Developing Young Leaders

By Jodie Gage

You're The Leader

"It is most significant for you as a leader of teens to realize that the work you do has eternal results. Teen Pathfinder leaders are called to stand as pillars of support for what is right when the world is striving to tear our young people away from Jesus. The Pathfinder club is the tool in your hand that gives you an opportunity and permission to get close to youth." Tools for Teen Leaders pg.3

The most important part of your work as a leader is to be an example

Why is Teens and Pathfinders a Good Fit

- It is God Oriented
- Structure for Mentoring is already there

In Pathfinders God is there to lead you to the best methods to love your teens into His waiting arms.

The time you spend with your teen Pathfinders will help them develop and grow in many different ways.

Pathfinders Help Teens

- Develop Leadership Skills
- Safe Place to Make Mistakes
- Challenging Experiences
- Respect
- Mentoring Future Church Leaders
- Christianity A Lifetime of Fun

Teens

- Desire Freedom
- Value chosen Friends
- Searching for Significance
- Optimistic
- Highly Spiritual, but not necessarily Christian

Advantages For Teens

You can mentor them:

- Spiritual
- Mental
- Physical

Why Teens Quit

- Boring
- Not challenging
- Homework
- Nothing Special for Teens
- Too Many Rules No Flexibility
- Peer Pressure

Keep Them Active

- Plan
- Organize
- Set Up
- Teach
- Worships
- Music
- Fellowship

Put Them In Charge

- Responsibilities Clearly explained and written down so misunderstandings
- Designated responsible mentor for each Teen
- Be Patient and Encouraging
- Most Important Pray For and With

Components of an Effective Youth Development Program

- Decision making
- Interaction with peers
- Acquiring a sense of belonging
- Experimenting with their own identity
- Relationships
- Forming of Ideas
- Participating in Creative Arts
- Physical Activities
- Spiritual Searching

Identifying Emerging Leaders

An appropriate candidate for leadership development within a youth group is a young disciple of Jesus who is available, faithful, teachable, and responsive.

Critical Success Factors of Multiplying Leaders

- Clear Vision
- Ability to Actively Pursue ministry
- Passion
- Making Leadership Development a Top Priority
- Ability to Share Leadership with Emerging Leaders

Multiplying Leaders

You Need to be Prayer Dependent

Spiritual Gifts

- Teens
- Mentors

Leadership Positions

- Activity Coordinator
- Bulletin Coordinator
- Chaplin
- Church Board Representative
- Communication Coordinator
- Drill Master
- Facility Coordinator
- First Aide Coordinator
- Honor Coordinator
- Outreach Coordinator
- Scrapbook Coordinator
- Treasure
- Secretary
- Public Relation Coordinator
- Marketing Coordinator
- Food Service Coordinator
- Music Leader
- Newsletter Editor
- Safety Officer
- Web Master
- Camping Coordinator
- Uniform Coordinator

References

- Tools for Teen Leaders
- Grace Communion International
- Purpose Driven Youth Ministry
- Getting It Right
- This Way To Youth Ministry

