



**Airdrie Regional**

**Youth Ministry Parent Handbook**

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Dear Parents and Care Givers of a Junior and/or a Senior High student:

At Centre Street Church, we love and value families and the students that are represented in them. As I started out in church ministry, my first job was as a youth pastor so I have a deep passion for raising up students to be all that God wants them to be. God has given us a vision for the kind of church He wants us to become. He is calling us to – “Purse God, Pursue Relationships, Pursue Mission, Pursue Generosity and Pursue Simplicity” these core values are at the foundation of all of our ministries including youth ministry.

My passion for students is that they develop a deep sense of community with one another while they are in the formative years here at Centre Street Church. Our youth ministry needs to be a place where students find out who God is in a safe and challenging environment and develop into fully devoted followers of Christ.

I value these things for the youth ministry at Centre Street:

**Super Groups** are the way to go for junior high and senior high. I believe the focus of Super Groups—mid-week—should be worship, building community, sharing and prayer, and the teaching of God’s Word. Small groups in a geographical area should make up a Super Group.

**Discipleship** – There needs to be a curriculum developed that covers all the important doctrines, youth issues etc—over a 2-3 year cycle to be repeated in senior high again.

**Community** – Jr. High and Sr. High students need to develop and cherish community with one another. Deep friendships with one another need to be the priority of the youth ministry team and will be a mark of success for our youth ministry. Community will be built in a variety of different ways from large group gatherings to super group and small group fellowship, service, worship and outreach times.

**Evangelism** – Jr. High and Sr. High students need to be active in their passion for the lost. Opportunities will be given for students to serve with their hands and giftedness but also to speak with their mouths the truth about who Jesus is. This will be a key focus of the super group and small group ministry.

**Leadership Development** – in the ministry to youth. A core value of mine is that adults and students be equipped to intentionally disciple students and to identify and develop the leadership gifts in those students.

**Multi-generational worship** – Long before the time comes when a student is out of youth ministry, a student should feel at home in the weekend services. I believe we need to move from regular youth services to youth participating in our weekend multi-generational worship services.

**Ministry engagement** – Just as I expect to see adults discovering their spiritual gifts and be engaged in ministry and service to their community, I desire to see our youth similarly engaged.

I am confident in our youth ministry staff to carry out the vision of Centre Street Church in the youth ministry area. They are a competent group of individuals who love Jesus and love students and desire a healthy partnership between you, your child and them. Thank you for your commitment to assist them in developing your students to be fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Blessings on you –

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Henry Schorr', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Henry Schorr  
Sr. Pastor



**Mission**

Centre Street Church Youth Ministries (CSCYM) exists to introduce people to Jesus and to help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

**Vision**

We desire all youth, parents and leaders to find connection, relationship and growth in their journey with Jesus Christ. We believe in actively partnering with God in the spiritual nurturing of youth so that they may continue to revive the church and change the world in which we live.

**Values**

*Relationship* – Providing opportunities and experiences for youth to develop relational connections with God, each other, their families and their world at large. (John 1:12, Heb. 10:25)

*Mission of God* – Partnering with the mission of Jesus in loving God and loving others through proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. (Matthew 22:37-40)

*Simplicity* – Having a laser focus for why we do what we do in youth ministries. (John 4:34)

*Generosity* – Providing opportunities to celebrate the goodness of God and partner with Him through the giving of our time, talents and treasure for the sake of His Kingdom. (Proverbs 11:25)

*Fun* – Creating memories and experiences for youth that demonstrate living life to the full in Christ is a joyful way of life. (John 10:10)

*Discipleship* – Mentoring, training and teaching youth, parents, families and leaders in the ways of Jesus. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:16)

**Philosophy**

In Youth ministry we are governed by the five guiding principles of Centre Street Church: Pursuing a Relationship with God, Pursuing Relationship with Others, Pursuing Mission, Pursuing Generosity and Pursuing Simplicity. We seek to fulfill our biblical command to Love God and Love Others in a real, authentic and intentional fashion by inspiring a greater number of youth, parents, families and volunteer leaders to embrace a fully devoted relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe as youth, parents, families and volunteer leaders journey together with Christ, evidence of their faith will be displayed through the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-24) and the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12). Therefore, success in youth ministry will be defined by the individual and corporate pursuit of CSC's five guiding principles.

