



YOUTH

MOVEMENT

Local Chapter Youth Movement Leader Information Packet

Why are young people important?

Young people are important to us because they are important to God. To phrase it simply, God loves teenagers. He knows the awesome fun of being young and is acquainted with the excitement of being with friends, going places, and trying new things. There are lots of examples in the Bible of God working in the lives of children and young people. Joseph, Miriam, Gideon, David, Daniel, and Timothy are just a few powerful examples of God's interaction with young people.

God knows, however, that being a teenager in the United States today can be overwhelming. The combination of a life filled with fast-paced, image-based, short attention media all targeted directly at young people, and the added pressure from peers makes it hard for young people to make good choices. It's a constant bombardment of mixed messages and conflicting advice for young people and God understands their situation. He also knows that they have difficulties and realizes that a staggering amount of young people deal with the pain and confusion of broken homes and abuse. It breaks God's heart when young people yearn for love and relationships and their families aren't anywhere to be found. God knows that it's relatively easy for young people to get into alcohol, illegal drugs, crime and sexual misconduct. Other students slip into depression or suffer from emotional disorders. God doesn't have to read the statistics on juvenile crime, teenage pregnancy, and suicide to know that being young has its own set of difficulties.

He knows that young people are still being formed. He sees that young people are crying out for identity and a sense of belonging. He understands that an adolescent is still developing in many areas and that the teenage years are crucial for establishing a life long relationship with Christ. He knows that most of those who live their lives in service to Him begin this lifestyle in their youth. As a matter of fact, He knows all there is to know about young people, all of their qualities and quirks, all of their strengths and struggles, and He loves them. Yet so many teenagers don't know Him. In spite of all their symptoms and problems, what they need most is the love of Jesus. We live in a nation teeming with young people who have a desperate need for the love of Jesus. At times the need for young people to find and experience God may be overlooked, but the need is ever present and becoming more serious everyday.

Young people in the United States represent not only a powerful force in culture and commerce, but an incredible tool for the advancing of the Kingdom of God.

Why is CMA looking to minister to young people?

Because of the need.

The overwhelming need for young people to find Jesus pushes us to consider what part we should play in reaching young hearts for the Kingdom of God. Certainly there are thousands of churches and hundreds of para-church organizations all focusing on young people, but with over 1000 chapters in local areas all over the United States, CMA has a unique foundation from which to reach out to our nations youth population.





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Because we can make a difference.

The members and families of CMA are a powerful and anointed force that could be used to show many young people the love of Christ. Our dream is to begin a focused youth outreach in each chapter across the country. These local youth movements would provide teenagers with opportunities for fun, worship, discipleship, and service. Led by a CMA member from within the local chapter, the local youth movement would not only be an exciting youth program, it would be a valuable link to the heart, people, and ministry of CMA, bringing the generations together in attempts to work side by side in changing the world one heart at a time. Who would be better to reach out to teenagers, who at times can be rebellious and hard headed, than bikers who have had their lives turned upside down by the love of Jesus?

Why call it a movement?

It probably seems most obvious to name this work a youth ministry, but maybe there is another term that could awaken young people's minds to the possibilities that God may have for them. The dictionary defines a movement as a group of actions for a cause. The CMA youth movement should be defined, not by nifty programs that we can provide for young people but by the actions that these young people take in advancing our common cause, the Kingdom of God. There is tremendous potential in the young people of every generation and history has proven that when young people unite things happen.

There have been a number of famous youth movements in history. Long before the Revolutionary War there were movements led by adults and comprised of many young calling for an end to British oppression and tyranny. At the turn of the last century, Susan B. Anthony led a movement to give women certain freedoms and the right to vote. In the early 30's the children who sold newspapers for the big newspaper barons in New York City led a movement to increase their wages and improve their poor living conditions. Probably most famous was the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's when young African-Americans took the lead in a movement calling for the end of racial segregation and equal rights for minorities. Even today there is a huge youth movement in Britain calling for the wealthy nations of our world to cancel the debts of smaller 3rd world nations. Young people, when organized and focused, can change the course of history.

