

Youth Ministry: A Career Choice & Calling

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Youth Ministry...

- ...Is a calling to love and work with middle school and high school students
- ...Is not just a stepping stone to a higher calling
- ...Is a pastoral position
- ...Is not a director of youth activities
- ...Is a career that offers joy and fulfillment
- ...Is not for those looking for a bland, predictable, 8-5 job

Education

- College – Communication, Psychology, Counseling, Literature, Philosophy, Religious Studies
- Seminary – Theology, not Religious Education, Practical Ministry

Additional Preparation

- Shadow your Youth Pastor, Volunteer Youth Staff
- Internships – voluntary or paid, Conferences/Training seminars, Meet with other youth pastors

Responsibilities

- General:
 - Vision casting – “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”
 - Spiritual Discipline – “You can’t lead them where you’ve haven’t been.”
 - Leadership – “Follow me, this is how we’ll do this.”
- Annually:
 - Enlisting, training, nurturing volunteers
 - Planning your calendar
 - Preparing a budget
 - Evaluating and selecting curriculum
 - Staff planning – church wide
 - Setting 1-3-5 Year Ministry Goals
- Regularly:
 - Meeting with ministry teams
 - Detail planning for activities and events
 - Mission trip preparation
 - Camp & Retreat preparation
 - Publicity & Social Media posts
 - Student leadership involvement
 - Ongoing volunteer training and nurturing
 - Implementation of activities and events
 - Reading and personal development
- Weekly:
 - Spiritual disciplines
 - Sabbath & Sabbatical
 - Inbox maintenance
 - Meeting with church staff
 - Meeting with youth staff/volunteers
 - Planning weekly programs
 - Preparing for small groups
 - To do list: staying in the important/non-urgent zone
 - Study for talks
 - Weekly publications/social media/website updates
 - Communicating with parents
 - Counseling & Contact work