We also believe in a team approach for ministry. We seek to partner with parents and volunteers in the spiritual transformation of students. We value empowering others to lead and serve in their area of giftedness and passion in this process of spiritual transformation. We believe in the need to be culturally relevant while maintaining the connection between the truth of scripture and the new identity one can find in a relationship with Christ (1 Corinthians 12).

### **Teaching Strategy for 2011-2012**

Our theme for Youth Ministries at the AIRDRIE REGIONAL in 2011-2012 is **RISE UP**. It is our desire to see youth **RISE UP** in their faith journey with Jesus Christ to be used by God to change the world in which we live by introducing people to Jesus and helping them become fully devoted followers of Jesus.



*The LORD is the God who lives forever,  
who created the world.*

*He does not become tired or need to rest.*

*No one can understand how great his wisdom is.*

*He gives strength to those who are tired  
and more power to those who are weak.*

*Even children become tired and need to rest,  
and young people trip and fall.*

*But the people who trust the LORD will become strong again.*

*They will rise up as an eagle in the sky;  
they will run and not need rest;  
they will walk and not become tired.*

**Isaiah 40:28-31 (NCV)**

Our teaching strategy will be implemented in a three-fold approach:

Super Groups

Sunday AM Service @ Airdrie Regional Gathering

We will also utilize different teaching tools to engage the auditory, visual and kinesthetic learner. Here are some of the topics that will be covered during our teaching strategy for 2011-2012:

**THEMES FOR 2011 - 2012**

Identity in Christ  
Friendship/Relationships  
Fruits of the Spirit  
Biblical Authority  
Conflict Management  
Divinity of Jesus

Some of the key scriptural passages that will inform our 2011-2012 Teaching Strategy include Matthew 28 :18-20, Matthew 22:34-40, John 15:1-17 and 1 Timothy 4:12.



### **Missional Strategy for 2011-2012**

By the time a student enters CSC Youth Ministries at the Airdrie Regional in grade 7 and graduates in grade 12, it is our desire to have given them the opportunity to be exposed to missions and outreach in a local, national and international capacity (Acts 1:8). To this end we will continue to pursue an MTO strategy with these values in mind. Here are the CSC Youth Ministries at the Airdrie Regional opportunities for 2011-2012.

#### **Local MTO:**

We desire for youth to be exposed to living on mission for Jesus Christ in their local communities. Throughout the year there will be opportunities for youth to engage in MTO experiences through super groups, family and larger group gatherings. These Local Airdrie MTO experiences will provide youth and their families with the opportunity to serve outside of their normal life rhythm where they can tangibly demonstrate God's love and cultivate opportunities for outreach through servant evangelism. Dates for these opportunities will be established once our YM/Family ministries are up and running.

#### **National MTO:**

During the formative years of Jr. High, we desire youth to have the opportunity to experience a MTO on the national stage. For the past 10 years we have participated in a youth-targeted mission trip facilitated by Youth Works in the city of Vancouver. We plan to continue offering this experience as part of the holistic approach to spiritual transformation of youth. Details for this experience: July 2012, \$800 pp.

#### **International MTO:**

In high school, we want to provide our Sr. High youth with the opportunity to experience the building of God's Kingdom on an international level. As such, we are committed to pursuing a large group international MTO designed to expose Sr. High youth to a different culture and context for ministry. Our desire is to see many Sr. High youth take ownership of their personal spiritual transformation journey with Jesus Christ and our pursuit of an international MTO experience lends itself to this end. Details as to trip location and time will be released in November 2011. Details for this experience: July 2012, \$3500 pp.

