TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Purpose 4
Joining the Team 6
Team Training 8
Choosing a Role 9
Middle School 10
High School 14
Volunteer Application 17
OUR PURPOSE

"The purpose of Green Student Ministry is to see every student known, becoming encouragers and kingdom workers who are changed by the truth of the Gospel."
01 BE KNOWN
Isaiah 43:1-2, John 10:3

Being known is foundational to what we do. Students are constantly asking, “Who am I?” and are seeking acceptance and affirmation from peers, parents, and others. Students not only want to know who they are, but they want others to know them as well. God models to us what love is throughout Scripture, manifested in Jesus seeking deep relationships with those around Him (knowing them!) and the invitation we all receive to know Christ personally. We believe the places we are truly known are where we feel connected, safe, and cared for.

02 GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT
Acts 2:42, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18

We are created to live in community with believers, and the best way for this to work is for us to continue to support and give hope to one another. Students need encouragement, and our desire is that they not only receive it from peers and adult leaders, but that they would grow to encourage others, constantly building up those around them through words of affirmation, acts of service, prayer, and use of their spiritual gifts. In so doing, they continue to make GSM a welcoming, safe, and restorative environment.

03 BE KINGDOM WORKERS
Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus clearly calls believers to reach everyone with the good news of salvation. Daily, we are given the opportunity to continue sharing our faith with friends and neighbors. We also strive to grow in grace as the Spirit of God works in our lives to conform us to Christ’s image. Spiritual disciplines teach us the joy of elevating God’s Kingdom, and not our own.
JOINING THE TEAM

The Green Student Ministry team recognizes and treats seriously the need to provide excellent safety & security for all youth, children, staff, and volunteers who are involved in our programs.

QUALIFICATIONS
Every Student Ministry volunteer must meet the following screening qualifications:

01 Attend this church for a minimum of 6 months.
02 Complete the Family Ministry volunteer application.
03 Participate in an orientation meeting.

CONSIDERATIONS
We ask that you consider your involvement with care by taking the following steps:

01 Observe at least one Sunday service.
02 Be diligent in praying about your commitment.
03 Attentively consult your schedule.
04 Discuss this commitment with your family.
NEXT STEPS
To set our team members up for success, the GSM on-boarding process usually includes the following steps:

01 A current GSM staff member or volunteer will invite you to consider joining the team.
02 You will meet with a current GSM staff member to discuss the possible opportunities.
03 You will be invited to observe one (or more) of our GSM serving environments.
04 If you desire to move forward, you will be asked to submit a volunteer application.
05 You will meet with a staff member again to review your application & your desired role.
06 You will undergo basic training for your position.
07 You may apprentice with an experienced leader or, in some circumstances, begin right away.

A Note on Child Abuse Offenders
Any adults who have been convicted of or have plead guilty to either physical or sexual abuse of a minor cannot volunteer service in any GSM-sponsored activity or program for children or youth.

A Note on Victims of Child Abuse
Adult survivors of childhood physical or sexual abuse need the love & support of their church family. Individuals who have such a history should discuss their desire to work in student ministries with one of the pastoral staff prior to engaging in any volunteer service.
The Green Student Ministry team is made up of Christian adults who have the desire to become more faithful followers of Jesus Christ and who effectively minister both to the students of GSM and to our community.

Our commitment to you is three-fold:

01 SPIRITUAL GROWTH
The pastors and paid staff members in the Student Ministry department will support you by offering encouragement, providing resources that may be helpful, equipping you for your role, and walking beside you as you grow in your relationship with God and as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

02 SKILL SETS
We will do our best to train you and to equip you to succeed in whatever role you feel led to do on the team. We want you to be effective and excited about what you do with students. Student ministry can be hard work! However, it is like anything else in one respect: the longer you stick with it, the better you get at it. Your first year may feel like it amounts to “getting your feet wet.”

03 HONORING YOUR TIME
We commit to never having unnecessary team meetings. We will avoid burying you with tasks, trips, and other things that you had no idea were part of the deal. When you pick a role, we want you to focus in that role and get really good at it! If you pick up some other responsibilities along the way, it will be of your own choosing.
A Note on Team Training
Every Student Ministry team member goes through core training upon joining the team. This manual is part of that core training. After training, your skill set development and discipleship is turned over to the pastor(s) who will be your team leader. They will make sure to inform you how training works, depending on the role you choose.

CHOOSING A ROLE

We want you to make an informed decision about where & how you can best serve. We want you in a role where you will thrive so that we can see our ministry and our entire church thriving as well!
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**WELCOME TEAM**

*Sunday mornings | Semi-weekly | 10am to 12pm*
Our Welcome Team leaders help to recruit & organize students to be part of our Welcome Team. These adults will contact students, create schedules, and manage our welcome table that contains information, sign-ups, and a place for parents to ask questions. We require 2-3 adults in this role at all times.

**WORSHIP TEAM**

*Sunday mornings | Weekly | 8:30am to 9am (sound check) & 10:30am to 11:40am (service) | + weekly band rehearsal*
Worship Team leaders must have the ability to lead worship, recruit students into the worship band, organize scheduling, plan worship sets, and teach students about leading worship. We like to have 2 adults serving on the Worship Team.

**TECH TEAM**

*Sunday mornings | Weekly | 8:30am to 9am (sound check) & 10:20am to 12pm (service)*
Tech Team leaders must have the ability to use audio-visual & lighting equipment. In this role, you will run slides and operate our technical equipment on Sunday mornings while also helping to teach and manage a team of student volunteers.
We have positions available on Sundays and during the week. Whichever role you choose, you will also be asked to attend a monthly leaders meeting, one Sunday evening per month.

