

Volunteer Information Packet

magnolia
student ministries

everything you need to know
to begin serving in the student
ministry at magnolia avenue
baptist church

THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!

I'M THRILLED YOU MAY BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR YOUTH MINISTRY!

At Magnolia, we believe everyone has something to offer and be a "10" in some area of our church. Because God has entrusted us with nearly 100 junior high and high school students, we are constantly looking for men and women of God who might grow into becoming a "10" within our student ministry. Even if you feel like a "2" right now, I'm thankful you're willing to explore opportunities to serve God within our student ministry.

I believe healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships—between adult staff and students. Relationships are the key to students feeling loved and understanding God's love in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in a student's life.

The quality of our staff is very important. We are looking for men and women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. Please take time to read the following material and fill out the application with prayer and consideration. Because we place great value on this ministry, we also place great value on the health of our staff.

Once we have received your application, we will call you to schedule an interview. Please know all information will be kept strictly confidential. In the meantime, please feel free to observe our Wednesday night programs or call about observing one of our Sunday Bible Study groups.

As you know, Magnolia is a great church and our youth ministry is a great place to allow your time to make eternal investments in students' lives! I'm looking forward to meeting you and spending some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at (951) 689-5700.

Excited to minister with you,



Mike Lovato
Minister to Students

What You'll Find Inside

- >>WHAT STUDENTS NEED
- >> WHY WE EXIST AS A MINISTRY
- >> FOUR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
- >> TAKING THE NEXT STEP

WHAT STUDENTS NEED

Our plan is to change the world one student at a time. Today's students do not connect to programs, they connect with people. The most effective way to impact students is through significant relationships with caring adults. One of the common roadblocks for adults getting started in youth ministry is a misconception about what it takes to be a youth worker.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ARE:

- >>You must be young
- >>You must have outstanding Bible training
- >>You must be a perfect example of a Christian
- >>You must be a captivating communicator
- >>You must feel secure
- >>You must be able to act like one of the students
- >>You must have plenty of free time
- >>You must play guitar
- >>You must know the 8 most popular videos on MTV
- >>You must be wild, crazy and dynamic
- >>You must be liked by all students
- >>You must own a 15-passenger van

Youth ministry is not the easiest ministry in the church and it's normal and okay for you to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the more you're around students and see how God can use inadequate people (like us) to do great things.

Here's the truth about what students need...

STUDENTS NEED ADULTS WHO WILL

- >>Love God and live for Him
- >>Be interested in a student's life
- >>Take initiative to get to know students
- >>Pray for students
- >>Be real
- >>Say encouraging things
- >>Believe in students
- >>Laugh and have a good time
- >>Remember names
- >>Share God's love through personal experience
- >>Be consistent with attendance
- >>Be patient

WHY WE EXIST AS A MINISTRY

Every ministry is driven by something. There is always some guiding force that determines the direction and goals for the individual or the group. Unless the driving force behind a church is biblical, the health and growth of the church will never be what God intended. Strong churches are not built on programs, personalities, or gimmicks. They are built on the eternal purposes of God. That is the foundation of our youth ministry as well.

It's not our goal to simply develop a great student ministry. Our heart instead is to develop students. We believe that there are some clues we can pick up by watching how Jesus developed.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52



Jesus grew in favor with God Jesus grew in wisdom & stature Jesus grew in favor with men

So, our mission is to lead jr. high and high school students to become authentic followers of Jesus Christ by helping them KNOW God, OWN their faith, and make their faith KNOWN.

How Do We Do This?

By connecting students to GOD (Wednesday nights), OTHERS (Sunday AM), MINISTRY (ministry teams), and THE WORLD (evangelism & missions).

As a leader in Magnolia Student Ministries, it is essential that you know and understand our purpose statement:

Our ministry exists to lead jr. high and high school students to become authentic followers of Jesus Christ by helping them KNOW God, OWN their faith, and make their faith KNOWN. We do this by connecting students to GOD, OTHERS, MINISTRY, and THE WORLD.

FOUR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Sunday AM Leader [9:30am-10:45am]

Our Bible Study groups are the BACKBONE of our ministry—they make our big group smaller, allowing students to study the Bible and connect with other Christians in meaningful relationships. You'll be teamed with one or two other adults to lead an interactive Bible study with students once a week. We also ask our leaders to care for students outside of "program time" by contacting them outside Sunday mornings and doing something together every once in a while. We provide you with curriculum (and the students!). This commitment requires about two and a half hours (1 hour to prep; 1.5 hours at church) every week.

we need people who

- >>care for the students (both present and missing) in their group
- >>are willing to teach the Bible in a fun and interactive way
- >>listen well and guide students closer to Jesus
- >>hold students accountable in love

2. Midweek Leader (Wednesdays – 6:30pm-8:00pm)

Our Wednesday night programs are the FRONT DOOR for our ministry. Every week, dozens of students come to Magnolia looking for a friendly and warm place to find acceptance. At these programs, we try to break the stereotype that church has to be boring. It's filled with laughter, videos, singing, dramas, and a message that challenges students toward spiritual maturity. Our leaders play a huge role in making students feel welcomed. This is a vital role for our ministry because a student won't become theologically aware of God's love if he/she doesn't feel loved by anyone in a crowded room. This commitment requires about two hours each week (no prep; just show up).

we need people who

- >>are friendly and take initiative to create a warm environment
- >>are positive and have a great attitude
- >>can live without a lot of affirmation from students
- >>can start conversations with students...even though it's tough!

