

SOUTHRIDGE  
SOUTHRIDGE  
YOUTH  
YOUTH  
MINISTRY  
MINISTRY



***YOUTH & PARENT HANDBOOK***

***2010-2011***

Southridge Baptist Church  
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**Youth Facebook Group: "Southridge Youth"**

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# Letter from the Pastor

You are special to GOD, to me, to Jude and the Southridge Family,

Remember when you brought pictures of “stuff” home to your parents, and they used a magnet to put it on the refrigerator? They put it there because they love you! And, were proud of you!

How’s this for a thought – God’s love for you is so awesome that if He had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

That’s right – He loves you that much! You are that important to God and to us!

This handbook is a guide to help you while you’re in the youth department and beyond. These also are designed to help you grow in your relationship to God through Jesus Christ, and grow in your relationship to one another as you love and serve HIM together.

There will not be a test over everything in this handbook. (Aren’t you glad?) But, by agreeing to follow the guidelines written in it, you’ll experience peace, joy, and growth together!

I love you and you are important to me. Let me know how I can help you grow, or how I can pray for you.

Thanks for being here. We’re so glad that God has brought you here. Our lives are richer because you are here.

In His Service,

*Pastor Ron Zamkus*



# Letter from the Minister of Youth

Dear Parents/Guardians of Southridge Youth,

I am so happy to serve as your Youth Minister here at Southridge Baptist Church.

I firmly believe that God has something for each of your youth here at Southridge. The church as a whole is excited to see what God is up to and wants to join Him wherever it takes them.

As your youth minister I want to be a support to every family that is represented in the youth group.

I am not the source for all the answers on how to help parents raise youth, but I will try to help you understand and try to find resources if you need them.

I pray that each household represented in the youth group has a strong Christian foundation that I can add to but not replace as the main institution for spiritual development.

For His Glory,

*Ryan Puls*

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# STATEMENTS

## Southridge Mission Statement

To help those who do not know Christ come to know Him,  
and those who do know Him, to become more like Him.

### Youth Vision

**2 Know God**  
**2 Own Your Faith**  
**2 Make Him Known**

### Youth Goals

#### **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

- Student to God
- Student to Parents
- Student to student

#### **DEVELOP STUDENT LEADERS**

#### **ENCOURAGE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

#### **INSTILL A PASSION TO SHARE CHRIST**

*"For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." Hebrew 5:13-14*

# General Information

- ❖ Current information on youth activities will be announced in Bible Study on Sunday morning, at Wednesday night activities, and a weekly bulletin insert. Activities will be listed on the youth calendar located on our church website at [www.southridgechurch.org](http://www.southridgechurch.org).
- ❖ Parents are always welcome to any youth activity. Please feel free to join us at any time. We'll even let you play games with us!
- ❖ To assist us in keeping up with everyone, we ask that youth leave activities with the same person that they arrive with. If your youth has permission to do otherwise, please let us know in advance. As required by Southridge policies, all youth will ride the bus to and from activities unless we are given parental permission for other arrangements.
- ❖ When returning from trips, it is often difficult to give an exact time of return. However, we always try to give a general estimated time. So that you do not have to sit in the church parking lot, the youth can call home on a cell phone when we get close to home or use the church phone when we arrive. An adult will stay at the church until the last youth is picked up.
- ❖ When trips are scheduled, we do our best to let you know as much in advance as possible. Many times a deposit is required due to limited space, so please pay attention to deadlines. If you are ever unable to get a deposit in by the due date, we can always work something out if we know in advance.
- ❖ It is our policy that all youth who participate in activities have a notarized medical release form on file. Parents will always be notified as quickly as possible in an emergency. However, a permission form will allow youth to be treated by proper medical personnel in the event that parents are away or we are on a trip. (New forms must be filled out each year.)



# Policies and Procedures

## Behavior Guidelines

- 1) Physical violence and/or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- 2) Lack of respect and/or obedience to Youth Pastor, adult volunteers, and fellow students will not be tolerated.

Disciplinary action for such is as follows:

First Offense:

- Parent contact from youth facilitator
- Removal from event
- Restriction from participating in future events until reconciliation of parties involved has taken place, with Youth Pastor approval.

Second Offense:

- Parent contact from youth facilitator
- Removal from event
- Restriction from participating in future events until reconciliation of parties involved has taken place, with Youth Pastor approval
- Meeting with parents
- Pastor notification

Continuous Offences:

- Parent contact from youth facilitator
- Removal from event
- Suspension from all youth events regardless of any circumstances\*
- Reentry to youth events will be determined by Youth Pastor and Volunteers
- Pastor Notification
- Meeting with parents

(\*prior money commitments will be forfeited)

*“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”*

*Matthew 18:15*

# Youth Group Guidelines

These guidelines are to help everyone understand assumed expectations and to help things run smoother for our youth and guests who participate in youth events. These are not to put a damper on things, but rather to provide a foundation for effective ministry and better communication between parents, youth, and youth workers.