### **2011-2012 Airdrie CSCYM Information**

**Jr. High MTO:** There will be a wide variety of MTO opportunities this upcoming ministry year for Jr. high students plus the Grade 8 MTO (\$800 – July 2011, applications will be released in November 2011).

**Sr. High MTO:** There will be numerous opportunities for high school youth to be a part of a Mission To Others (MTO) this upcoming ministry year along with the Sr. High International MTO (\$3500 – more information to be released in November 2011).

**Jr. High / Sr. High Events / Retreats:** Events and retreats grant us the opportunity to create memories and experiences with and for youth. These exist for the purpose of building relationship, evangelism and outreach.

### **Airdrie Youth Regional events are offered once per month**

Our 2011-2012 retreats are Jr. & Sr. High combined 2 day, one night experiences held at River's Edge Bible Camp.

Here are the dates and estimated cost for large events in 2011-2012: Sept. 23 (\$10), Oct. 15 (\$2), Nov. 5-6 (\$75), Dec. 10 (\$10), Jan 20 (\$2), Feb. 10 (\$15), Mar. 24 (free), Apr. 27 (\$5), May 26-27 (\$75), and June 9 (free).

**Airdrie Regional Family Experiences: These are intentional designed events that allow “families” to connect and simply play together (4 x in the school year)**

**Jr. High / Sr. High Super Groups:** Super Groups are medium-sized pockets of community made up of 15-30 youth & leaders that meet in homes for the purpose of building relationships with God and each other. Super Groups kick-off during the week of Sept. 19—23, 2011 (Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays) and meet weekly! Youth are invited to connect with the Super Group fits into their schedule. Twice a month groups will connect for the purpose of bible study, once a month for a Super Group initiated event or activity, and once a month for a service oriented project. Bible study weeks will provide youth with the opportunity for discipleship through teaching from God's Word, events will give youth the opportunity to embrace evangelism and outreach for their non-believing peer group and service oriented evenings will provide youth with the opportunity to put their faith into action in a tangible way.

## **Ways to Get Involved**

The process of spiritual formation of youth is one that requires a strategic partnership between youth pastors, parents, youth leaders and the youth themselves. As a youth ministry, we believe in the sovereignty of God. As such, we are convinced that God stitches together communities and relationships for His purposes. We believe God has called us to be a youth ministry that reflects the mission and vision of Centre Street Church as a whole. In order to see this vision become a reality, we must link arms together with each other and with Christ in this process of spiritual formation of our youth. Here are some of the ways we can do this together:

**Prayer** – The greatest thing we can do to partner together in the process of spiritual formation of youth is to pray together. Each week we gather together as a youth staff team to pray for the families in our ministry. Send us updated prayer requests and also join us in praying for youth to become all that God has created them to be. Also, please make the effort to attend family gatherings & celebration times throughout the year. Visit the website for up-to-date weekly information regarding these and other activities and experiences. (Philippians 4:6)

**Communication** – As a youth ministry, we desire to be connected to each family in a relational capacity. We are available for conversations in person, on the phone, via email or other social media outlets. Our methodology may differ from time to time, but our ultimate goal remains the same: we long to see your youth become fully devoted, passionate followers of Jesus Christ. The more we can share with each other about successes and struggles in our Christian life, the more we will be able to support each other in the process of spiritual formation. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

2011-2012 Communication Strategy – We will communicate information about youth ministries in the following ways: 1. website 2. Email 3. Printed materials (brochure & road maps) 4. Social Media (Facebook & texting) 5. Personal Pastor to parent contact in person or over the phone as initiated by the parent requesting said contact.

