

THE ROLE OF A JUNIOR LEADER IN YOUTH MINISTRY
JUNIOR LEADER MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

WHAT IS JUNIOR LEADERSHIP?

Junior leadership is a ministry of leadership at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Junior Leaders partner with others in doing the ministry of awakening, supporting, encouraging, and challenging the faith and spiritual growth of our youth, their families and those who work with them.

Junior leadership is a “ministry” because it has to do with helping people become and remain established in their relationship with God, their God-given identity and their God-given vocation. As a ministry, junior leadership focuses on those people and relationships established through our Sunday evening youth program and seeks to reach out to others.

Junior leadership is a ministry of “leadership”. Junior Leaders provide the insight and information that helps guide the direction and shape of our youth ministry program. Junior leaders share in leading youth group on Sunday nights (helping to lead small groups, games, music, talks and prayers). Junior leaders continue this ministry of care and nurture during the week as they contact their friends and peers at home or at school.

Junior leadership is a ministry of “service” because Jesus expected leaders to serve. Jesus gave his disciples an image of leadership that sets the standard for Junior Leaders within our youth ministry.

“Jesus called them [the disciples] together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25-28

Not only does Jesus shatter an existing leadership style (being in charge), but he lays out a prescription of a leader that reflects serving others. Serving others is how we define this ministry.

This type of servant-leadership is not attractive to most people. It goes in direct opposition to the attitude of running to the car to ride in the front seat and being first in line to eat. But this is the type of servant standard we want reflected by our Junior Leaders.

COMMITMENTS OF A JUNIOR LEADER

Committed to a Relationship with God in Christ

- I am committing to seek God in every area of my life
- I am committing to desire to forever keep my eyes focused on Christ and Christ's righteousness
- I am committing to seek to know Christ, love Christ and serve Christ in all that I am and do.
- I am committing to spiritual growth through the habits of:
 - consistent time alone with God for prayer, study and reflection
 - accountability with another junior leader
 - regular worship attendance
 - regular attendance at Sunday School and Youth Group
 - personal Bible Study
- I am committing to serving God through Christ and on account of Christ through the youth ministry program, using my gifts and abilities as a servant-leader

Committed to Living a Christian Lifestyle

- I am committing to choices, attitudes, and a lifestyle that is godly, knowing that my leadership is a model for other students. With God's help, I will seek to be...
 - accepting of others
 - authentic and transparent
 - encouraging
 - faithful with the small things
 - genuinely friendly
 - growing spiritually
 - humble and helpful in serving others
 - honoring God by consistently choosing God's way over the world's way
 - someone who has a genuine love for life
 - someone with a positive attitude
 - proud to be a devoted follower of Christ who attends worship regularly

Committed to the Youth Ministry

➤ Our Programs

- I am committing to the youth ministry at Northminster Presbyterian Church and will seek to develop a sense of ownership in our ministry together
- I am committing to continually seek to understand the purposes of why we do what we do and to ask questions when I don't
- I am committing to look for opportunities to be helpful and serve others (especially in preparation of our various programs as well as before and after a program or an event)
- I am committing to attend all activities, events and leader meetings associated with our Sunday evening youth group program including

leader training events, lock-ins, and retreats (except when I have received permission to be excused)

- I am committing to model appropriate program behavior (especially during games, talks, and singing)
- I am committing to meet with other Junior Leaders to pray for one another and our schools as well as to be held accountable by another Junior Leader
- I am committing to attend Sunday worship

➤ **Our Community**

- I am committing to foster and maintain unity in our youth ministry program and membership
- I am committing to solve issues and problems that arise within our youth ministry with patience and understanding without complaining
- I am committing to help create a vibrant, warm, fun and teen friendly atmosphere where everyone feels welcomed, included and wanted