1. Movies Guideline – Christian Family Movies and G & PG ratings only. No PG-13 movies or R rated movies are allowed at youth group sponsored events.
2. Church Provided Transportation Guideline – It is assumed that youth will use the church provided transportation for youth sponsored events unless other arrangements have been made by parents contacting the youth minister or adult sponsor about a special need for a youth to have alternative transportation. If a youth has permission to drive to a youth event, no youth will be allowed to ride along without parental permission to ride in that specific car for that specific event.
3. Attendance at Youth Sponsored Events Guideline – Youth attending youth sponsored events are to stay with the group for the duration of the event unless the Youth Minister or Youth Workers know the youth has permission to leave early. No youth is to leave a youth sponsored event before it is over without parental consent.
4. Church Use Guideline – Youth cannot meet in the church unsupervised (without an adult sponsor). This will probably have some exceptions such as: if some youth want to play sports in the gym and staff are in the office area, they can play sports so long as staff are in the building or if a couple youth want to study in a room after school. If staff need to leave, the youth need to leave the building also.
5. Guy's and Girl's Activity Guideline – When the guys have an activity for guys the girls are not to crash the event. When the girls have an activity for girls the guys are not to crash the event. Doing so will automatically lead to the sponsor of the event calling the pastor or youth minister and parents of the youth who should not be at the event. Gender sleeping quarters will be separate.
6. Dress Code – At all youth events and functions modesty is required, this will be enforced by youth leaders. Students will be asked to change or put something over what they are wearing, if they are not dressed properly. Girls must wear one piece swim suits or dark shirts over their suits. No Speedo swimsuits for guys and shirts must be worn outside sleeping area. Pajamas will be worn at bedtime only and bedtime clothing must be appropriate for others to see in case of emergencies.

# Prevention of Child Abuse

Southridge Baptist Church will abide by five foundational rules to protect the safety of our children and workers and those five rules are:

1. The Two Worker Rule – No adult shall be left alone with a child. Ideally, the two adult rule will apply to each group regardless of how few children are in attendance. If there is only one adult caregiver present in a group, another adult must be in close proximity to the general area.
2. The Open Door Rule – No door without windows will be left shut while volunteers or staff work with children.
3. The Background Check – All church staff and volunteer adults (18 or older) who work with minors (17 or younger) in one-on-one or overnight situations will be required to undergo a criminal background check. Any individual who has been convicted of a felony or convicted of child abuse of any kind will not be allowed to work with the children of Southridge Baptist Church sponsored ministries.
4. The Permission Slip Rule – Parental permission shall be obtained in advance for overnight activities with minors. One-on-one counseling sessions cannot be set up with minors without parental permission.
5. The Six Month Rule – All volunteer workers should be a member of Southridge Baptist Church for at least six months before they will be allowed to work with children and youth. Any exception must be reviewed and approved by the pastor.

For complete Southridge Baptist Church Policies & Procedures for the Prevention of Child Abuse, see handbook located in church office.

# Weekly & Yearly Activities

## Sunday School Program

Participation in a Sunday School class provides attendees opportunities to be discipled; dig deeper into God's Word; and to fellowship and share with caring, loving Christians. The classes meet from 9:00 – 10:00 AM each Sunday morning and are organized into the following age groups for youth;

7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grades	– Beth and Larry Ayres	<a href="mailto:l1a1a1@embarqmail.com">l1a1a1@embarqmail.com</a>
9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> grades	– Ryan and Mandy Henry	<a href="mailto:rmhenryfam@netzero.net">rmhenryfam@netzero.net</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grades	– Dan and Debra Thompson	<a href="mailto:Dan.j.thompson@us.army.com">Dan.j.thompson@us.army.com</a> <a href="mailto:Debra.thompson@mdc.mo.gov">Debra.thompson@mdc.mo.gov</a>

## Wednesday Night Groups

We meet every Wednesday night with different topics discussing Biblical truths. These groups are occasionally divided by age and gender with adult leaders into smaller groups. Our Wednesday nights include games, prayer, praise & worship, teaching time, Bible study application and deeper discipleship training.

## Acteens

Acteens is a missions group for girls 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet on Wednesdays from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Youth area. The goals are to DO, SUPPORT, LEARN ABOUT and PRAY for missions through hands-on or reflective opportunities. Southridge Acteens are also involved in state and national events like SOAR, a retreat in South Central Missouri in Nov. 2008 or BLUME, which is to be held in Orlando, Florida 2010. For more information about Acteens, contact Rhonda Myers at 636-4409.

