

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

We are called to serve and witness in our local churches and to the communities we live in.

As a leader of teen ministry, it is important that teens play a part in the present church, not just the church to come.

A teen leader is equipped for his or her ministry by the gifts received from the Holy Spirit.

They will possess God-given discernment to see through the mask teens often wear to cover their emotions and love the person they find hiding beneath.

Tools for Ministry

“Cornerstone Connections” is a Bible Study guide suitable for teenagers between 15-18 years of age.

“Real Time Faith” Bible Study guides appeal to Earliteens aged between 13-15 years of age

Insight magazine is an ingredient in the Cornerstone system. One of the weekly issues each month is devoted to the lesson materials for the coming month. These are the “learner materials” for the teens to use. *Insight* is the denomination’s journal for teenagers. Another issue each month is designated the *Insight-Out* edition, a missionary magazine for teenagers. Special monthly subscriptions can be sent to non-member teens or those who have dropped out of church.

Junior-Teen Plus is a quarterly “program helps” resource for these age groups.

These magazines can be ordered through an Adventist Book Centre.



THE MINISTRY OF THE Teen Sabbath School Director

Have you been asked to serve your local church as Teen Sabbath School Director? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what a Teen Sabbath School Director is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

For resources and information on training, log into the members site at sspm.adventistconnect.org or contact your local conference personal ministries director.



sspm.adventistconnect.org

The Role of the Teen Sabbath School Director

The leader of the teen division of the Sabbath School has a crucial role because they serve young people who are making decisions for life and for eternity.

The importance of teen ministry cannot be over-emphasized. Leaders hold the task of loving and caring for a group of people who can be difficult to understand. Young people aged 13 to 15 are dealing with tremendous change in their bodies, emotions, behaviour, attitudes and beliefs.

The teen director is responsible for:

- planning, coordinating and overall life of the group
- establishing a group of assistants or helpers who can be trusted to complete tasks
- conducting planning meetings at least once a quarter to identify direction and activities
- finding ways to integrate teens into the broader church community. (Take Sabbath School for another age group.)
- developing relationships with teens and building trust so they can discuss problems or ask questions. (Listening skills are important.)
- teaching the Sabbath School class if other teachers are unavailable. Identifying different learning styles and preparing lessons thoroughly is advantageous as teens are interested in issues such as sexuality, occupations, the meaning of life, death and dying, ethics etc.

- building a sense of community in a friendly, comfortable and safe environment where all questions can be asked.
- being open and accepting toward teens particularly when their behaviour can be direct, rebellious and intimidating.

Becoming a Teen Sabbath School Leader

A leader is elected by the church nominating committee on a yearly basis.

Responsible to Sabbath School Director

Term of Office At least one year and ideally longer to allow relationships to be built and nurtured.

Time Commitment

- The time demanded for teen ministry is high. You will need to be present on most Sabbaths and spend at least two hours a week in preparation.
- Ensure that one assistant is appointed to share obligations.
- Be willing to be available to the teens on regular informal occasions and when special needs arise. Your work as a leader may involve time on a weekday.



Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of Teen Sabbath School Director.

- **Exhortation:** The special ability to encourage and comfort others. It involves helping and healing, particularly for those who are bereaved, lonely or discouraged.
- **Hospitality:** is the ability to provide a genuine, safe and comfortable place to be. A teen leader needs to exude hospitality wherever he or she goes, causing teens to feel glad and valued.
- **Pastor/shepherd:** To be able to carry a personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers, overseeing, protecting and guiding. (This gift is not limited to church pastors)
- **Teaching:** Is the capacity to communicate the love of Jesus in a practical, meaningful way. To facilitate a climate where real learning can occur, where no question is forbidden and all questions deserve answers.
- **Discernment:** enables a leader to see beneath the masks that cover true feelings and attitudes. Understanding an others frame of mind or temperament allows needs to be met.

