



Thanks for your interest!

Dear Potential WILDSIDE Leader,

I am so excited that you are checking out a possible leadership role in our junior high ministry! We have a HUGE need for adult leaders who want to make an impact for Christ in a student's life. We believe healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships—between adult leaders and students. Relationships are the key to students feeling loved and understanding God's love in practical ways.

The quality of our leadership team is very important. We are looking for men & women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. Included with this packet is an application for our ministry. Please fill it out with much prayer and consideration.

Once I have received your application material, I will call to set up an appointment with you. All information will be strictly confidential and shared only with appropriate pastoral staff members. I look forward to meeting you. If you need to reach me, please feel free to call me at 949-609-8655 or e-mail me at katiee@saddleback.net.

Katie Edwards
Director of Volunteer Leadership
Student Ministries

Inside this packet...

- ✓ WHAT STUDENTS NEED
- ✓ WHY WE EXIST AS A MINISTRY
- ✓ SIX WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
- ✓ TAKING THE NEXT STEP

WHAT STUDENTS NEED

Today's students do not connect to programs, they connect with people. The most effective way to impact students is through significant relationships with caring adults. One of the common roadblocks for adults getting started in youth ministry is a misconception about what it takes to be a youth worker.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ARE:

- >>You must be young
- >>You must have outstanding Bible training
- >>You must be a perfect example of a Christian
- >>You must be a captivating communicator
- >>You must feel secure
- >>You must be able to act like one of the students
- >>You must have plenty of free time
- >>You must play guitar
- >>You must know the 8 most popular videos on MTV
- >>You must be wild, crazy and dynamic
- >>You must be liked by all students
- >>You must own a 15-passenger van

Junior High ministry is not the easiest ministry in the church and it's normal and okay for you to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the more you're around students and see how God can use inadequate people (like us) to do great things.

Here's the truth about what students need...

STUDENTS NEED ADULTS WHO WILL

- >>Love God and live for Him
- >>Be interested in a student's life
- >>Take initiative to get to know students
- >>Pray for students
- >>Be real
- >>Say encouraging things
- >>Believe in students
- >>Laugh and have a good time
- >>Remember names
- >>Share God's love through personal experience
- >>**Be consistent with attendance**
- >>Be patient

WHY WE EXIST AS A MINISTRY

Every ministry is driven by something. There is always some guiding force that determines the direction and goals for the individual or the group. Unless the driving force behind a church is biblical, the health and growth of the church will never be what God intended. Strong churches are not built on programs, personalities, or gimmicks. They are built on the eternal purposes of God. That is the foundation of our youth ministry as well. Everything we do in our junior high ministry revolves around the five purposes of the church.

The Five Purposes

'Go and make disciples' / **Evangelism**

'Baptizing them' / **Fellowship**

'Teaching them to obey' / **Discipleship**

'Love your neighbor as yourself; / **Ministry**

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart' / **Worship**

EVANGELISM is sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who don't have a personal relationship with him. We call this REACH.

FELLOWSHIP is connecting believers to one another with meaningful relationships for strength and support. We call this CONNECT.

DISCIPLESHIP is the personal discovery of God's truth, the process by which one becomes more like his Son. We call this GROW.

MINISTRY is meeting the needs of others in love. We call this DISCOVER, because we know that it will take time for students to discover how God has gifted them for ministry.

WORSHIP is celebrating God's presence and honoring him with our lifestyle. We call this HONOR.

As a leader in Wildside, it is essential that you know and understand our purpose statement.

Our youth ministry exists to REACH non-believing students, to CONNECT them with other Christians, to help them GROW in their faith, and to challenge the growing to DISCOVER their ministry and HONOR God with their life.

MINISTRY VALUES

As a leadership team we try to incorporate our ministry values in everything we do.

REAL

We value an environment that is transparent and genuine.

RELEVANT

The most effective way to reach students is to present the gospel in a relevant way. Ex: leaders and environment that reflect and respect the junior high life stage.

RELATIONAL

We purposefully build relationships with students and facilitate them building relationships with one another.

RELAXED

Junior highers are under enormous stress. We strive to create a ministry that helps relieve the stresses of life, not add to them.



6 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. C-Group Leader

Our C-groups are the **BACKBONE** of our ministry – they made our big group smaller, allowing students to connect with other Christians in meaningful relationships. As a C-group leader, you will meet with approximately 10 students a week, and will have a co-leader. We provide you with curriculum (and the students!). This commitment requires about two and a half hours each week during the school year.

2. Weekend Leader

(6:30 Sat. & 9, 11:15, & 4:30 Sun.)

Our weekend services are the **FRONT DOOR** for our ministry. Every week, hundreds of students come to Saddleback looking for a friendly and warm place to find acceptance. At these services, we try to break the stereotype that Church has to be boring. Our Weekend volunteers play a huge role in making students feel welcome and normally commit to one service every week.

3. Special Events

Besides our weekend service, we plan many events to help students get involved! From conferences, summer camp, winter retreat, girls only and guys only trips, and much more, there are many opportunities to connect with students!

4. C-Group Coaches

If you have the gift of encouragement, try the role of **COACH**! C-Group coaches commit to helping one or two small group leaders by calling them, sending them notes, and simply helping them press on when it gets tough!

5. Help with Office Work

You may not have the time or patience to work with students, and that's okay! We'd love for you to help us with some behind the scenes work at the office.

6. Super Teens

Super Teens is an awesome group of special education students. They meet at 4:30 on Saturday nights and usually do a bible lesson and play games. This is a great and important ministry to get involved in and really make a difference!

TAKING THE NEXT STEP...

Are you ready to take the next step toward becoming a junior high ministry volunteer?

1. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek counsel of family and/or friends about serving in the Junior High Ministry.

2. Complete the Wildside Application

The application should be included with this booklet. If not, please contact Katie Edwards at katie@saddleback.net and we will send one to you. Please take your time and fill out all of the enclosed forms.

- ✓ Application packet
- ✓ Trak-1 Background check form (\$20 processing fee required)

3. Observe Programs (optional)

While you are still in the process of completing the application packet, you may want to observe one of our weekend services. This can be a great opportunity for you to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities. You'll have a chance to meet students, other leaders, and write out any questions and thoughts that you have. Observing can often be overwhelming or uncomfortable (students don't typically go out of their way to make you feel welcome. . .until you get to know them). This is a natural feeling EVERYONE HAS and we encourage you to continue observing.

4. Schedule an Interview

Every one of our leaders must be interviewed. During this time, you'll have the chance to get to know more about us, and we'll learn more about you. You'll have the opportunity to describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in the junior high ministry. You cannot be official as a volunteer until we have received all of your completed paperwork and you have had your personal interview.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact us!

Katie Edwards... katie@saddleback.net or 949-609-8655