



TEEN LEADERSHIP TEAM

"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

LEADERSHIP IS A CHOICE, and it's one we hope you'll make. Leadership isn't another to-do for your resume. Leadership isn't about having an extroverted and outgoing personality. Being a leader is a personal commitment.

The most meaningful commitments are tough to keep, but they are worth the effort because our priorities determine who we are, and who we are becoming.

A LEADER DOES MORE THAN JUST SHOW UP. Maybe you're thinking, "I come to every St. Louis Youth Ministry event and program, doesn't that make me a leader?" Not necessarily. It makes you a regular face around here, but a leader isn't just someone who shows up. A leader is committed to a different calling.

JESUS EXPECTED LEADERS TO SERVE. Jesus gave his disciples an image of leadership that we use as our standard for our Teen Leadership in St. Louis Youth Ministry:

*But Jesus summoned them [the disciples] and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. **Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.** Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus turned the world's understanding of leadership upside down. His teaching about leadership literally goes against everything we naturally assume about leading. Christian leadership isn't about power or positions. It's not about control and glory.

Jesus calls his leaders to be servants of others. This kind of leadership isn't popular or praised. Servant leadership is not attractive to most people. It may not be popular, but St. Louis youth ministry is looking for **SERVANT LEADERS** to be members of our Teen Leadership.

We hope this will help you understand the leadership commitment required for St. Louis Teen Leadership, and it's our goal that you'll reach for this high standard. We expect a lot from our Teen Leadership members because this was the model Jesus taught for leadership.

Interested? Good! Keep reading to find out more. We are praying for you and hope that you choose to make commitment to serve as a member of our Teen Leadership.

In Christ,



Paul Walker
Director of Youth Ministry



Hannah Hill
Associate Director of Youth Ministry



Due September 30th

2018-2019 Teen Leadership Team Member Covenant

If I, _____, am chosen to be part of the 2018-2019 St. Louis Youth Ministry Teen Leadership Team I realize the trust and faith that will be placed in me by God, His Church, and the St. Louis Youth Ministry Community. I will commit myself to act in a manner appropriate for a Christian leader, including, but not limited to the following:

(Please check the boxes as a sign of your commitment)

- ☐ I commit to strive to continually grow in my faith
- ☐ I commit to be supportive of the St. Louis Youth Ministry and all it stands for
- ☐ I commit to cooperate with those in authority, especially the Junior High Youth Ministry Advisors
- ☐ I commit to use my personal influence to urge others to grow as Christ-like persons
- ☐ I commit to be respectful of others and their feelings/opinions/ideas
- ☐ I commit to participate in my faith community and meet my obligations as a Catholic by attending Sunday Mass and celebrating the sacraments
- ☐ I commit to be a Christian role model in my personal and social life including making good decisions at social events outside of youth ministry
- ☐ I commit to lead the junior high youth with integrity at St. Louis Youth Ministry events

If chosen for the St. Louis Teen Leadership Team, I agree that I will be required to do all of the following:

- ☐ I agree to maintain a 75% attendance of Sunday night Youth Group meetings
- ☐ I agree to attend AND actively participate in Teen Leadership Team Meetings
- ☐ I agree to be open to the idea of writing a reflection as a potential witness talk for a youth ministry meeting
- ☐ I agree to prepare for and lead Junior High Youth Ministry small group sessions.

I understand that, if chosen, this commitment should be part of my everyday life and I realize that failing to keep this commitment, depending on each individual situation, could result in my being asked to resign from the Teen Leadership Team. I willingly accept this covenant knowing the sacrifices I am asking myself to make.

(Youth Signature)

(Date)

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

IT IS A BIG COMMITMENT

We're asking a lot from our Teen Leadership members and because of this, we realize it isn't for everyone. Many people won't want to rise to the high level of commitment we are expecting. Others might not have enough time to commit to fulfill these expectations. **If Teen Leadership isn't for you, don't worry.**

Not being involved in Teen Leadership isn't necessarily a measure of your spiritual maturity or commitment to Youth Group. We are committed to you and want to help you continue to grow spiritually regardless of your involvement with Teen Leadership. You can continually strive to be a servant leader and example of Christ in our ministry without being a member of the Teen Leadership.

HIGH REQUIREMENTS HAVE HIGH REWARDS

Although we're asking for a considerable commitment from our Teen Leadership members, there are also benefits. Part of the high reward Teen Leadership members receive is more personal time with the Adult Youth Ministry Team. We want to invest in the lives of our leaders. In addition to this, you'll have opportunities for training and service with St. Louis Youth Ministry that will only be available to Teen Leadership members. As a member of the Teen Leadership Team, you'll be connected to an outstanding community of young Catholics who strive to put God first and serve in St. Louis Youth Ministry. This community can be a powerful resource for laughter, encouragement, support and growth in faith.

A PICTURE OF TEEN LEADERSHIP MEMBER

(This list was created by student leaders!)

- A role model of a Catholic teen
- Authentic and transparent
- Consistently choosing God's way over the world's way
- Encouraging, genuinely friendly, listens well to others
- Greets other at Mass and at youth group
- Looks out for loners and visitors
- Inclusive of others, not cliquey
- Growing spiritually
- Has a positive attitude
- Humble and watches for opportunities to serve
- Displays a jump-in attitude to help the youth ministry
- Solves youth ministry problems without complaining
- Commits to the unity of our youth ministry
- Speaks highly about staff and other Teen Leadership Team members
- Consistently participates in all of our major events
- Models appropriate program behavior
- Feels a sense of ownership in the ministry
- Open to lead small group discussions

PARENTS

We are especially concerned about the family life and academic life of our Teen Leadership members. We don't want to create a ton of reasons to keep teens out every night of the week. Spiritual growth does not necessarily require sacrificing family time and commitments.

As far as a time commitment, we're asking our Teen Leadership members to attend Mass regularly, to attend Sunday night youth group meetings, to attend Teen Leadership meetings. On Sundays when Teen Leadership members are asked to lead small groups at junior high meetings, youth will be required to arrive at 3:45 to prepare for the meeting. Attending these junior high meetings should not replace their attendance at senior high meetings that same day.

HOW TO APPLY TO BE A TEEN LEADERSHIP MEMBER

1. Prayerfully consider all the Teen Leadership commitments.
2. Talk with your family and evaluate the commitments.
3. Type and submit your answers to the questions below by September 30th.
4. Sign and submit the Teen Leadership Team Covenant included in this packet by September 30th.
5. Have one adult who is not family, knows you well, and is not involved in St. Louis Youth Ministry go to our website and fill out the Teen Leadership Recommendation Form by September 30th. (<https://www.stlouisyouth.org/youth-council-recommendation/>)

TEEN LEADERSHIP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please type your answers to all of the following questions and send them to Hannah.hill@stlouis.cdom.org. By September 30th

1. Why do you want to be on the Teen Leadership Team?
2. What does your spiritual life look like right now? How do you grow spiritually on your own?
3. How would others describe your relationship with God?
4. How has being in Youth Group helped your faith? If you are new to youth group, what do you hope to get out of it?
6. Are you involved leadership roles in your parish, in retreats, in school, etc.?