

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAM

The Youth Director should be a dedicated Christian person interested in youth and filled with enthusiasm. It needs to be clear as to whether the Ashram youth program is for youth who need to be saved or for Christian youth who need nurturing. If it is the former and a large number of youth in the former category are present, then the present format will be difficult to maintain and should be changed.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TWELVE IN PLANNING THE YOUTH PROGRAM ARE TO:

1. Set a policy on who is responsible for youth who are not accompanied by their parents. In such cases, the parents and youth need to be informed about the nature of the Ashram program and should sign a permit slip which will include a medical release form.
2. Be directly involved with the youth program and aware of what is happening and provide guidelines for the Youth Director and staff well in advance of the Ashram meeting.
3. Provide affirmative and constructive criticism where appropriate.
4. Inquire of the Evangelist and Bible Teacher as to their subject matter so that the youth leaders can plan accordingly.
5. Make sure the Evangelist's hour does not run too late for the youth to have a fellowship time afterwards.
6. Clarify the age group the Youth Director is responsible for.
7. Be looking for and training Youth Directors. It is important that the Youth Director have prior Ashram experience.
8. Have the Youth Director attend meetings of The Twelve before and during the Ashram.
9. Provide checklists to make sure all details are covered and that certain things do not "slip through the cracks." It is important the youth staff and The Twelve be in agreement as to who is responsible for:
 - supervising the cabin counselors;
 - waking the youth in the morning and getting them to bed at night;
 - deciding on how the youth will observe the Ashram disciplines;
 - setting limits on when they can or cannot leave camp.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR ARE TO:

10. Be responsible, with the help of The Twelve, for finding adequate numbers of counselors. The staff should be instructed in the Ashram disciplines and provide personal guidance for the youth.
11. Meet with the staff before the Ashram to build rapport, pray together, and plan.
12. Be in touch with the Registrar prior to the Ashram and on the first day of the Ashram to:
 - determine how many youth are coming, with names, ages, and church;
 - coordinate with registrar on room assignments;
 - work with registrar regarding financing for counselors as needed.
13. Incorporate the youth program into the regular disciplines of the Christian Ashram. The youth are a part of the Ashram family and not a separate program. The Ashram is by its nature a "disciplined" experience. This may vary with the ages and interests of the youth and the ability of the Evangelist and Bible Teacher to relate to the youth.
 - decide if it will be best for the youth to be mixed with adults in Bible study and prayer groups or kept in separate groups. If the youth are mixed with adults, the Youth Director should be involved in the placement. If the youth have their own groups, prayerful selection of leaders is important.
 - plan for the youth to attend the Evangelist's hours, the work hour, the morning watch, and the Ashram family meetings. The youth may also participate with the adults in a "talent night" that some Ashrams have.
 - plan separate activities for the youth which may include films, forums, recreational activities, and each evening, after the Evangelist's hour, a fellowship time that might include a campfire, singing, sharing testimonies, evening prayers, games, skits, etc.