Defining what CMA does or provides for young people in this light, opens the imagination for great accomplishments for the Kingdom of God. If all we look at is what CMA can do for young people (minister to them) we may miss the awesome truth of what teenagers can do for the Kingdom of God. While it will be our focus to minister to them, wouldn't it be great if we could mobilize them? What would the scale of impact be if a network of grass-roots youth cells all focused on winning their peers to Christ?



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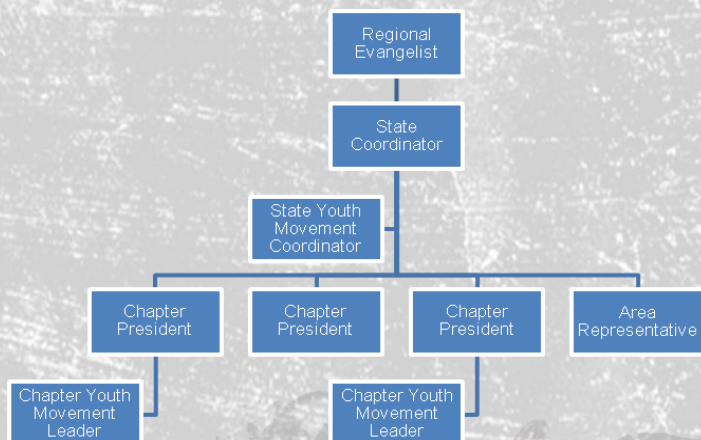
What is a local chapter Youth Movement?

To a teenager, having something to do that you enjoy and believe in strongly is important, and the Youth Movement will be just that. Their local Youth Movement will be an exciting local gathering of young people that share the same love for Jesus and desire to serve Him. The Youth Movement will provide them not only with a community of fellow Christian teens who are into the same types of activities, but will provide ways to use the gifts that they have been given by God in ministry. The meetings will be built around living for Christ and the activities that young people enjoy. There will be opportunities for outreach and service that will challenge them and push them forward in their walk with Jesus. They will enjoy all the fun that they have together as well as the love and acceptance that they find in their local movement. They will also enjoy the connection to the larger national network of other local Youth Movements and to the CMA. It will be something that they are proud to be involved with and excited to tell their friends about.

To the adult members of the chapter, the Youth Movement will not only be an exciting and inspiring aspect to their ministry, but will represent new ministry opportunities, new man-power, and new horizons.

What is the structure of the CMA Youth Movement?

In each chapter where a Youth Movement exists, there will be a chapter Youth Movement Leader or YML. This YML will be an active member in that local chapter and meet the requirements listed for chapter officers and the additional requirements specific for YML's. (These requirements are listed in the YML questionnaire). The YML needs to be an adult (over 18) and can be a husband/wife team. The YML's primary goal in that chapter is to love young people and find ways to connect them to Jesus. A regular meeting consisting of prayer, worship, and Bible Study, combined with activities that are exciting to young people will be organized by the YML. Meeting times, place, frequency and content would be customized to each chapter and would be left up to the YML. Outreach opportunities will be organized for young people to participate in. The YML will encourage their group's involvement in CMA Events and Run for the Son fundraising. But most of all they will become a spiritual mentoring presence in the lives of the teenagers in their group.



The chapter YML will work in close communication with their local chapter leadership and attempt to connect the young people in the movement with the adult members of CMA. The Youth Movement will function completely within the local chapter framework, yet will have its own regular meetings. The YML and the local chapter President should work together to plan events that both adults and young people can participate in together from time to time.





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Each state may also have a State Youth Movement Rep. This role is considered part of the State Leadership and is at the level of an Area Rep. The State YM Rep's job would be to coordinate and assist the local chapter Youth Movements, to organize his/her state Youth Movement events, and to oversee CMA Youth Movement development in the state.

How do I get started?

A great place to start is in prayer. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom as you consider embarking on this ministry adventure. Pray that you would clearly feel a burden for teenagers if this opportunity is right for you. Prayerfully consider how you would go about gathering young people and what your meetings and activities would look like.

If you feel confident that the Lord may be leading you into becoming a YML, the next step is to talk to your chapter leadership. Discuss your burden, ideas, and goals. Talk about how the Youth Movement would function with the local chapter and iron out any details.

