

## Bring a FRIEND

Lately I've been surprised to be asked the same question over and over by parents and by youth.

"Can I bring a friend to Youth Group?"

Over the last few months every time I've heard this question I've been filled with a mixture of joy but also sadness. Joy because I'm so happy that you feel comfortable enough at Youth Group to invite and bring friends! But sadness because I'm not sure where in the last four years I've gone wrong and given you the idea that you couldn't bring friends.

Did you know there is only one rule about who comes to Youth Group? In order to attend Youth Group you must be...a Youth (aside from your lovely adult leaders, of course). That's it. That is literally the only requirement we have. If you have a friend who isn't Christian-bring them! We don't have altar calls where we will ask them to join the Church or flog them for their beliefs. Now, if they come on a Bible Study night, they will be expected to participate in a respectful way, of course, but beyond that we welcome all to Youth Group whenever they can come!



So, please take note of this answer once and for all: Yes! You may most certainly bring friends! In fact, I encourage it. I can recall a time or two in the past few years when I've had to make certain events closed to only members of the WPPC Youth Disciples, but for the most part, friends are always welcome to join us. Any friends! Silly friends, serious friends, active friends,

lazy friends. I don't care if you want to bring the best friend that you've known since Kindergarten or if you happened to meet someone at the mall three minutes before coming to Youth Group. If your friend is more than a friend, or you haven't seen each other for years, bring them! Sporty, scary, academic, tired, Christian, Atheist, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, undecided, thinking about moving to Pandora to become a member of the Navi tribe, my point is-bring them all! All are welcome in our Youth Room.

"TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR TOIL. FOR IF THEY FALL, ONE WILL LIFT UP HIS FELLOW. BUT WOE TO HIM WHO IS ALONE WHEN HE FALLS AND HAS NOT ANOTHER TO LIFE HIM UP!"  
 ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 (ESV)

## PLAN AHEAD

March 8th-RSVPs due for Escape Room  
 March 10th-Escape Room Event  
 March 17th-No Youth Group  
 April 7th-Mini Golf Event  
 April 20th-Easter Egg Hunt  
 April 21st-Easter (No Youth Group)  
 April 26th-Homeless Coalition Service  
 April 28th-No Youth Group

## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

March 21st-Ethan Thomas (18)  
 April 2nd-Will Lawrence  
 April 8th-Jennifer Brown (18)  
 April 21st-Nelson Roe  
 April 28-Phyllis Woods

## UPCOMING DATES

- ◆ **Sunday, March 10**  
On March 10th Youth will be going to an Escape Room! *A Narrow Escape* is a Christian based, family owned business located at 1502 North Semoran Blvd. We will meet at *A Narrow Escape* at 4:30PM so that we can be ready for our 5:00PM slot. Pick up will be at about 6:00PM. There will be no dinner provided on this night. The cost for this event is \$15 and spots are limited. Please call the church office or email Emily Wasser by March 8th to make sure that you are on this list!
- ◆ **Sunday, March 17**  
There will be no Youth Group on March 17th. Enjoy your Spring Break!
- ◆ **Sunday, April 7**  
On April 7th Youth and Families will be invited to our annual Mini-Golf event! That's right, I said Youth and Families! This is a wonderful time for adults, youth, and brothers and sisters to get together and have fellowship with one another as we play a friendly (or competitive) round of mini-golf. We will meet at *Congo River Golf & Exploration* on East Colonial Drive at 5:30PM. The cost is \$10 per person, with the church picking up the additional coverage. We should be through by about 7:00PM. Please RSVP for this event by Saturday, April 6!
- ◆ **Sunday, April 21**  
There will be no Youth Group on April 21st. Happy Easter!

## SUMMER INFO

For the past three summers, The *Youth Disciples* have enjoyed gathering together on select Wednesdays for Mission Mornings; a time when we can serve the community, have fun together, and check in the midst of all our summer fun. In the past we have served at places like *Give Kids the World*, *United Against Poverty*, *Second Harvest Food Bank*, and more, before returning to the church for lunch. This year, we will be changing our mission mornings to include lunch out at places like *Panera*, *Tijuana Flats*, and *Mellow Mushroom*. Though details are still emerging for these Wednesdays, the dates we have are firm. This year, in addition to VBS, Mission Mornings will take place on July 3rd, July 24th, and August 7th. Generally we meet on these dates from approximately 8:00AM to 2:00PM. Please make note of these dates in your calendar and be on the look out for an official summer RSVP reminder to go out in April.



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **Sunday, March 31**  
We will be having a very special service day at Youth Group and welcoming a very special guest on March 31st to help us. We will need lots of hands! Please make sure to attend on this night and lend a hand!
- ◆ **Saturday, April 20**  
On April 20th, Community Life will be hosting the annual *Easter Egg Hunt*. It's no surprise that in years past, the Youth have been essential to making sure this event runs smoothly. Youth have been responsible in the past for hiding eggs, escorting kids to their "gardens" to hunt, and most importantly of all, making sure that the hunt goes fairly for all children! Please mark this very important date on your calendar and make plans to be there from 9:00-11:00AM!
- ◆ **Friday, April 26**  
On April 26th the *Youth Disciples* will be serving at the Homeless Coalition. Serving at the Coalition has become a fun tradition within the Youth that we look forward to every year. On April 26th we will gather in the Youth Room at 4:00PM for a quick pizza dinner before we head over to the kitchen for last minute food preparation and to help load the bus before we go. There are only so many slots available for us to go. Please RSVP for this event by Wednesday, January 17. Pick up will be at 8:00PM in the church parking lot, but of course parents are welcome to join in on this event as well!
- ◆ **Sunday, April 28**  
There will be no Youth Group on April 28th.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING TOTALS

Thank you youth, parents, and leaders for helping us count cans of soup on *Souper Bowl of Caring*. We raised 941 cans of soup for the Christian Service Center!

## YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP



Congratulations and Thank You to Griffin Seel for serving as the Youth Representative on the Youth Nominating Committee! If you, or anyone you know, would like to serve as a Deacon or Elder (you must have completed confirmation class) please contact Griffin Seel!

Vacation Bible School is coming (just as it does every year)! And just as it always does, it comes with a need for volunteers! If you are available Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21, and would like to serve as a helper, please contact Emily Wasser immediately!