**PROGRAM LEADER**

**Sunday mornings | Weekly | 10am to 12pm**
Program Leaders have the primary responsibility of being up front and on stage in the Middle School room. If you enjoy public speaking, working a crowd, presenting announcements, and/or running games, you would do well in this position.

**SMALL GROUP HOST HOME**

**Sunday nights | Weekly, Sept-Apr | 6:15pm to 8:15pm**
Host homes are necessary for our Sunday night Small Groups. You will provide a space for a small group to meet and help to create an environment that facilitates good discussion. There is no burden on you to lead the group; we simply ask that you provide a snack for 6-12 people on your scheduled nights.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER**

**Sunday nights OR Wednesday nights | Weekly | 6:15pm to 8:15pm | + weekly contacts with students (avg. 30 minutes)**
As a Small Group Leader, you will act as a pastor/shepherd to a group of 4 to 12 students of your same gender. You will lead & organize their small group meetings, which take place once per week. Your primary roles will include building relationships, facilitating discussion, and mentoring. Each group should have 2 adult leaders to maintain a 1:6 adult-to-student ratio.
TIME COMMITMENTS

In addition to the regularly-scheduled days and times for your selected position, we ask all of our Middle School ministry leaders and volunteers to commit to being present at several additional meetings and activities throughout the year.

SUNDAY SERVICES
We encourage volunteers to attend the Middle School service every Sunday at 10:40am. Some roles may already necessitate your presence here. If yours doesn’t, please make this service a priority each week.

LEADER MEETINGS
All Middle School volunteers meet together once per month. These meetings take place on the second Sunday of every month from 5-7pm. Volunteers take turns hosting these potluck-style meetings, with everyone bringing a dish to share.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Though not required, we strongly encourage all leaders & volunteers to consider attending the following special events each year:

MIX Summer Trip
A 5-day student conference in June

RUOK Fall Retreat
A weekend retreat in late October

Winter Wallapalooza
An overnight experience in January
A Note for Parents of Middle School Students
We do not allow parents to be leaders in their own child’s small group. If you are planning to become a Small Group Leader and you have children who are currently participating in GSM’s Middle School program, we will assign them to a small group other than yours. If you have questions about this policy, a GSM pastor or staff member would be happy to discuss it further with you. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.
**WELCOME TEAM**

*Sunday mornings | Semi-weekly | 10:15am to 12pm*
Our Welcome Team leaders help to recruit & organize students to be part of our Welcome Team. These adults will contact students, create schedules, and manage our welcome table that contains information, sign-ups, and a place for parents to ask questions. We require 2-3 adults in this role at all times.

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**WORSHIP TEAM**

*Sunday mornings | Weekly | 7:30am to 9am (sound check) & 10:30am to 11:40am (service) | + weekly band rehearsal*
Worship Team leaders must have the ability to lead worship, recruit students into the worship band, organize scheduling, plan worship sets, and teach students about leading worship. We like to have 2 adults serving on the Worship Team.

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**TECH TEAM**

*Sunday mornings | Weekly | 7:30am to 9am (sound check) & 10:30am to 11:40am (service) | + weekly band rehearsal*
Tech Team leaders must have the ability to use audio-visual & lighting equipment. In this role, you will run slides and operate our technical equipment on Sunday mornings while also helping to teach and manage a team of student volunteers.
We have positions available on Sundays and during the week. Whichever role you choose, you will also be asked to attend a monthly leaders meeting, one Sunday evening per month.

COMMUNITY GROUP HOST HOME

**Wednesday nights | Every other week, Sept-Nov & Jan-Apr | 6:30pm to 8pm**

Host homes are necessary for our Wednesday night Community Groups to run. You will provide a space for High School students to meet and help to create a fun, welcoming environment to build community among students. Hosts are asked to have some kind of game or entertainment available and to provide a snack on scheduled nights.

Meeting dates & times to be selected by leaders | Weekly or every other week | + regular weekly contacts with students

As a Small Group Leader, you will act as a pastor/shepherd to a group of 4 to 12 students of your same gender. You will lead & organize their small group meetings, which take place once per week. Your primary roles will include building relationships, facilitating discussion, and mentoring. Each group should have 2 adult leaders to maintain a 1:6 adult-to-student ratio.

Small Group Leaders will work together with their leading partner to establish a meeting schedule. Ideally, each group will meet once per week OR once every other week. You may select the weekday & meeting time that works best for you.
In addition to the regularly-scheduled days and times for your selected position, we ask all of our High School ministry leaders and volunteers to commit to being present at several *additional meetings and activities* throughout the year.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**
We encourage volunteers to attend the High School service every Sunday at 10:40am. Some roles may already necessitate your presence here. If yours doesn’t, please make this service a priority each week.

**LEADER MEETINGS**
All High School volunteers meet together once per month. These meetings take place on the second Sunday of every month from 12:30-2pm.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**
Though not required, we strongly encourage all leaders & volunteers to consider attending the following special events each year:

*Summer Trip*
A week-long conference, typically held in June

*Fall Retreat*
A weekend retreat in November

*The Odyssey*
An overnight experience in March
A Note for Parents of High School Students
We do not allow parents to be leaders in their own child’s small group. If you are planning to become a Small Group Leader and you have children who are currently participating in GSM’s High School program, we will assign them to a small group other than yours. If you have questions about this policy, a GSM pastor or staff member would be happy to discuss it further with you. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Ready to move forward?
If you would like to schedule your initial meeting with a GSM staff member, call 330.315.5922. To fill out a volunteer application, use this link: