.*
 - If you become involved in a runaway situation.*
 - When a student confesses a felony to you.*
 - When you have reason to believe a student is going to commit a crime.*
6. In addition to the above situations, please try to keep the Student Pastor informed of persons you are or have given Biblical guidance to, so that he can be aware of the needs of the students and can best pray for them.