

MOVEMENT MINISTRIES

Top Seven Suggestions for Your First 30 Days in Youth Ministry

Youth ministry is not rocket-science— it's harder! You've been called by God to serve the local church by loving students and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Consider ways to be a well-rounded youth minister who lays a good foundation and has a great plan for growing, building and sustaining ministry to students. These top seven suggestions is just a beginning!

1. **Get to know the key players.** So much of youth ministry is relational and a part of coming to a new place is just meeting with those parents, youth and adult leaders who will make up your ministry. Take time to set up times for coffee, lunch or school visits simply to make your presence known and get to know your folks.
2. **Get a grasp on past and present youth activities.** What has been happening is important. Don't come in and change everything right away. Build upon the current culture and momentum. If your successor didn't document the last year then begin taking notes. As you talk to people, piece together what the youth group looked like (specially with dates, times, programming) in the past. As you meet with people ask questions, listen and do the necessary information gathering so you can help grow what came before you.
3. **Get a calendar up and share that with parents.** Planning matters. It's imperative that even if you are coming in mid-summer or early fall, get a plan and get it on the calendar quickly. Continue with the existing program or make necessary changes asap. Whatever you do, communicate it with parents and students in every means possible.
4. **Get a group of leaders (both adults and students) to meet on a regular basis.** This is your youth council and is vital and these meetings should be scheduled often. If your church youth staff is large enough then plan additional meetings weekly with this smaller group to make sure you know what is coming up on a day to day basis.
5. **Get a handle on your philosophy for youth ministry.** Doug Fields' "Purpose Driven Youth Ministry" is a great resource. Plan everything around your key purpose and program accordingly. Create a personnel and programmatic org chart so everyone knows what you are doing and who is doing it. This can be a simple pie-graph that organizes people and programming into clear categories (email drrustyfreeman@gmail.com for help).
6. **Get a weekly personal and ministry schedule set soon.** (Visit the resource page on movementministries.com to find a blank weekly schedule.) Mark in hour time slots your time in office, relational/visitation time, lunches, football games, coffee with students, exercise, sabbath rest, vacation and alone time with the Lord. Give the church forty plus hours of your time and share this schedule with your supervisor(s) for approval.
7. **Get insight into your budget and administrative procedures.** It's a good idea to not only know how much is in the youth budget but how to spend, seek reimbursement, and use the church credit card responsibly. Meet with the church financial secretary and your pastor to find out what is expected and how best to utilize the resources required for ministry.

For more information on the First 30 Days in Youth Ministry, contact Rev. Dr. Rusty Freeman at drrustyfreeman@gmail.com or movementministries.com.