3. Ministry Team Leader

God doesn't wait till someone is an adult to begin using him or her for the Kingdom. We encourage our students to discover the unique SHAPE God has created in them for serving in a ministry. We are never more like Jesus than when we are serving others because of God's leading in our life. We have a desire to see dozens of students in our ministry serving in a way they are excited about.

we need people who

- >>are passionate about students' serving
- >>follow through and are consistent
- >>encourage students to be committed
- >>love-on students in their ministry

4. Help with Office Work

You might not have the time or patience to work with students, and that's OK! We'd love for you to help us with some behind the scenes work at the office.

we need people who

- >>can breathe
- >>can move at least 2 fingers
- >>can speak the English language

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

You may be thinking, “OK, so I’m still interested in serving in Student Ministries, so what’s my next step?” Glad you asked!

1. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek counsel of family and/or friends about serving in the youth ministry.

2. Complete the Application

The Confidential Worker Application should be included with this packet. If not, you can have it mailed to you (call Lori Walcker at 951-689-5700).

This packet was developed with care in order to obtain appropriate information to be used in the selection process. Three personal references will need to be given for us to contact. We will also run a criminal background check on all potential volunteers.

3. Observe Programs (optional)

While you are still in the process of completing the application packet, you may want to observe one of our programs. This can be a great opportunity for you to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities. You’ll have a chance to meet students, other volunteers, and write out any questions and thoughts that you have. Observing can often be overwhelming or uncomfortable (students don’t typically go out of their way to make you feel welcome. . .until you get to know them). This is a natural feeling EVERYONE HAS and we encourage you to continue observing.

4. Schedule an Interview/Orientation

Every one of our leaders must be interviewed. During this time, you’ll have the chance to get to know more about us, and we’ll learn more about you. You’ll have the opportunity to describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in the youth ministry.

5. Meet with Ministry Leader for Orientation & Placement

The final step in our process is an orientation for the role you’ll be serving in. We want you to succeed in your new ministry! Make sure to use this time for any questions you have before you begin serving.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations, you made it through this packet! I know it seems like a lot of information, but through this “process” you will learn valuable information to make your transition into the youth ministry much easier. I hope you will continue on and complete the application. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Mike Lovato (Mike.Lovato@magonline.com) or Ben Wahlman (Ben.Wahlman@magonline.com). We can also be reached in the church office at 951-689-5700.

Magnolia Student Ministries

Confidential Worker Application

This application is to be completed by all applicants for any position involving the supervision or custody of minors. It will help our church family provide a safe and secure environment for all minors who participate in our ministries and use our facilities.

Date _____

What position are you applying for? _____

Bible Study Teacher, Wednesday Nights, Special Events...

1. Personal Information

Name _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ Birthday _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Occupation _____ Employer: _____

Work Status: Full Time Part Time Student

Education: High School: _____ Yr. Graduated: _____

College: _____ Degree: _____ Yr. _____

Marital Status Single Married Divorced Widowed

of Children _____ Ages _____ Emergency Contact _____

Do you have any conditions that would limit your activities with students?

If yes, please explain. _____

On what date would you be available to begin? _____

2. Spiritual Information

When did you make your profession of faith in Christ? _____

When were you baptized? _____

Are you a member of our church? Yes - date _____

No - Are you willing to become a member? yes no

Please write a brief account of your faith story; how you came to know Christ personally (include date).

Briefly describe 3 major ways in which you have grown in your spiritual walk since you received Christ.

Please write briefly about significant events in your life that have impacted you spiritually.

How would you describe your spiritual walk now?

List any gifts, training, education or other factors that have prepared you to work with students.

How could you see yourself using your spiritual gifts in this ministry?

Do you have an accountability partner? If so, describe how that works for you.

What do you do when you have conflict with someone?

Do you have any special issues in your life right now which would have an effect on your commitment and involvement in ministry (i.e. relationships, other commitments, etc.)

Why do you want to work with students at MABC?

Have you taken the Mag 301 (S.H.A.P.E.) class? Yes No

If yes, briefly describe your ministry SHAPE and why you think this ministry is where you fit.

What are some expectations you have of the this ministry and its pastor/minister?

