

# **studentteam guide**

CEDARCREEKSTUDENTS

# 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 Student DreamTeam members.

We're inviting you to be an influencer at the most influential stage of life.

Middle school and high school are pivotal years for a student's development. A leader coming alongside a student during this stage of life can make all the difference in a student's decision to follow Jesus. Your influence matters!

## 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.

## Dreaming Together

We are a team of incredible 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 guiding them on a life changing journey 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 destinies.

## 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** at CedarCreek 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 prayer team is the best fit, we require DreamTeam members to take these steps before serving:

- ① Complete GrowthTrack
- ② Complete application
- ③ Participate in interview
- ④ Complete Confidentiality Agreement

## **We gather to dream & celebrate:**

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### **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.

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### **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. As a team member, we ask that you plan on attending this event.

**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 Student Mission

CedarCreek Students exists to introduce students to Jesus and the life-changing adventure with Him.

## CedarCreek Student Values

In CedarCreek Students, we have four guiding values that we believe, if implemented, will help students move along the spiritual journey to know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and make a difference. The values are:

**IRRESISTIBLE ENVIRONMENT** - We want to help create an irresistible environment where students have fun and want to bring their unchurched friends.

**CONSISTENT SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE** - We want to provide a consistent Group Leader for every student to help them take their next step.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** - We want to help leaders take the next step in their spiritual development by serving in ministry and helping to train other leaders.

**GO WHERE THEY ARE** - We want every leader to actively engage in the lives of students inside and outside of church.

To allow us to live out these values, we have two main tracts for DreamTeamers in CedarCreek Students:

## **1 GUEST SERVICES**

Guest Services volunteers assist in creating the irresistible environment that allows students to connect with leaders and with God.

Guest Services includes Set-up/Reset, Check-In, Safety, and Production Teams.

- Due to the specific nature of what those teams do, there is specific training for each team.

## **2 GROUP LEADERS**

Group Leaders are the backbone of CedarCreek Students. It is our hope that every student who comes through our doors would get plugged into a Group with a consistent Group Leader like yourself.

New Middle School Group Leaders are encouraged to start with a group of students and move through their entire middle school career with them.



New High School Group Leaders are encouraged to start with a group of 9th grade students and move up with that group through 12th grade.

We know that this is a big commitment, but the consistent influence of a Group Leader over the course of several years is what these students need through this stage of their lives.

## Be a Successful Group Leader

There are five main pillars that will allow you to be a successful Group Leader. In fact, we ask that you would commit to live out these five pillars throughout your time as a Group Leader.

- 1 **BE PRESENT** - You build connections and create trust when you are a consistent voice in a student's life. What does this look like?

### **Show Up Predictably**

- Showing up predictably starts with not missing Group.
- Be the person they can't wait to see every week.

### **Show Up Mentally**

- Come prepared and be fully present.

### **Show Up Randomly**

- Connecting with your Group outside of regular Group times surprises your students and communicates that “You Matter.”
- Texts or Phone Calls - As your students receive cell phones (if they don’t have them already), be sure to set up a group text where you can check in with them.
- Outings - Outings create shared experiences and memories, which are vital to the health of relationships (more on this in the appendix).
- Attend their extracurricular events and consider sending birthday cards, etc.

2. **CREATE A SAFE PLACE** - You create the atmosphere that makes students feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. Your Group trusts you!

### **Model Honesty and Confidentiality**

Although, if you are concerned about some one’s safety, inform your CedarCreek Students Director of the issue immediately.

- 3 **PARTNER WITH PARENTS** - You develop partnerships with parents as you work together to help their student grow in their faith. This happens when parents trust your influence and you respect the parent's role as the primary spiritual leader.

**Cue the Parent**

Keep them informed with what their student is learning.

**Honor the Parent**

Model an attitude of respect for parents.

**Reinforce the Family**

Find ways to partner with the family.

- 4 **MAKE IT PERSONAL** - You model what it means to follow Jesus. We want to encourage you in your personal growth and help support your personal next steps.

Spend time with God consistently through Bible reading and prayer.

Make regular church attendance a priority.

Stay engaged in community with other believers in your own stage of life.

- 5 **MOVE THEM OUT** - You ignite a passion for students to be a part of something bigger.

**Move them to “Be the Church.”**

The church is bigger than a building. How can you motivate your Group to participate in God’s work outside of these walls?

**Move them to “What’s Next.”**

Your Group will eventually move on. How can you help prepare them for the next transition?

For instance, some High School Group Leaders take a year off after their students graduate just to stay in touch with their Group and help them along as they transition to college.

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

**SUCCESS SIDE NOTE:** Check your email regularly for updates and information specific to your Campus Student Ministry.

### SET PRIORITIES: PRAYER

- One of the best ways you can train yourself to show up mentally is to take some time in prayer, not only throughout the week, but before you walk in each Saturday, Sunday, or Wednesday.
- Total and complete dependence on God is vital to successful ministry.
- It's God's ministry and his gospel. Therefore, pray often.
- Prayer reminds us that the ministry of CedarCreek Students is in God's hands.
- You want to accomplish a lot in your ministry, but you won't unless you first accomplish it in prayer.

