

SOUTHRIDGE STUDENT MINISTRY



YOUTH & PARENT HANDBOOK

Southridge Baptist Church
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Table of Contents

- Letter from the Youth Leadership Team..... 4
- STATEMENTS..... 5
 - Southridge Mission Statement*..... 5
 - Student Ministry Vision* 5
 - Student Ministry Goals*..... 5
- General Information 6
- Policies and Procedures 6
 - Behavior Guidelines* 7
 - Student Ministry Guidelines* 8
 - Prevention of Child Abuse* 9
- Weekly & Yearly Activities 9
 - Sunday School Program* 9
 - Wednesday Night Embassy*..... 9
 - Drama* 9
 - Prayer Walk*..... 9
- Major Yearly Student Events/Activities 10
 - Super Bowl Party*..... 10
 - D-NOW (Disciple Now)*..... 10
 - Dare 2 Share*..... 10
 - Random Acts of Kindness*..... 10
 - Graduation Sunday* 11
 - Super Summer*..... 11
 - Mission Trip*..... 11
 - Student Transition Activities* 12
 - Back to School Bash* 12
 - “See You at the Pole”* 12
 - 5th Quarters* 12
 - Weekend Retreat* 12
- Youth Weekly Schedule 13

Letter from the Youth Leadership Team

Dear Parents/Guardians of Southridge Students,

We firmly believe that God has something for each of your students 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 leaders to students we want to be a support to every family that is represented in the student ministry.

We may not be the source for all the answers on how to help parents raise students, but we will try to help you understand and try to find resources if you need them.

Our prayer is that each household represented in the student ministry has a strong Christian foundation that we can add to but not replace as the main institution for spiritual development.

For His Glory,

Youth Leadership Team

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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.

Student Ministry Vision

Connect  Grow  Go

Student Ministry Goals

- **CONNECT**
 - Students to God
 - Students to Parents
 - Students to Students
- **GROW**
 - Deeper in your walk with Christ
 - Spiritual Disciplines
 - Owning your Faith
- **GO**
 - Serve in a ministry
 - Share the Gospel with others
 - Become a Student Leader

"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."

Hebrews 5:13-14

General Information

- ❖ Current information on student 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 church website at www.southridgechurch.org under Events and on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Southridge-Youth-1905863292758583/>

- ❖ Parents are always welcome to any student 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 students leave activities with the same person that they arrive with. If your student has permission to do otherwise, please let us know in advance. As required by Southridge policies, all students 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 students 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 student 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 students who participate in activities have a medical release form on file. Parents will always be notified as quickly as possible in an emergency. However, a permission form will allow students 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 school 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

Student Ministry Guidelines

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

1. Movies Guideline – Christian Family Movies and G & PG ratings only. No PG-13 movies or R rated movies are allowed at student ministry sponsored events.
2. Church Provided Transportation Guideline – It is assumed that students will use the church provided transportation for church sponsored events unless other arrangements have been made by parents contacting the student minister or adult sponsor about a special need for a student to have alternative transportation. If a student has permission to drive to an event, no student will be allowed to ride along without parental permission to ride in that specific car for that specific event.
3. Attendance at Student Ministry Sponsored Events Guideline – Students attending church sponsored events are to stay with the group for the duration of the event unless the Student Minister or Youth Workers know the student has permission to leave early. No student is to leave a church sponsored event before it is over without parental consent.
4. Church Use Guideline – Students cannot meet in the church unsupervised (without an adult sponsor). This will probably have some exceptions such as: if some students want to play sports in the gym and staff is in the office area, they can play sports so long as staff is in the building or if a couple students want to study in a room after school. If staff need to leave, the students 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 student minister and parents of the student who should not be at the event. Gender sleeping quarters will be separate.
6. Dress Code – At all student 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 – 9:45 AM each Sunday morning.

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Wednesday Night Embassy

We meet every Wednesday night with different topics discussing Biblical truths. Our Wednesday nights include games, prayer, teaching time, Bible study application and deeper discipleship training.

Drama

Opportunities to participate in skits are scattered throughout the year. Our student-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 student activities

Prayer Walk

Before the local public schools start, the student ministry will 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 Student Events/Activities

Super Bowl Party

On Super Bowl Sunday our students 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 students 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 (Disciple Now)

D-Now is an annual weekend event, 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, activities, 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. We attend the event held in St. Louis.

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; a few times a year our students 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.

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 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 7th-12th grades are welcome to attend. Southridge students attend Super Summer on the campus of Hannibal-LaGrange University in Hannibal, MO. Southridge typically covers a portion of this cost for church members. Super Summer is a great way to start off the summer and our students always return from this week energized and with a deeper passion for Christ. Find out more at www.mostudentz.com

Super Summer Attendance Policy: Anyone may attend Super Summer with Southridge Baptist Church, but in order to receive the discounted rate for Super Summer, a student needs to have a good attendance record. Starting in January of the same year as the Super Summer event, a student must have a reasonable attendance record for student events. Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the student 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 (Student 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 students 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: Please look above under Super Summer for the same information.

Student Transition Activities

When a student completes the 6th grade school year, they begin a transition from our church's children's programs into the student ministry. One major difference between these two programs is that our children's programs meet from September through the end of May while the student ministry meets year round. 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 6th grade are not fully integrated into the student ministry until the end of August. However to form the connection and to ease the transition into the student ministry, the soon to be 7th graders are invited to join us each Wednesday night during the summer time. They are also welcome to join us for social activities planned during the summer. These activities are designed to give these kids the opportunity to: meet and get to know the youth leaders, learn about the ministry and its' activities, meet and get to know other members of the group.

Back to School Bash

This can either be a retreat or a one night event where the purpose is to kick-off the school year for our student ministry. It's a fun event packed with activities, fellowship, food, and encouragement for the upcoming school year. Usually held at the beginning of August.

"See You at the Pole"

*See You at the Pole*TM 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 PoleTM is not a demonstration, political rally, nor a stand for or against anything. *See You at the Pole*TM is scheduled annually on the fourth Wednesday in September. Find out more at www.syatp.com

5th Quarters

These occur after a Jay's home football game until around midnight. This is an organized event for the teens, sponsored by Southridge student ministry. Events have been held in church family homes, Southridge Baptist Church and at the bowling alley. Activities include bonfires, indoor/outdoor games, movies, bowling, etc. 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.

Youth Weekly Schedule

Sunday Activities:

Sunday School
9:00am-9:45am

Worship Services
10:00am

Wednesday Night Activities:

Wednesday Night Embassy
6:30pm-8:00pm

*Come and join us for Praise & Worship,
Skits, Video Clips, Games, Prayer, and
Bible Study*

*On the 5th Wednesdays, we do
Random Acts of Kindness
somewhere in our community*

