

Central Plains Youth Ministry

News Flash

Pastors and church secretaries, please give this to the youth sponsors.

Dear Central Plains Youth Sponsors,

It is the end of August, kids are returning to school, your youth group is welcoming freshmen and planning its activities for the coming year. In your first planning meeting, take time to reflect on the past year. What went well and what did not go so well? How was God at work among your group in the past year and what does that suggest for your plans and goals for this year?

Also take time to reflect on the purpose and goals of the group for the coming year. What can happen at youth group that can't happen anywhere else? How can youth group activities connect youth more closely to congregational life? The more youth are involved in this discussion, the more invested they will feel.

On another note, the beginning of the year is a good time to collect cell phone numbers and find out if your youth can receive text messages. Texting is a great way to connect with youth. Program all their numbers into your cell phone and give them your cell phone number.

As you plan, here are some things to put on your youth group calendar!

Crooked Creek High School Fall Retreat Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14-15

Swan Lake Senior High Retreat Friday through Sunday, February 19-21

Weekend retreats are a great deal for sponsors! They are a fun and spiritually rich time for you and the youth that you do not have to plan. They are a fantastic opportunity to get to know your youth on a deeper level and create shared memories. And, they give you a rare chance to network with other youth sponsors.

Youth Escape 2010 Friday through Sunday, July 31-August 2

Plan your Escape now! Plan to bring your group to this weekend of worship, fellowship with other Central Plains youth and sponsors, fun and relaxation. More information will be coming this fall.

Summer Service Trip

If you plan to take your group on a service trip, it is time to schedule it. Popular programs like DOOR will begin to fill up throughout the fall. MDS's application deadline is in mid-January. Your options will be greatly diminished if you wait until next spring to arrange your trip. [Here is a list](#) of suggested programs and places for service trips. If the link doesn't work, go to www.centralplainsmc.org and click on "ideas for summer service projects" on the Youth Ministry page.

Are you also looking for Bible Study or Sunday School curriculum?

The Youth Ministry page of our web site (see above) also has a **sample session** of this fall's youth Sunday School curriculum plus **lists of elective curricula and video curricula**.

May God bless and guide you as you kick off an new year,

Shana

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Jesus is the center of our faith.

Community is the center of our lives.

Reconciliation is the center of our work.