After you have prayerfully considered this endeavor and communicated with your leadership, the next step is to fill out the attached questionnaire, and return it to your State Youth Movement Rep or State Coordinator. After your questionnaire has been approved by your chapter leadership, State leadership and National Evangelist you will begin your task as local chapter YML and your local Youth Movement will be recognized by CMA.

Why do I need to fill out the YML questionnaire?

This questionnaire will serve as a notice of your intention to become a Youth Movement Leader in your local chapter, and will allow your chapter leadership and your State leadership a brief look into your desire to minister to young people. It is also required in that it asks for you to consider and commit to the qualifications and job description before you begin ministering in this capacity.





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Why is the background check necessary?

How is the background check obtained?

Most of all, we want young people to be safe. Also, all aspects of the ministry of CMA must be of the highest integrity and above reproach. Adult CMA members, being responsible for the care of minors carries with it serious legal connotation; and it is in the best interest of CMA to have a criminal background check on file for each person who works in an official capacity with young people. While having this information on file is not a guarantee that questionable events will not take place, requiring a background check functions as a deterrent for applicants with less than noble intentions. It also speaks well of CMA if we are doing everything we can to ensure that young people that are being ministered to are safe. Existence of criminal records will not of itself prevent one from being involved with young people. If the need arises, problematic situations will be discussed with the Evangelists Team and with the State Coordinator. All background check information will be kept secure and private.

Background checks are available through state police organizations and through a variety of companies online. More information on CMA's Ministry to Minors policy is available in the *Ministry to Minors Policy Information Sheet* online at http://www.cmausa.org/cma_national/youth-movement.asp.

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Please contact the CMA Youth Evangelists, Jerod and Jennifer McPherson, at any time, and they will be happy to assist you. Their contact information is (870) 389-6196 ext.233 or email cmayouth@cmausa.org. Further information is available online at www.cmausa.org. Simply click on the CMA Youth Movement button on the home page and download the printable Youth Movement Information Sheets.



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LOCAL CHAPTER YOUTH MOVEMENT LEADER QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME(S): _____ BIRTHDATE(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ ALT. PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHAPTER NAME: _____ CHAPTER # _____

SHARE A BRIEF TESTIMONY OF YOUR SALVATION AND PRESENT WALK WITH CHRIST.

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WHY DO YOU FEEL MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE IS IMPORTANT?

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WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING CMA YOUTH MOVEMENT IN YOUR CHAPTER?

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CHAPTER YOUTH MOVEMENT LEADER QUALIFICATIONS & JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Qualifications for Chapter Officers:

- Godliness
- Respect among peers
- A proven worker and regular financial supporter to National as well as to the local chapter.
- An organizer
- A promoter
- Willing to work with other Chapter Officers the State Coordinator, Area Representative, Regional Evangelist, and to follow their decisions when requested
- Time to devote to the office
- Willing to step aside quietly and peacefully if he or she cannot work within the guidelines, responsibilities, and expectations of CMA

Additional Special Qualifications for Chapter Youth Movement Leader:

- Energetic
- Love for young people
- Time to devote to relationship building with young people
- Willingness to try new methods in reaching out to young people
- Willingness to act as liaison between young people and the local chapter
- Willingness to continue to train to become a better youth minister

Job description for Chapter Youth Movement Leader:

- Love young people
- Take responsibility for becoming a Spiritual Mentor to young people
- Find ways to build relationships and community with your group of young people
- Conduct a regular meeting (time, place, and frequency are flexible)
- Involve your group in evangelistic interest-group outreach
- Work together with your local chapter on how to involve young people in CMA events and programs (i.e. ministry team training, state and national rallies, Run for the Son fundraising, area outreaches)
- Network with other chapters' Youth Movements and plan events and services together.
- Help young people connect with National Youth Movement training and discipleship materials as well as Youth Movement Merchandise

By signing this questionnaire I agree that I will, _____, work to exemplify the qualifications for chapter officers and the additional special qualifications for Chapter Youth Movement Leader. I have read and understand the job description and will do my best to serve God and young people in this capacity.

NAME

DATE

NAME

DATE

RETURN THIS COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO YOUR STATE YM REP OR STATE COORDINATOR