➤ **Our People**

- I am committing to speak highly of the youth ministry staff and other Junior Leaders and to show my support for them when speaking to adults from the congregation and other students
- I am committing to greet and welcome students (especially visitors) before and after all the programs I attend to make them feel welcomed and included
- I am committing to follow-up on weekend visitors and other students from my school, to invite them back and encourage them to be involved
- I am committing to look out for people who are alone or seem distant from the group to help bring them back into the fold
- I am committing to serve as an ambassador of NPC Youth at my school representing our church and our youth ministry
- I am committing to contact my peers and small group members to invite them to our youth programs and events and to keep them informed and connected to our youth ministry program

Junior Leadership is not for everyone

We're asking a lot from Junior Leaders and because of this, we realize leadership isn't for everyone. Many people won't want to rise to the high level of commitment we are expecting. Others might not have enough time to commit to attending the Junior Leader team meetings and Sunday evening youth group. If Junior Leadership isn't for you, don't worry about it. Not being involved in Junior Leadership isn't necessarily a measure of your spiritual maturity or your commitment to our youth program. We are committed to you and want to help you continue to grow regardless of your involvement in junior leadership.

Dear Parents (and future Junior Leaders)

We are especially concerned about the family life of our Junior Leaders. We don't want to create a ton of programs to keep students out every night of the week. Spiritual growth does not necessarily require sacrificing family time and commitments.

Although we're asking for a considerable commitment from our Junior Leaders, there are also benefits. Junior Leadership has high requirements, but it also has high rewards. Part of the high reward Junior Leaders receive is more intense and personal time with the Associate Pastor for Youth and Adult Leaders. We want to invest in the lives of our leaders.

As far as a **time commitment**, we're asking our leadership students to:

- 1) Attend one worship service each week (Sundays at 9:00am or 11:15am),
- 2) Attend the Junior leader team meeting each week (Sundays from 12:30pm to 2:00pm includes lunch),
- 3) Attend youth group on Sunday evenings (from 6:30pm to 8:30pm),
- 4) Attend and lead the Fall Retreat, the Winter Ski Retreat and other special events
- 5) To connect with their fellow students and adult leaders one night each week (either by email, instant messaging, or phone)
- 6) To care for the students from Northminster at their schools.

What parents can expect from our ministry staff and volunteers:

1. We will MODEL Christian leadership for your kids.
2. We will MENTOR them in their leadership development.
3. We will MONITOR their growth as Junior Leaders.
4. We will MOTIVATE them through encouragement and feedback.

Once your son or daughter has filled out the application and gone through the interview, we will contact you to make sure you understand and can support the commitments we are looking for.

How to become a Junior Leader

1. Prayerfully consider all the Junior Leader commitments.
2. Talk with your family and evaluate your ability to honor these commitments.
3. Type your answers to the questions on the Junior Leader Application Form.
4. Turn in your answers and schedule an interview with the Associate Pastor for Youth and an Elder from the Youth Committee.



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Junior Leader Application

“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Thank you for prayerfully considering the call to be a Junior Leader for the Youth Ministry here at Northminster Presbyterian Church. If you could provide us with the following information, it would be greatly appreciated. You are a blessing!

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

AOL/IM Screenname _____ School _____

Date of Birth _____ Year in School _____ Mobile Phone _____

Parent's Names _____

Parent's Mobile Phone #s _____

Names and Ages of Brothers or Sisters _____

Please respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Why do you want to be a Junior Leader and what do you feel you can add to the team?
2. What fears do you have about being a Junior Leader?
3. What specifically characterizes a person as walking with God?
4. What part of your walk with Christ do you struggle with the most, and how do you think that will affect your ministry with your peers?
5. Talk about someone who has significantly impacted your life for Christ and share briefly how they have impacted your faith.
6. To what kind of student can you best relate?
7. What kinds of things do you like to do for fun with friends?
8. Have you looked over the youth ministry and junior leader meeting calendar (attached) to see whether or not you are able to commit to being present at these meetings and/or events? Where might you have a scheduling conflict?

By signing my name below, I signify that I have read and understood the role of a Junior Leader as described in the Junior Leader Ministry Description. I understand that if selected for the Leadership Team, I will be held accountable for this covenant, and removed from the team if I cannot fulfill my obligations.

Signature of Future Junior Leader

Date

Parent Signature

Date