**Ministry Job Description:** Youth Group Leader

**Goal of Position***“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.” I Thessalonians 2:8 (NRSV)*
The primary purpose for Youth Ministry is to provide a safe, warm and welcoming community where youth get a sense of belonging, are nurtured in their faith and encouraged to live a life of discipleship. As such the goal of this position is for leaders to be seen as role models in conduct, speech and attitudes, who are intentional about building relationships with youth and help facilitate various activities and opportunities that will guide youth in their faith formation.

**Responsible to**

Youth Pastor/Director (provide person’s name) or Youth Ministry Team
**Edit to suit your church.**

**Job Description**The main role for the Youth Group Leader is to build loving and caring relationships with a group of teens and facilitate the effectiveness of group meetings. This includes the following:

* Lead a junior/senior youth group on a weekly basis.
* Prepare for weekly meetings that include some or all of the following: devotions, worship, interactive discussions on various topics, social and outreach activities.
* Cultivate a fun, safe and welcoming environment where youth can grow in relationship with others and with Jesus Christ.
* Create opportunities/activities that enrich discussions and prayer times.
* Look for ways to develop meaningful relationships with youth in your group, connecting with them in different settings ie: Sunday worship, sports activities, school events etc.
* Involve group members in decisions about meetings, discussion materials, fun activities etc.
* Liaise with leaders to identify opportunities for youth participation in the wider church.
* Encourage youth participation in service/mission projects.
* Seek out youth who are not participating and help motivate them to become involved.
* Pray for the youth in your church and especially for those who are struggling.
* Connect with parents
* Maintain accurate records of youth group members.
**Edit to suit your church.**

**Time required**
Youth leaders are required to participate in all youth group activities, including weekly meetings and special events. Additionally, leaders should take time during the year to connect with members of their small group on a more personal basis, getting to know each student and spending time with them in a meaningful way. On average leaders should commit to about 3 hrs. per week.
**Edit to suit your church.**

**Length of commitment**This will vary from church to church but generally youth leaders are asked to make a commitment for at least a couple of years or more, since youth ministry is totally based on building quality relationships with a church’s young people.**Edit to suit your church.**

**Training Provided**In order to develop people in their ministry roles, it is important that Youth Leaders are provided with training so they can lead effectively and feel the support of being part of a team. At the beginning of a season, such a meeting will especially orient those who are new to this role and refresh memories of those who have been part of the team for a longer period of time. Additional meetings and/or workshops throughout the season will provide a context for encouragement and additional training. (*Some of this training will need to be sought out if not provided by the church, region or classis.)*

**In this space provide the specific training your church would provide.**

**Qualifications or special skills**

The Youth Leader is passionate about relating to teens and

* Gives evidence of a sincere commitment to Christ and the Reformed faith
* Is a confessing member of your Church and committed to its core values and ministry goals.
* Is a regular attender at Sunday worship in your church.
* Has a good relationship with family and others.
* Has a servant heart and shows spiritual maturity.
* Is a good communicator and listener and has a heart for youth
* Has a positive attitude and knows how to have fun, laugh and enjoy life
* Is flexible and open to what can sometimes be the messiness of youth ministry
* Has a desire to see spiritual growth and transformation in the youth of your church
* Is committed to work as a team member with other youth ministry leaders.
* Commits to participate in training events in order to build capacity for the role.

Lastly, the church is not just a place of worship and where ministry programs happen, but also a place of safety and trust. Parents will want to know that not only are their youth being cared for spiritually, but also that they are in a safe environment. As such, those serving in the Youth Ministry program will be required to provide a current police background check and possibly be required to go through a Safe Church application process subject to approval by the church council (or other governing body).

**Edit to suit your church.

Benefits to this position** In your role as Youth Leader, you will likely be challenged in some ways, but you’ll also be blessed in abundance. Here are some things you can expect:

* *Develop some wonderful relationships with your Youth Ministry Team.*
* *Develop some very meaningful relationships with youth from your congregation.*
* *Witness the transformation of lives within your youth group.*
* *Growth in your own faith journey.*
* *Increase the ability to talk about your faith.*
* *Enjoy lots of fun opportunities in the building of relationships with youth.*
* *Joy in seeing God at work through this ministry.*

**Edit as you see fit.**
 *Most of the information provided for this document was from the author’s personal experience as a Youth Director, as well as information provided by Classis Alberta North Youth Ministry Consultant.*