## Southridge Community Reach-Out (Clowns)

Southridge Community Reachout takes balloons, clowning, face painting and Gospel illusions into the community to churches, nursing homes and a variety of festivals. No training or costumes needed for ballooning, Gospel illusions or face painting. We would love for all those age 10 and up to join us.

## Drama

Opportunities to participate in skits are scattered throughout the year. Our youth-led service and Graduation Sunday are two specific services that we present skits to the church, but we also have skits during some of our Wednesday night youth activities



# Puppets & Drama Ministry

The puppet/drama ministry at Southridge is a fun & unique way for youth to serve the Lord & spread His love to people of all ages. Through the use of various forms of dramatic interpretations, the puppet/drama team is dedicated to both encourage believers in their walk with the Lord and share the gospel of Christ to those who don't know Him. The team uses music and stories along with entertaining puppet characters, black light hand miming, and various props, and many other drama forms. Their vision is to minister not only to the people at Southridge, but in other churches, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. Rehearsal time is from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. every Sunday during the school year. Performance times vary. Students entering 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to be a part of this exciting ministry.

## C.H.I.P.S.

### Church in Prayer for Students

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving present your request to God.” Phil. 4:6*

This year the adults of Southridge sponsored a youth for the year in prayer support. This ministry involves over 45 youth and adult partnerships. The event culminated with a banquet celebrating the annual prayer walk. The youth and adults were randomly partnered at this time. It is never too late to sign up as a youth or to be an adult sponsor in this exciting new ministry.

## Prayer Walk

The Sunday before the local public schools start, the youth host a church-wide prayer walk. We “Walk in Faith, Stomp Out Evil”. We bathe our school campuses in prayer as we lean on God’s Word and His promises.

*“The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simple, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.” 1Timothy 2: 1-3 (The Message)*

# Major Yearly Youth Events/Activities

## Super Bowl Party

In February, our youth meet at a host home to eat, talk, laugh and watch the culmination of another football season. It's a time of food, fun and fellowship to encourage our youth to enjoy each other and build relationships. It's also an excellent opportunity for them to introduce their friends to our youth group in a non-threatening and casual atmosphere.

## D-Now (Discipleship Now)

D-Now is an annual winter weekend Friday night through Sunday morning with emphasis on discipleship and evangelism for youth grades 7– 12. The weekend is divided between host homes (age and gender) and Southridge Baptist Church. It's packed with worship, focused in-depth Bible study, games, food and fellowship.

## Dare 2 Share

Dare 2 Share is convinced that the answer to the crisis in Christianity lies in an aggressive initiative to transform youth ministry from reactive and entertainment-based to Great Commission-driven and Scripture-based. Dare 2 Share conferences are held each school year in key metropolitan cities across the United States that motivate and train students to reach out to those around them by living and giving the life-changing message of the gospel in a contagious epidemic of love and truth. For more info [www.dare2share.org](http://www.dare2share.org)

# Random Acts of Kindness

Jesus told us in John 13:35; “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” In Mark 12:29-31; Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and the second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. To be obedient and obey these commands; at least four times a year our youth are given the opportunity to participate in performing “Random Acts of Kindness” for our community and our church body. Examples of these activities are as follows;



- Showing appreciation to the firemen and policemen of our community
- Visiting and inviting neighbors to church activities
- Working for widows in our church
- Assisting with church maintenance projects
- Other?



*"You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.  
Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness grow with it;  
I, the LORD, have created it." Isaiah 45:8*

# Graduation Sunday

Southridge dedicates a Sunday each May to honor those who have worked hard in their studies and graduated from High School or College. The Sunday morning worship service is typically geared towards these individuals and they are recognized during that time. A photo collage of each student is prepared by their parents and displayed in a designated area of the church. Following the morning service, a luncheon is served to further celebrate each graduates accomplishments.

# Super Summer

Super Summer is one of the most anticipated youth events of the year. It is a week-long camp where students from across Missouri gather to be challenged, hear the gospel, & have fun. The camp is designed to help students grow in their faith in Christ, equip them in building relationships, & teach them how to share their faith. However, it is also a great place for students to come to an understanding of what a relationship with Christ is all about. All students who have completed 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to attend. Southridge youth may attend Super Summer on the campus of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO or Hannibal LaGrange in Hannibal, MO. The cost for this camp in 2009 was \$195 per student, however, Southridge typically covers a portion of this cost for church members. Super Summer is a great way to start off the summer and our youth always return from this week energized and with a deeper passion for Christ. Find out more at [www.mostudentz.com](http://www.mostudentz.com)

Super Summer Attendance Policy: Anyone may attend Super Summer with Southridge Baptist Church youth, but in order to receive the discounted rate for Super Summer, a student needs to meet the attendance criteria. Starting in January of the same year as the Super Summer event, a student must attend a church youth function at least once a week for three out of the four weeks in that month. This process should continue all the way through the month previous to Super Summer. Attendance will be kept each time a function is held for accurate records. Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the youth minister and the youth leadership team.

