

Dear Potential Student Ministry Leader,

**We're so excited that you are interested in becoming part of our student ministry team!**

At North-Mar Church, we believe everyone has something to offer our church. Because God has entrusted us with over 175 junior high and high school students, we are constantly looking for men and women of God who are willing to invest their time and gifts in serving this wonderful age group.

We believe that a *healthy student ministry is built on healthy relationships*--relationships between the adult leaders themselves, and between the adult leaders and students. Relationships are the key to students feeling loved and valued, and they provide a way for them to understand God's love in practical ways. We have found that it is in the context of Godly relationships that the most spiritual growth takes place in a student's life. This is why...

*The quality of our adult leaders is very important.* We are looking for men and women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire/feel called to care for students. Please take time to read the following material, and then fill out the application with prayer and consideration. This is a vital process, because we place great value on this ministry, and we also place great value on the spiritual health of the adults involved in the Student Ministry.

As you know, North-Mar Church is a great church, and our Student Ministry is a terrific place to *invest your time to make eternal investments in students' lives!* We're looking forward to meeting you, and spending time talking with you about your hopes and desires for ministry. Thanks for taking the time to consider becoming involved in the Student Ministry here at North-Mar. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Student Ministry office at 330-856-3496.

In His Strong Grip,

Nathan Sliter and Paul Armitage  
Student Ministry Pastors

## Our Values

Student Ministry is more than fun events, crazy games, and a short teaching time. Everything we do has a purpose behind it, and that purpose comes from what we call our "Core Values." Our Student Ministry values guide everything we do; every event, program, and trip flows out of them. We take these values seriously, because God takes them seriously. There are three overarching values we want our ministry and our students to be about:

### **Loving Jesus...**

We want to be about loving Jesus more and more. To love Jesus means embracing the very things that He loves. To love Jesus means loving Him more than anything and everything else in this world...family, friends, music, jobs, sports and self. Jesus Himself said that the greatest commandment is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." **Bottom Line:** We want students to discover what a passionate relationship with Jesus looks like, and to love and follow Him with their whole self.

### **Growing Together...**

The Student Ministry of NMC is all about students developing a tight-knit community that grows closer to Jesus. We challenge students to stay away from stagnant and lethargic living, encouraging them to pursue a growing relationship with Christ. To help make this a reality, we urge students to "journey" with other students and adults who share the same desire to follow Jesus. No one is meant to do life or do Christianity by themselves, because God designed us to grow together! **Bottom Line:** We want students to grow closer to Jesus through strong relationships with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **Serving Our World...**

Jesus was all about others. His life culminated in the most selfless act in human history...the Cross. We want students to live selfless lives that are about others. Students want to make a difference. They want to commit to something larger than themselves; they want a cause. We believe that there is no better cause than serving others in the name of Jesus; sharing with them the hope of salvation through Him. Our hope is that students would not only serve people overseas and in other contexts but in the very school and neighborhoods in which God has placed them. **Bottom Line:** We want students to embrace God's call on their lives to be His servants to the world around them.

## THE PERFECT YOUTH WORKER

Today's students do not connect with *programs*: they connect with *people*. We believe the most effective way to impact students is through significant relationships with caring adults. One of the common roadblocks keeping adults from getting started in student ministry is that they have misconceptions about what it takes to be a youth worker.

### **Misconceptions of "The Perfect Youth Worker"**

Some common misconceptions are...

- YOU MUST BE YOUNG & TRENDY
- YOU MUST HAVE EXTENSIVE BIBLE TRAINING
- YOU MUST BE A CAPTIVATING COMMUNICATOR
- YOU MUST BE A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A CHRISTIAN
- YOU MUST FEEL SECURE & CONFIDENT AROUND STUDENTS
- YOU MUST HAVE PLENTY OF FREE TIME
- YOU MUST BE WILD, CRAZY AND DYNAMIC
- YOU MUST BE LIKED BY ALL STUDENTS
- YOU MUST LOVE PIZZA

Just so you know, it's normal and perfectly OKAY for you to feel intimidated by a roomful of 70 teenagers. Your confidence will grow the more you're around students, and you will get to see how God can use normal, everyday people (like you and me) to accomplish some great things!

### **Truths About "The Perfect Youth Worker"**

The "Perfect Youth Worker" will not be perfect! However, they will strive to...

- Daily make God a #1 priority in their life
- Be interested in the lives of the students and other leaders
- Be teamwork-oriented in their approach to ministry
- Pray for the students and other leaders
- Be real: share the truth of their own life's joys and pains with students
- Be willing to have their house toilet-papered once a year
- Have a sense of humor, laugh often, and be flexible
- Remember students' names and greet them personally
- Be consistent in attending youth gatherings and events
- Eat pizza on a weekly basis ☺

As you can see, these requirements have nothing to do with age, hair style, music preferences, food tastes, or energy levels. They only require people who love God, love students, and are willing to be learners in this crazy life!

## WHERE DO I FIT IN?

That's a great question! Glad you asked.☺ There are tons of leadership roles and ways to get plugged in. Our goal is to help you get plugged in so you can use the gifts God has given you specifically. The four main facets of student ministry at North-Mar Church are large group, small group, monthly events, and seasonal events. Here are some ways to get plugged in...

### Large Group Gatherings (Jr. High or Sr. High)

The weekly large group gatherings meet on Sundays @ 9:00am (JH & SH), Wednesdays @ 6:20pm (JH) and Thursday @ 7:00pm (SH). Sunday meetings usually consist of teaching/discussion time, whereas weeknight meetings primarily consist of games, a small group component, worship and teaching.. We need people to...

