WENDY YOUTH

YOUTH SABBATH SCHOOL ASSISTANT

Ministries in the Youth category are responsible for activities and events that have a focus on children, teens, and young adults.

INTRODUCTION

A ministry of planning, spiritual leadership, teaching, building community and program development. It is important that you see teens as an important part of the present church, not just the church to come. Assist the Youth Sabbath School Leader; one or more to provide music, two or more to be part of the leadership team.

DUTIES

1. Teaching. It will often be your job to teach the youth Sabbath School lesson. In smaller churches this will probably be done with the entire group together. Skills in group process and learning styles are essential to this task. And it takes adequate preparation time. You cannot expect to minister effectively to the needs of teenagers if you simply glance over the teaching materials at the last minute. The North American Division Sabbath School curriculum for teens is quite demanding because it deals with the difficult issues of life: sexuality, occupations, the meaning of life, death and dying, ethics, etc. You cannot teach it with casual preparation. You cannot significantly touch the lives of your teens by finding an "easier" set of materials to use.

2. Programming. Perhaps once a month or one month of each quarter you will have the responsibility of planning and organizing the special features and group activities during the first half of the youth Sabbath School. This usually includes music, an opening prayer, time for the teens to share and mix, and an educational or spiritual feature such as a guest speaker, a film or video, a role play, a panel discussion or a learning game or simulation. The best programs include a lot of participation by the teenagers both in planning and implementation.

3. Spiritual helper. Teenagers may come to you asking that you act as a bridge between them and their parents. Often teens are very shy and you will want to preserve their dignity. Listening skills are important!

DUTIES (cont'd)

4. Teamwork. Group members need to know that they can depend on you and that your attendance and participation will be regular. You must take the time to communicate regularly with your division leader and the others involved. You may be asked to attend a planning session once a quarter, and this is a significant time to share insights about the needs of your teens, get your signals straight and coordinate calendars. The youth will pick up on confusion and disagreement between adult leaders, and this will dampen their involvement.