Scholarship Information: If money is an issue and you can't go because of the expense, then scholarships can be found for you to go. So please let Ryan (Youth Minister) or someone on the Youth Leadership Team know if there is a need and we will work on finding a scholarship for you.

# Mission Trip

Our Mission Trip is an organized trip during the summer months where our youth have opportunities for hands-on mission activities, evangelism, and discipleship opportunities.

Mission Trip Attendance Policy: If a discounted rate is offered for this event, then the same guidelines as Super Summer will be followed as to who qualifies for the rate.

Scholarship Information: If money is an issue and you can't go because of the expense, then scholarships can be found for you to go. So please let Ryan (Youth Minister) or someone on the Youth Leadership Team know if there is a need and we will work on finding a scholarship for you.

## Youth Transition Activities

When a student completes the 6<sup>th</sup> grade school year, they begin a transition from our church's children's programs into the youth program. One major difference between these two programs is that our children's programs meet from September through the end of May while youth group meets year round. One major event of the youth group during the summer is the Super Summer Christian Camp. This camp is for students who have completed 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The grade promotion for our Sunday School program occurs at the end of August, "Bump-up Sunday", so that it corresponds with the school year. For these reasons it has been decided that the students that have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade are not fully integrated into the youth department until the end of August. However to form the connection and to ease the transition into the youth department, there are several social activities planned during the summer for this group. These activities are designed to give these kids the opportunity to;

- Meet and get to know the youth leaders
- Learn about the youth group and its' activities
- Meet and get to know older members of the youth group



## Back to School Bash

It's a fun night packed with games, fellowship and tons of food. Some activities include team building games and indoor, as well as, outdoor games. Plenty of food rounds out the evening to help our youth get reacquainted with each other after the summer months and welcome our new 7<sup>th</sup> graders to our circle.

## “See You at the Pole”

*See You at the Pole*<sup>™</sup> is a student-initiated, student organized, and student-led event. That means this is all about students meeting at their school flagpole to pray—for their school, friends teachers, government, and their nation. *See You at the Pole*<sup>™</sup> is not a demonstration, political rally, nor a stand for or against anything. *See You at the Pole*<sup>™</sup> is scheduled annually on the fourth Wednesday in September. Find out more at [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Quarters

After every Jay's home football game until midnight there is an organized event for the teens, sponsored by Southridge youth leaders. Events have been held in church family homes, Southridge Baptist Church and the bowling alley. Activities include bonfires, indoor/outdoor games, movies, bowling and always fellowship with other young Christians. The primary purpose of the event is outreach.

## Weekend Retreat

Our Weekend Retreat will be held either in the Spring or Fall. We will be involved in team building activities to build unity among our youth. We will also have Bible study activities, devotionals, games, fun activities and lots of food inside and out.

# Youth Weekly Schedule

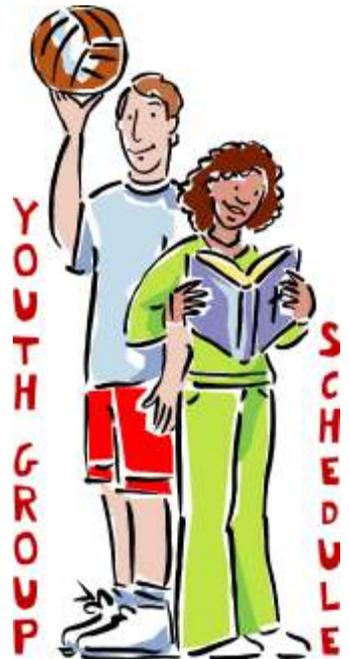
**Sunday  
Activities:**

Sunday School  
9:00am-10:00am  
Worship Service  
10:15am-11:30am  
Puppets (During school yr)  
4:30pm-5:30pm  
Sunday Night Bible Study  
5:30pm-6:30pm  
Evening Worship  
Service 6:30pm-7:30pm

**Wednesday Night Activities:**

Acteens (During school yr)  
5:30pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday Night Youth  
6:30pm-8:15pm  
*Come and join us for Praise & Worship,  
Skits, Video Clips, Games, Prayer,  
Small Groups where we get into the  
meat of God's Word.*

*Every 5th Wednesday, we do  
Random Acts of Kindness  
somewhere in our community*



# Youth Leadership Team Contact Information



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