- Create Atmosphere/Set-Up
- Greet & Mingle with Students
- Audio/Visual
- Games
- purchase food for "the Watering Hole" (Snack Bar) when needed
- oversee management of "the Watering Hole"
- Worship Team
- Skits & Drama Team
- Teach (Sunday School classes, on weeknights, or special events)

### Small Groups (Jr. High or Sr. High)

Our desire is for the small groups to be the place where spiritual transformation takes place in the lives of students. This happens by making our large group smaller, by dividing it into "small groups" of 6-10 students, so that students can connect with other students. Small groups are the "core" of our ministry. Small group leaders are responsible for guiding and shepherding their own group of students. Each small group will have two leaders sharing the ministry. For Junior High, these small groups take place on our existing Wednesday night program and for Senior High, they happen at different times in a variety of locations.

- Lead a small group
- Host a small group in your home (you do not need to be a small group leader to do this)

### Special Events/Seasonal Events (Once a Month / Times Vary)

Periodically we have events that bring students together in a very low risk and relaxed atmosphere. The purpose is to have fun and build friendships with each other. Whether it's a Cedar Point trip, a CRASH night (Creatively Relaxing at Somebody's House), a weekend retreat, White Water Rafting, or a Super Bowl Party, each of these events take a lot of work, planning, and organizing. We need people to...

- Chaperone events/Recruit adults
- Calling students
- Organize transportation
- Be a driver to events
- Plan logistical aspects of trips/events
- Arrange host homes for events
- Purchase food & supplies for events
- Set-up/tear down for events

**\*There are many other opportunities to get involved in our ministry. If you have a specific gift and desire, we would love to talk with you about your ideas!**

## WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

If reading through this packet has sparked your interest and you feel like God may be calling you to join in on what God is doing in the Student Ministries of North Mar Church, then here are the next steps for you to take.

### **1. Observe a Program**

While you are still in the process of praying and seeking God's direction, you are encouraged to observe one of our programs. This is important for you to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities placed on you. Just come, sit back and check things out. Make sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Nathan or Pastor Paul, and any of the other workers. Let us know you are there to observe us and are interested in the ministry and please feel free to ask questions! We love seeing new faces.

### **2. Complete the Application**

Take an hour and complete the application attached to the packet. Be specific and as open and honest as possible. This application is a huge tool in helping us get to know who you are. When completed, turn it into the Student Ministry Office located near the gym in the rear of the church.

### **3. Interview with a Youth Pastor**

Because we believe that having spiritually healthy students greatly depends on having spiritually healthy adults, it's important for us to sit down with you. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in the Student Ministry. It will also give you an opportunity to ask questions of us. We will take this time to share with you a little more about the conduct, responsibilities and commitments that we expect from our youth workers (ex. being a team player, attending youth worker meetings, etc...). To set up an interview, simply call the church office or e-mail either Paul or Nathan. Don't worry; the interview will be very informal (we are youth pastors☺).

### **4. Commit to a Role in the Student Ministry**

Once you've prayed about your involvement, completed your application and interviewed with a pastor, you then need to decide whether or not you are going to make a commitment. If you decide to give it a shot, we can work together on getting you plugged in to an area of the ministry that matches your giftedness. We ask all our workers to make a 4 month initial commitment. Following the 4 months, we will sit down with you and together evaluate how things are going. At that time, you can decide whether or not you desire to stay involved in the Student Ministry.

### **5. Join the Team!**

This date will vary depending on your involvement and what program you wish to get plugged into. Typically we plug new leaders in two times a year, in January and in September, but we don't want you to wait till then if you are ready to go!

# NORTH-MAR STUDENT MINISTRY APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Night time Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Email that you check regularly (otherwise leave blank): \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced

## PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL HISTORY (typed on a separate sheet)

1. Write a brief testimony about how and when you became a Christian.
2. Write briefly about significant events in your life that have impacted you spiritually.
3. Describe three major ways in which you have grown in your walk with God since becoming a Christian.
4. What accountability do you currently have in your spiritual journey?
5. What do you do when you have a conflict with someone? Would you consider yourself "good" at handling confrontation? How do you handle confrontation?
6. Are there any special issues or concerns happening in your life right now that would have an impact on your commitment and involvement in the Student Ministry? (E.g. relationships, addictive behavior, other commitments, etc.)

## LEGAL AND LIFESTYLE CONCERNS

In caring for students, we believe it is our responsibility to seek adult leaders that are able to provide healthy, safe, and nurturing relationships. Please answer the following questions accordingly.

1. Are you using illegal drugs? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you gone through treatment for alcohol or drug abuse? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please describe.
3. Have you ever been arrested and/or convicted of a crime? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you ever had sexual relations with a minor after becoming an adult? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you ever been accused or convicted of any form of child abuse? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever been a victim of any form of child abuse? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, would you like to speak to a counselor or pastor?
7. Are you willing to be fingerprinted for State Criminal Conviction Clearing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

1.) How long have you attended North-Mar Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

2.) List a couple of activities or ministry experiences you have been involved with here at North-Mar Church.

1.

2.

3.) What spiritual gift(s) do you feel you have and how would you like to use them in Student Ministry?

4.) Why do you want to do Student Ministry?

5.) What are some of your expectations of a Student Ministry adult leader?

I attest that the above questions have been answered honestly and all statements are truthful.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_