### Helpful Ways to Incorporate Prayer

- Develop a prayer team.
- Develop a personal prayer list.
- Pray with your co-leaders before Groups.
- Pray over your Group room.

### OUTINGS

Outings are crucial to continuing and deepening the social and relational bonds created each Sunday. Ask parents to jump in and plan. Partnering with parents in the planning process can take a lot of guesswork off your plate.

#### Guidelines to Consider:

##### DRIVING

- Be smart, follow the rules of the road, and don't overload vehicles.
- Every student must wear a seatbelt.

##### MOVIES

- It's a good idea to watch only age appropriate movies.

##### COST

- Keep cost in mind when planning activities.
- Not all families can afford expensive tickets to Cedar Point, concerts, etc.

##### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

##### Ask parents to:

- Help with transportation.
- Open up their homes.
- Help provide food.
- Plan outings!

## **SCHEDULING OUTINGS**

- Plan activities close to where your students live.
- Meeting right after church is a great idea because you are already together.
- Small attendance is okay! Sometimes hanging out with three to five students is great.

**Remember:** quality vs. quantity

## **OUTING IDEAS**

- Bowling
- Roller Skating/Ice Skating
- Scavenger Hunt
- Game Night
- Hiking
- Picnic at the Park
- Pool Party
- Theme Party (Luau, Celebrity/Hollywood, 80s party)
- Canvas Painting
- Pottery Painting
- Craft Night/Pinterest Party
- Sporting Event or Play That Your Student Is In
- Service Projects
- Paintball

### COACHES

#### Who Are They?

- Volunteers who have relational experience in leading students and adults
- Passionate about reaching students and developing leaders

#### How Do They Support You?

- Walk through an entire season of middle school or high school with a set of Group Leaders
- Come alongside to help you ensure your Group always has a leader, even if you absolutely cannot make a Group
- Lead the Coaches' huddle meeting for Group Leaders to train, cast vision, and connect relationally
- Available to walk through tough issues with Group Leaders
- Attend retreats, special events, and training meetings to assist staff and support leaders



### CO-LEADING BASICS

#### **BE A FRIEND.**

- Take time to get to know each other.
- Appreciate and value each other's differences.

#### **BE A FAN.**

- Celebrate each other.
- Fight for each other.

#### **BE A TEAM.**

- Communicate and keep each other in the loop.
- Co-lead; don't rotate.

### THE “UP” PLAN | High School Specific

#### **SHOW UP - 9th grade**

The most important thing for freshmen is to show up and prioritize their relationship with Jesus. While the environment is a big factor in that decision, the relationship with you is what’s going to make all the difference. Showing up in their world lays the foundation of trust that you’re going to build over the next four years.

#### **OPEN UP - 10th grade**

By sophomore year, we want students to start opening up. Once you’ve built the relationship, you’ve earned the influence to start speaking into areas of their lives that God wants to change. This process happens best through intentional conversations.

#### **GROW UP - 11th grade**

By junior year, we want students to start taking responsibility for their faith. You’ve been working hard to feed them (by showing up and opening up), but now is the time for them to learn to feed themselves. This is the year you challenge them to grow up.

**STEP UP - 12th grade**

This is your last year, and your seniors will go one of two ways. They're either going to step up and lead or step back and disengage. You have a chance to engage them in something far greater than just showing up. This is the year that you want to inspire your students to lead the way at CedarCreek Students and wherever they go next.

**The “Up” Plan | Middle School Specific****SHOW UP - 6th grade**

The most important thing for 6th graders is to “Show Up” and invite their friends! While the environment is a big factor in that decision, the relationship with you is what's going to make all the difference.

**OPEN UP - 7th grade**

By 7th grade, we want students to start opening up. Once you've built the relationship, get vulnerable with the students and build trust to allow intentional conversations to happen.

**GROW UP - 8th grade**

By 8th grade, we want students to start taking responsibility for their faith. Help students take next steps (Baptism, Serving, GrowthTrack).

## First Year | Leader Breakdown

### **PURSUE THEM COLLECTIVELY.**

- Wednesdays/Events
- Group Outings
- Social Media

#### **GOALS:**

- Have at least one Group outing every semester.
- Touch base with students once a week outside of Groups (social media, texting, etc.).

### **BE A FAN INDIVIDUALLY.**

- Celebrate birthdays and accomplishments.
- Show up at games, plays, etc.

#### **GOAL:**

- Attend at least one activity (game, play, etc.) for each of your students.

### **LAY THE GROUND RULES.**

- We love one another.
- We're real.
- We're safe.

#### **GOALS:**

- Explain this at your first Group meeting.
- Remind the Group throughout the year.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS.

