



YouthBuilders

2011-2012

General Information

I. Why Consider a Year with YouthBuilders?

A. To experience a distinct learning environment

- Learn to be a leader by leading in a wide variety of situations
- Get a much clearer sense of who you are and what you are capable of
- Learn how others are leading by travelling across North America and abroad
- Share life with a close group of team mates and leaders who value relationship

B. To develop distinct competencies

- See Section X on Impact for some of the things you will gain from YouthBuilders.

C. To participate in a distinct mission

- YouthBuilders play an important role in inspiring young people, parents and youth leaders to live close to Christ and to treat one another with love and compassion.
- YouthBuilders also resource leaders, students and parents by bringing new ideas, materials, and lots of enthusiasm.

II. Background

We are entering the 12th season of YouthBuilders. The program started in 1975 when Denis Bell, Youth Director for the Missionary Church, assembled 4 college students willing to invest a full year of their lives traveling to churches to resource youth leaders and encourage spiritual growth in students. The project was very successful and continued to run on a cycle of about every 4 years. In the year 2000, the Evangelical Missionary Church invited the Brethren in Christ Church to partner with them in sending out YouthBuilders Teams. In 2002, the Centre for Student Leadership was organized to give more focused attention to the development of young leaders through YouthBuilders and similar initiatives. The year-long YouthBuilders program now runs every other year.

III. Purpose of YouthBuilders

The purpose of Youthbuilders is at least two-fold:

A. To help resource and network youth ministries.

- Teams provide inspiration to students, parents and youth leaders to live in close relationship with God and caring relationships with one another through role modeling and other forms of teaching.
- They provide new ideas, resources, enthusiasm and helpful perspective to youth ministry leaders.

B. To grow integrated relational leaders who aspire to influence through every aspect of their lives.

- YouthBuilders experience a highly enriched learning environment which draws out their leadership capabilities and helps them to clarify their sense of calling.
- Team members form part of our pool of emerging leaders who go on to serve in critical roles within our ministries.

IV. Team Structure and Format

YouthBuilder Teams will be composed of 4 young people; 2 males and 2 females who have completed at least a grade 12 level of education. A four-member team allows for some specialization within the team, increases the potential for ministry to a variety of people and provides a rich environment for learning in community. They will be under close daily supervision of the team directors during the initial summer training period. During the tour, they will be in frequent contact with their directors.



Three primary elements of the YouthBuilders experience include:

A. Training

Students will live together at our training centre in Clarksburg, Ontario in the summer. During this time of living in community, they will develop the skills needed for their tour and learn how to function as a team. Teams return to the centre for about four off-road weeks during the year for evaluation and on-going training. See the section on training (p.4) for more details about the content of the training.

B. Church Ministry Tour

Teams will have the opportunity to spend a week or more at a time in 25-30 established churches as well as newer church plants, facilitating youth ministry and serving wherever needed in the life of the church. Much will be gained by the team members by working alongside seasoned leaders. They will have opportunity to teach, preach, lead retreats and more.

C. Cross-Cultural Ministry Focus

The teams will spend several weeks in a cross-cultural setting, observing and working along-side national leaders involved in church planting, teaching, occupational training and community development. They will also be exposed to other cultures within North America.

V. Qualifications for Team Members

1. Applicants must have a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ, having accepted Him as Saviour and Lord, and a desire to tell others about their relationship with Him.
2. Applicants must be dedicated to the ministry of the team to the extent that they are willing to sacrifice in areas such as time, finances, personal social life, dating, etc. for the one year period, and accept a more disciplined life-style.
3. Applicants must have at least a grade 12 diploma.
4. Applicants should have some leadership experience, a desire to learn, and a teachable spirit.
5. Applicants must be people oriented with a proven record of following through with responsibility.
6. Willing to drive. (we need a fully licenced driver on each team.
7. Must pass a criminal record check.

