

kidsteam **guide**

CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Welcome

We are so grateful that you have chosen to serve as a vital part of our DreamTeam. Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference by loving others the way Christ loved us. We find that when we set out to do that, it is our hearts that grow the most, so we can't wait to hear what God does through your willingness to serve him.

This handbook is designed to provide information that is applicable to all Kids DreamTeam Members.

On Mission

The DreamTeam is a group of incredible people on mission to show every guest they matter by living out their God-given purpose to make an eternal difference.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We exist to introduce people to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with him.

Dreaming Together

We are a team of people working and dreaming about the mission God has for us. Every single weekend, the DreamTeam understands that we are in the business of introducing people to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with him. That's what it means to make an eternal difference. It's all about God - what he is doing around and through all of us to reach those who are far from him, and to draw each of us toward loving others the way Christ loved us.

No Matter the Role

We understand that seemingly insignificant acts in the hands of an all-powerful God create eternal moments that change people's lives.

Privileged to Serve

We view the opportunity to serve our guests on the weekend as a “Get To” experience and not a “Have To” experience. We understand that we’re here to accomplish something bigger than ourselves and it’s a privilege to serve on this team. We’re honored and thankful to God for choosing us.

On a Journey and Helping Others

The ultimate role of the DreamTeam is to love others the way Christ loved us, helping them to take a next step in their spiritual journey.

To help someone else **KNOW GOD**

To help someone else **FIND FREEDOM**

To help someone else **DISCOVER PURPOSE**

To help someone else **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Becoming a Part of the DreamTeam

Is an honor because we get to serve God in the mission he has for our church and the communities we serve.

To equip every member of the team and insure the Kids team is the best fit, we require DreamTeam members to take these steps before serving:

- 1 GrowthTrack
- 2 Application
- 3 Background check
- 4 Interview and signed agreement
- 5 Online Child Safety Training
- 6 Ministry training

We gather to dream & celebrate:

DreamTeam Launch

At the beginning of each ministry year, we gather for a night filled with vision, inspiration, and worship. As a DreamTeam Member, we ask that you join us to prayerfully and humbly trust God to accomplish great things in the upcoming ministry year.

DreamTeam Celebration

Once a year, just before spring, we throw a party for our amazing DreamTeam. It is a night filled with celebration as we honor our team members for the ways they are making a difference by living out their purpose.

Our Values

G

GOD'S HEART

We want every guest to know that they matter to God and they matter to us.

U

UPBEAT

We create a fun and positive environment to make an amazing first impression and for the team to serve.

E

EXCELLENCE

We pay attention to details because it shows our guests we care.

S

SEIZE WOW OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for ways to make every guest's experience something they can't wait to share with others.

T

TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

We want every interaction to point guests to their next step on the spiritual journey.

Know God
Find Freedom
Discover Purpose
Make a Difference

CedarCreek Kids Mission

We exist to introduce kids to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with him. We do this best when we create a safe and fun environment where kids and families feel known, cared for, and connected.

WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

Safe

The environment is secure, age-appropriate, clean, and full of qualified leaders.

Fun

Kids can't wait to come back and bring a friend.

Known

You know your Group members' names, their interests, and their families.

Cared For

You are aware of the needs of your Group and do your best to provide appropriate support to kids and families.

Connected

You develop authentic relationships with your group and their families, while helping them connect with each other.

Colorful environments and dynamic experiences play a crucial role in this. But it is truly the connections with you, and the relationships you foster, that make the biggest impact on a child's spiritual journey as they begin to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose, and Make a Difference.

We believe ...

You can shape a kid's faith by connecting them to caring adults who will be present in their life. – **Reggie Joiner**

Don't expect a moment to happen every week. If they connect, that's a moment. – **Sue Miller**

What is the fate of the next generation worth? It is worth everything and God entrusted it with us to get this right. – **Andy Stanley**

Serving Opportunities

SMALL GROUP

BABIES LEADER: You create a safe and nurturing environment, helping parents feel great about leaving their child in our care, as you rock, snuggle, read, and play with their little one during the service. You have the privilege of building relationships with children and families.

TODDLER LEADER: You create a safe, fun, and nurturing environment, helping parents and their toddler feel great about spending an hour with us. As you read and play, you have the privilege of building a foundation of faith and fostering relationships with children and families.