3. Church Activity

List other churches you have attended regularly during the past five years:

Church Name	Address

List all previous church work involving minors:

Church Name	Address	Type of Work Performed	Date

List all previous non-church work involving minors:

Organization	Address	Type of Work Performed	Telephone

4. Legal & Lifestyle Concerns

In caring for minors, we believe it is our responsibility to seek to build an adult team that is able to provide healthy and safe nurturing relationships for the students. Please answer the following questions candidly with that in mind. Any special concern you may have can be discussed individually with the pastor/minister.

Are you using illegal drugs? Yes No Have you ever used illegal drugs? Yes No

Have you ever gone through treatment for alcohol or drug abuse? Yes No

If yes, please describe treatment and outcome.

What is your view on drinking alcohol?

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes No

If yes, please describe.

Have you had sexual relations with any minor after you became an adult? Yes No

If yes, please explain.

Have you ever been accused of any form of child abuse? Yes No

If yes, please describe.

Have you ever been a victim of any form of child abuse? Yes No

If yes, would you like to discuss this with a pastor or counselor? Yes No

Would you be willing to be fingerprinted for State Criminal Conviction Clearing? Yes No

If no, please explain why.

5. Personal References

Do not use relatives. Please provide names of those who have observed your interaction with minors.

1. Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *State _____

*Zip _____ *Telephone _____

2. Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *State _____

*Zip _____ *Telephone _____

3. Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *State _____

*Zip _____ *Telephone _____

* Required

Please initial the following statements:

I agree with the purpose statement of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church. _____

Purpose Statement:

Magnify the Lord

Assimilate and Equip New Believers

Build Caring Communities

Communicate the Good News to the Inland Empire and Beyond

I agree with the philosophy of this ministry and agree to abide by its standards. _____

I have read the Minor Security Policy (page 4) of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church. _____

I will practice the General Standards (page 4) for Ministry Workers. _____

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby give Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church permission to contact my references and appropriate Governmental agencies. I authorize references or churches listed in this application to provide information (including opinions) they may have regarding my character and fitness for working with minors. I release all such references from any liability for furnishing such evaluations, provided they do so in good faith and without malice. Should my application be accepted, I agree to be bound by the bylaws and policies of this church and to carefully read the foregoing release and know the content thereof and I sign this release on my own free act. This is a legally binding agreement which I have read and understand.

Signature _____ Date _____

General Standards for Ministry Workers

My Commitment to Serve - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

As a worker in this ministry with minors, I will:

1. Give my best in the area of ministry I have accepted, and will demonstrate my faithfulness to my ministry through preparation, participation, and punctuality. *Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.* Colossians 3:23, 24
2. Strive to lead a life which is honoring to the Lord with the awareness of the influence I will have upon the student I lead. I understand that first and foremost as a worker in this ministry, it is expected that my daily walk should please the Lord. I will strive for consistent prayer and Bible study.
3. Remember at all times that I am working with the lives of students, to help mold them after the life of the Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Word of God.
4. Strive to effectively minister to the student by:
 - Knowing those assigned to me, being aware of their individual needs and praying regularly for them.
 - Being fully prepared for my ministry. • Establishing a relationship with their parent(s).
5. Support the leadership and total program of the church. *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.* Hebrews 13:17
6. Strive to have faithful attendance to:
 - The worship services of the church. • Prayer and planning meetings of my ministry area.
 - Special teacher training opportunities as they become available.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Minor Security Policy

To provide for the safety of minors, to prevent allegations of child abuse, to protect MABC workers and to prevent the actual occurrence of child abuse, all workers are to follow the guidelines listed below.

1. Volunteer Application Procedure

- Volunteer application completed.
- Reference checks completed and background check through the California Department of Justice.
- Interview with ministry pastor/minister.

Applicants who have a criminal history will be asked to serve in ministries that do not involve contact with minors. MABC reserves the right to dismiss volunteers who are unscriptural in conduct or who fail to follow church policies.

2. General Policies

- A volunteer should never be alone with a minor. Two adults should be in each room at all times.
- A volunteer should never transport a minor alone.
- Physical contact with students should be minimal, age appropriate and done in the presence of other adults in an open area.

3. Diapering/Restroom Procedures

- Volunteers should avoid being alone with a minor in the restroom.
- Volunteers should enter a restroom stall only when necessary to assist a child. The door should remain open.
- Diapers should be changed in designated areas and in the presence of another adult.

4. If Child Abuse is Suspected...

If a worker suspects that a minor has been abused, the following steps are to be followed.

- Report the suspected abuse to the ministry pastor/minister immediately.
- **Do not** interview the child regarding the suspected abuse. The interview process will be handled by trained personnel.
- **Do not** discuss the suspected abuse. It is important that all information of the suspected child abuse be kept confidential.

The legal definition of child abuse is on file with each of the age group ministry leaders and the church administrator and is available for perusal.

September 2008

for office use

Application Status

Received _____

Interview _____

Reference Check _____

Background Check _____

Placement in Ministry _____

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Dr. Montia Setzler, Pastor