**Volunteer** – Another practical way you can partner with us in the process of spiritual formation of youth is to volunteer in youth ministry in some capacity. Some of the areas which you can provide volunteer support include leading in or hosting a super group, administrative support, MTO participation, parent town hall meeting attendance. (1 Corinthians 12)

**Encourage** – Another practical way we can partner together is by providing encouragement to your children to get involved with all the activities and experiences for his or her age group. Also consider how you can be a source of true encouragement for volunteers, other parents, and youth team members through words and deeds. When we are full of care for each other, we may just find ourselves cared for. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

**Relationship** – Take advantage of opportunities to connect with other parents at youth family gatherings or celebrations. Be a part of the *Empower* weekends at CSC Central Campus, and

attend our annual parenting conference scheduled for November 2010 of this year. (John 13:34-35)

## **Staff Roles in Youth Ministries**

Youth Staff plays the role of catalyst to move forward the mission and vision of Centre Street Church. Part of this role involves a study of our current culture and where youth in general are at today. For staff it is important to pursue after parents and volunteer leaders in efforts to partner in the spiritual development of a youth. With so many youth involved and so many more youth that need to know Jesus it becomes apparent of the need for this partnership. Here are some ways staff can support and participate in youth ministries:

**Be a spiritual leader.** This involves pursuit of being a fully devoted follower of Christ and modeling to the youth, families and leaders spiritual disciplines. (1 Timothy 3)

**Pray**...to pray by name, for all the kids, families and leaders in youth ministries. (James 5:13-14)

**Develop, empower and shepherd** volunteer leaders in their role of loving and leading youth. This involves regular face to face conversations to navigate God's workings. (Matthew 28:18-20)

**Invest in youth** (church and un-churched) to become active members of the youth group, by emanating a positive outlook on youth ministry activities, as well as being an active member in their community. (Matthew 28:18-20)

**Connect committed youth** to great volunteer leaders, as well other kids their age, with the hopes that they will find a community of believers to share life with. (Hebrews 10:25)

**Establish relationships with parents of youth** in order to create a partnering relationship to move each youth forward spiritually. (John 13:34-35)

**Share personal faith stories** with the youth, communicating why personal faith is important. Talk about the joys as well as the struggles and doubts in our efforts to live out our Christian faith. Can youth see in your life the joy and freedom that your faith gives you? (1 Peter 3:15)

**Encourage each of the youth** to honestly examine their faith, to seek and listen for God's will in all areas of their life through regular prayer, reflection and time with Scripture. (John 15:1-17)

**Be available** to youth, families and leaders on request basis to talk and discuss specific situations and help create a plan to overcome any barrier or weakness. (Hebrews 10:24)

**Plan, Develop and Organize** weekly Sunday gatherings, chill nights, resources for weekly super groups, super group activities, super group service projects, weekly leader development, seasonal retreats, annual mission trips (3 per year), regular family events, regular community development events, and one-on-one appointments with youth, families and leaders.  
(Ephesians 4:1-16)

## **Parent Roles in Youth Ministries**

Parental involvement throughout a teen's years is vitally important to both your child and the success of youth ministry. Please be mindful that we serve approximately 600 youth and families and 150 leaders. We need the support and participation of all families who are registered in the youth ministry program. Here are some ways to support and to participate in youth ministries:

**Volunteer** in our youth ministry. There are many opportunities, times and tasks, such as: volunteering as a small group leader, be a host for a super group, work the concession at chill nights, assist in office work during the week, facilitate in the development and production of extra events for your child's super group and lots more! (1 Corinthians 12)

**Pray...** Pray for your child. Pray with your child. Pray for all the volunteer leaders and staff leaders who teach, lead and spend time sharing the Word of God with our youth. (Philippians 4:6)

**Share your own faith stories** with your child. Share why your faith is important to you. Talk about the joys as well as your struggles and doubts in your efforts to live out your Christian faith. Can they see in your life the joy and freedom that your faith gives you? (1 Peter 3:15)

**Encourage your child** to honestly examine their faith, to seek and listen for God's will in all areas of their life through regular prayer, reflection and time with Scripture. We will celebrate as youth come to faith, grow in faith and share their faith with others. (Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:1-17)

**Invest in your child** to become an active member of the youth group, as well as an active member in their community. (Deuteronomy 6; Matthew 28:18-20)