GROUP LEADER: You create safe, fun, and nurturing environments to connect relationally with a small group of kids. Through those experiences, and the relationships you foster with parents, the church and the parents work together to build a foundation of faith that helps kids take next steps.

SPECIAL FRIEND: You provide excellent care and assistance to a child with special needs by giving him/her individual attention throughout the service and providing alternatives to curriculum when necessary.

LARGE GROUP



GROUP LEADER: You lead the Large Program experience, presenting the lesson and application in a creative and engaging way to capture the attention of children and make a lasting impression. This is a talent-based position. Auditions may be required.

WORSHIP LEADER: You create a fun, energetic, and engaging environment for children to experience and worship Jesus in. This is a talent-based position. Auditions may be required.

SUPPORTING

Administrator: You provide support and structure to a variety of administrative tasks to fulfill our mission.

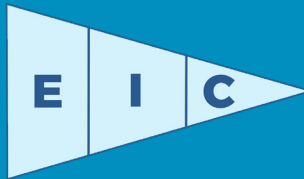
Check-In Leader: Your personal interactions with new and returning families, as you assist with check-in, sets the tone for an excellent weekend experience.

Environment Leader: You help ensure the hour in CedarVille is run with excellence by maintaining the space, snack, supplies, children's needs, and other ministry details while providing helpful support to all leaders.

TEAM LEADS are appointed by CedarCreek Kids Staff to lead your service team and care for you. They are your first line of communication and help. You will receive regular communication from them. They love serving you!

Why We Do What We Do

We desire to be a church that unchurched people love to attend—kids included! We know that kids who have never been to church are visiting us every weekend. Let's be ready for them! We want them to be comfortable with the first few activities they experience. Like a funnel, we start broad and fun and then slowly and steadily ease our way to Biblical truth and how to apply it.



Engage

- Welcome with a smile and help make friends
- Social Activity

Involve

- Large Group
(game, worship, Bible story)

Challenge

- Small Group
(application, memory verse, prayer)

ORANGE CURRICULUM

We believe two combined influences make a greater impact than two individual influences.



Every lesson is inspired by one of the following basic truths that are developmentally appropriate and build upon each other as a child grows.

FIRST LOOK: Preschool	252 KIDS: Elementary
God made me.	I need to make the wise choice.
God loves me.	I can trust God no matter what.
Jesus wants to be my friend forever.	I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Five Pillars of Group Leadership

As a Group Leader, we invite you to lead **SMALL** to see **BIG** life change. We want to help kids build authentic faith, and we believe if you live out these 5 principles with your few, you will see big things happen.

BE PRESENT

Connect their faith to a community.

- You build connections and create trust when you are a consistent voice in a kid's life. Know their name and what's happening in their life.
- **Show up predictably.**
Commit to your Group. Be the person they can't wait to see every week.
- **Show up mentally.**
Be prepared. Review the Group Guides and come ready to fully engage and be present with your group.
- **Show up randomly.**
Surprises show your group they matter. Consider attending a sporting event or dance recital. Send birthday cards and celebrate big moments.

CREATE A SAFE PLACE

Clarify their faith as they grow.

- Make sure everyone in the Group knows one another. It's helpful to do an introduction and icebreaker every week, especially when someone new is joining.

- **Lead the Group**

- Your few are watching you and how you handle tension, conflict and questions.

- **Lead your group to value.**

- Acceptance. Be happy to see them, offer specific and positive encouragement, give eye contact, shut down gossip.

- Confidentiality—Set the expectation of respecting what is shared in group.

- Honesty—Encourage your group to be themselves, share doubts, ask questions and admit struggles. And when they do, respond with grace.

- **Respect the process.**

- Welcome the questions, doubts and uncertainty. You don't have to have all of the answers. Trust that God is moving and each child is growing and learning, developing their authentic faith.

- **Guard the heart.**

- You navigate the tension of confidentiality and needing to get outside help. Sometimes speaking up is how you create a safe place. Listen for the “3 Hurts”:
 - Being Hurt
 - Hurting Others
 - Hurting Themselves

PARTNER WITH PARENTS

Nurture an everyday faith.