VI. Selection Process

1. Applicants are invited to seek God's direction in applying for YouthBuilders. The deadline for application is February 28th, 2011. To get an application form, please submit a request for an application through our web site at www.theCSL.com. We'll send you an application by e-mail which you can complete and e-mail back to us.
2. Applications are reviewed by a selection committee and in many cases, arrangements will be made to meet with a member of the selection committee. A limited number of candidates will be invited to a get acquainted weekend in Clarksburg, ON., March 25-27, 2011. All applicants should reserve these dates on their calendar.
3. The selection committee will aim to complete the final selection by March 31st, 2011. Team members will be selected from a variety of educational and family backgrounds.
4. A team will be formed only if the selection committee is satisfied that there is a suitable combination of team members for the mission.



VII. Financial Arrangements

1. Each team member will be required to raise \$9,500 toward the expenses of the team. Past experience has proven that churches and friends are willing to share in this responsibility.
2. Room and board will be provided by the Centre for Student Leadership (CSL) during training and by local churches when on tour.
3. Transportation will be arranged by the CSL during training and the tour.
4. Each team member will receive a weekly allowance of \$20 during the training period and \$25 during the tour for personal use. Team members are expected to limit their spending to this amount.
5. Gifts and donations to the team during the year are deposited to a scholarship fund. This money is made available to team members who return to school within a year after their involvement on the team.

VIII. General Schedule

1. The teams will meet initially on a weekend afternoon in April for preliminary orientation and assignment of reading material.
2. The teams will begin intensive training in the fourth week of June extending to the first week of September.
3. The tour will be set up in cooperation with church pastors. The tour runs from mid-September to mid-June. The teams will have an off-road week of evaluation and continued training after each 6-8 weeks of touring. There will also be a short break for team members after they return from their cross-cultural mission, likely just after Christmas.

IX. Training

A. Orientation

Training for the YouthBuilders begins with a couple of orientation days prior to the end of June at which time the team members meet each other and receive preliminary orientation and reading assignments.

B. Summer

Training continues through the summer while team members are in residence at our training centre in Clarksburg, ON. During this time, they will participate in a range of experiences including:

- Community style living
- Research on current youth issues and resources
- Conflict management training
- The Leadership Summit
- Rehearsal of seminars and presentations
- A 5-6 day wilderness trip
- Leading at camps
- Personality assessments
- Cross Cultural awareness
- Interviews with various leaders
- Regular times of prayer
- Regular check-ins with their team members and with an adult leader
- Various team-building activities

C. Off-Road Weeks

On scheduled off-road weeks during the year, further work will be done to prepare team members for their cross-cultural mission, and for next steps with respect to their continuing education. They will also receive further training in team dynamics and best leadership practices.

X. Impact

Overall, team members will gain skills and experience in the following areas:

1. Relational Intelligence

- a. Learning to build connections with people quickly and confidently.
- b. Learning to function with compassion and to build healthy patterns of dealing with relational and cultural differences.
- c. Learning to share leadership effectively as a team.
- d. Developing a deeper understanding of the emotional life of people and being better prepared for the challenges of marriage.

2. Self-Awareness

- a. Clearer picture of your personal formation and patterns of thinking, behaving and feeling
- b. Increased awareness of your gifts, natural abilities and potential to serve.
- c. Stronger sense of how your patterns of thinking, behaving and feeling impact you and others.

3. Communication Skills

- a. Increased confidence in relating to people one-on-one, in small groups, in large crowds, and within diverse cultures.
- b. New ways of teaching and preparing presentations that take people through complete learning experiences.
- c. Skills in facilitating discussion.

4. Ability to Lead

- a. Exploration and exposure to a wide variety of leadership styles.
- b. Learning about and experiencing shared leadership on a daily basis.
- c. Increased ability to take action in a variety of challenging contexts or plan and strategize toward a particular goal.

5. Character

- a. New understanding of the significance of integrity and trust in the context of shared living and team relationships.
- b. New patterns of thinking, behaving and feeling that will increase your self-confidence and credibility.

6. Relating to God

- a. Increased sense that everything you are and do flows out of your relationship with God.
- b. Increased daily dependence on God.
- c. Development of practices and personal pathways for relating to God and expressing your devotion to him.
- d. Learning to express your faith in a manner that draws others towards God.