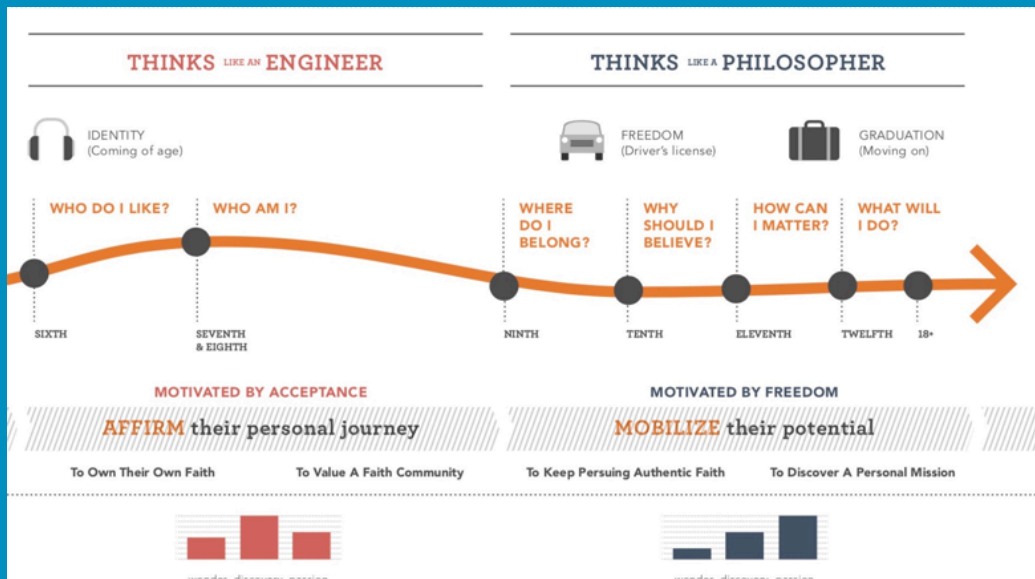
- Emails
- Face to face
- Phone calls

## GOALS:

- Send at least two emails a year.
- Communicate face to face once within the first year.

## Appendix G

### STUDENT PHASES



### **Student-Leader Safety Standards, Policies, & Guidelines**

#### **INSIDE CEDARCREEK BUILDING:** Standards & Policies:

##### **One-on-One:**

- Never be one-on-one in a room with a student.
- If meeting, meet in the lobby.

##### **Groups:**

- Two Group Leaders must be with the Group if the door is closed.
- If only one leader is with a group, the door must be open and have line-of-sight to other people in the building.

#### **OUTSIDE BUILDING:**

##### Leaders Driving Students:

##### **Standards:**

- Driver must be 18+
- Driver must have a valid driver's license.
- Driver must have current auto insurance.
- Don't overload vehicles.

- Follow the rules of the road.
- Every student must wear a seatbelt.
- Never drive a student of opposite gender one-on-one.
- If transporting student of same gender one-on-one, always have permission of the parents (or ensure there is a Consent Form on file).

#### **Guideline/Best Practices:**

- Avoid being one-on-one with student of same gender.
- Preferably have three people in the car: one leader and two students or two leaders and one student.

### **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES: Hanging-Out with Students:**

#### **Match communication guidelines.**

- Don't be one-on-one with a student of opposite gender.
- Always have permission of parents when hanging out with students.

#### **Upholds value of "Partner with Parents"**

- Hang out with groups of students or have another leader with you.
- Don't be alone with a student, because that could put you in a position to be accused of something you didn't do.

- If you are one-on-one with student of the same gender, ensure it is in public and with the parent's cooperation and permission.

**Group Outings:**

- Have two leaders present.
- Always ensure parents are aware and give permission to their student.

## **Appendix H**

### **Suicide Conversation Policy/Procedure**

**NON-IMMINENT SUICIDAL IDEATION:**

(i.e. During Group or personal conversation, student brings up having had thoughts about suicide or is currently considering it as an option to handle what they are facing)

- 1** Tell Student Director at your Campus.
- 2** Together ask, "Have you told your parents?"
  - If no, "Tell them today or I will, or I will go with you to tell them."

Either way, Student Director follows up with Parents

- If yes, reference orange training document.



- 3 Group Leader: Fill out Care Card.
- 4 Pray with them.

**Serious Imminent Threat:**

(i.e. Student tells or messages Group Leader that they are going to commit suicide, has a plan, time, method, etc.)

**LEADER**

- 1 Call parent.
- 2 If parent doesn't answer, call authorities.
- 3 Call Student Director of your Campus.

**STUDENT DIRECTOR**

- 1 Fill out the incident report on CreekHelp.

**[Creekhelpp.com/ministry-services/  
incident-forms/minor-incident-form-for-  
kids-ministry/](https://creekhelpp.com/ministry-services/incident-forms/minor-incident-form-for-kids-ministry/)**

- 2 Contact Campus Pastor & Senior Director.
- 3 Put a Care Note in Rock.

In every conversation, provide the suicide hotline number to student and parents.

**Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255**