- One of the most important things you can do as a Group Leader is build relationships with parents. Your group leader gig is temporary; the parent’s influence is lifelong. Authentic faith grows in the everyday moments that happen at home. That’s why we:

- **Cue the parent.**

- Let them know who you are. Let them know you want to show up for their kid, to help their child grow in their faith, and to help them win as a parent.
- Let them know what your group has been talking about. Give them just the right information, teeing up the opportunity to connect with their child in the car or at the dinner table.

- **Honor the parent.**

When a child is complaining about their parent, or is struggling with something at home, think about how you can best team up with the parent.

- **Reinforce the family.**

Include the parents in big decisions and moments like salvation and baptism. Parents don't want to miss these life-changing experiences.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Inspire their faith by your example.

- Your group has a front row seat to your life. You have influence. If you want your group to live out an authentic faith, they need to see it in you.
- **Live in community.**
 - You need a group of peers too. Stay engaged with other believers who are encouraging and challenging you as your faith continues to grow.
- **Set priorities.**

Your group needs to see what you value:

 - Spiritually—Be invested in your own spiritual growth.
 - Relationally—Model healthy relationships with your family and friends.

- **Be real.**

- Your group needs to see the real you growing and learning and leaning into your authentic faith. It's ok if you don't agree on everything. They need a leader, not another peer.

MOVE THEM OUT

Engage their faith in a bigger story.

- Your group won't be your group forever. How are you preparing them for what's next?
 - **Move them to someone else.**
Use your unique roll to help your group connect with other leaders who will influence their lives.
 - **Move them to be the church.**
Provide and encourage opportunities for your group to do something significant both inside and outside the walls of your building.
 - **Move them to what's next.**
Prepare for and walk with them through the next milestone, school year, group leader, or other transition.

If you have questions about any of these five pillars or how to execute them, please ask your CedarCreek Kids Director so they can come alongside you and help you be successful!

Challenging Behavior

1 Identify the Issue and Try a Solution

- Ask yourself what's triggering the behavior.
- Keep them busy by being your helper.
- Separate the kids that tempt each other.

2 Enlist Your Team Lead or Environment Leader to Help

- Remove the child from your group, get down to their level, and make eye contact.
- Explain the good choice you want them to make.
- Ask them to repeat it back to you.

3 Follow Up

- Recognize great behavior.
- What's rewarded is repeated.
- Don't expect perfection.

4 Connect with Parents

- Let parents know you want their child to have a great experience.
- Ask for ways to help their child be more successful.
- Share behavior wins in front of their child to celebrate them.

Look the Part

Wear your Kids Shirt, or something else comfortable and appropriate for sitting on the floor, bending down, or worshiping like crazy.

Be on Time

Arrive 30 minutes before service starts to check in, join us for huddle, and eat breakfast to power up before your kids arrive.

Food and Drink

Please refrain from bringing food and drinks, especially hot liquids, into CedarVille. We want to prevent spills, burns, clutter, and avoid all allergy concerns.

Two-At-A-Time

Whenever there are children present, there must always be two adults.

Cell Phones

Please refrain from using cell phones while serving in CedarVille. Taking pictures or videos of children is not permitted.

Restroom

Adult female volunteers may oversee restroom breaks. Keep the “Two-At-A-Time Principle” in mind. The only assistance we can provide a child when using the restroom is buttoning pants, outside of the restroom with another adult present. If more help is needed, we must page the family.

Emergency Procedures

Please review the emergency maps posted in your room. In the event of an emergency (severe weather, evacuation, power outage, etc.), each room will be given an emergency bag with everything you will need. Your Team Lead and Environment Leader will give you instructions.

First Aid/Incident Report

Please contact a Kids Staff Member if a child in your care needs any first aid. The Staff Member will retrieve any needed items (e.g. Band-Aids) and, when appropriate, will page the family and fill out an incident report.

Suspected Abuse and Neglect

If you suspect abuse or neglect, or any other challenging family situation, please talk with a Kids Staff Member immediately. Please remember to use discretion and model confidentiality.

CedarVille Postcard

We love connecting with families during the week! Consider sending a postcard to the parent of a little one sharing how much you enjoyed caring for them! Postcards can be given to your Team Lead or Environment Leader for addressing and mailing.

That's it! You've got this. We hope you leave every weekend knowing that God used you to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**