**Establish relationships with other parents** in your child's super group in order to look for opportunities to support each other in your roles as parents. (John 13:34-35)

**Believe** in your role as a parent and the role of youth ministries. Believe that what you are doing as a parent, as well as what the volunteer and staff leaders are doing, is vitally important and makes a difference. (Romans 5:1-5; Ephesians 6:1-4)

## **Volunteer Leader Roles in Youth Ministries**

When we consider it takes a village to raise a child, it is very important to have great volunteer leaders that come alongside our youth. It is also important for each leader to know who the youth they serve are so they can spend focused time in relationship. Here are some ways volunteer leaders can support and participate in youth ministries:

To be **growing** in their relationship with God. If we expect our youth to mature in faith, we need to as well. (John 15:1-17; Galatians 5:16-26)

**Pray...** Pray for and with the youth. Pray for the parents. Pray for the ministry. (Philippians 4:6)

**Share personal own faith stories**, communicating why personal faith is important. Talk about the joys as well as the struggles and doubts in our efforts to live out our Christian faith. Can youth see in your life the joy and freedom that your faith gives you? (1 Peter 3:15)

**Encourage each of the youth** to honestly examine their faith, to seek and listen for God's will in all areas of their life through regular prayer, reflection and time with Scripture. (1 Timothy 3:16; John 15:1-17)

**Invest in the youth** to become active members of the youth group, by emanating a positive outlook on youth ministry activities, as well as being an active member in their community. (Titus 2:1-15)

**Establish relationships with parents of the youth** in order to create a partnering relationship to move each youth forward spiritually. (John 13:34-35)

**Accept** every youth that attends and look for those youth that may be shy, hurting or just need attention. Every youth should have a leader that they can count on. ( 1 Corinthians 13)

**Believe** in youth ministries. Believe that what you are doing as a volunteer leader is vitally important and makes a difference. (Romans 5:1-5)

## **Contact Information**

### **Pastoral Staff**

Grover Bradford – Airdrie Regional Pastor of Youth & Community 403.520 1245.

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## Glossary

**Community Development** – Community Development is the term we use to reference the building of relationships and community with God, each other, our neighbors and the world at large.

**Host Home** – A host home is the term we use to reference the locations where our super groups are meeting. These homes have graciously partnered with youth ministries through their gift of hospitality.

**MTOs** – MTO is the term we use to reference *Ministry To Others*. These are trips and projects designed to get us involved in the world through service, justice and the pursuits of generosity, simplicity, mission and relationship.

**Relational Experiences** – Relational experiences are connection points for youth where the emphasis is on inviting your un-churched friends into the rhythm and community of CSC Youth Ministries. These experiences are offered in a large, medium and small group size dynamic.

**Small Groups or Life Groups** – Small groups or life groups is the term we use to reference the smaller groupings of youth that meet with a consistent leader or leaders at a super group on a weekly basis.

**Super Group Leader** – A super group leader is someone that is involved in facilitating a super group. He or she attends the group and may participate in leading discussion in a large or small group setting, facilitating an event or service project for the super group and praying for the group on an on-going basis.

**Super Group Pastor** – A super group pastor is the pastoral contact and support person for a super group. On our youth team we have point pastors for all Jr. High & Sr. High super groups. These pastors are contact points for parents, youth, families and leaders who would like to find out more about super groups or get involved in a super group.

**Super Groups** – Super Groups is the term we use to reference our mobile, relationally driven connecting points for youth. Super Groups are medium sized pockets of community made up of 3-4 small groups (15-40 people, gender mixed) that meet weekly in homes for the purpose of building relationships with God and others while focusing on serving individuals and communities in need.

**Town Hall Meetings** – Town hall meetings are times when we gather together as staff, volunteers and parents for the purposes of prayer, vision casting and answering questions about youth ministries.

**Youth Team** – The Youth Team is the term we use to identify the paid personnel in youth ministries.