

Middle School Volunteer Announcements September 25

Hello, middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for the week of September 25 2024.

1st of all, thank you to everybody who came along and served at Fall retreat. That is a big sacrifice of your time and energy and sleep. I like to say, nobody comes back from a middle school retreat at Hidden acres and says, wow, that was really restful. But it's so meaningful, so impactful and we couldn't have done it with all those of you who spent the weekend with us. So thank you for serving at Fall retreat.

We turn our attention to this Wednesday, which the theme is duck night. So we're gonna play a giant game of duck, duck goose and maybe a few other duck related activities. It's gonna be fun and random. Random is great with middle schoolers.

I wanna let you all know about something that we do every week on Wednesday nights. It's called the Candy bar. And how this works is it's an incentive to get our students to invite new friends. So if a middle schooler invites a friend who comes to middle school ministry for the very first time, the student who invited the friend and the new friend, both will get a full size piece of candy at the welcome table right inside the entrance of the VCC on the first night for the new student. The hope is that these students are friends who don't have a church home. They don't normally attend a church friends who don't know Jesus. If a kid brings a friend for the first time and they're just visiting and they go to a different church, it's fine. But the goal of this is to invite friends who don't know Jesus and are not connected to any church. So wanted to let you know about that so you can be passing along the information to students in your small group as they ask.

This is going to be week two of our Holy Spirit series. And we're gonna be talking about how the Holy Spirit empowers us---specifically how the Holy Spirit empowers us to live for Jesus.

This week, we're gonna have a 6th grade leader huddle, that means sixth grade leaders at the start of worship through music time, At the end of the night, we will call you out and into the gym and you are gonna have a huddle with an experienced small group leader just as a time of check in to see how things are going with your small group, for you to ask questions, for you to receive advice, encouragement and also to share prayer requests So I wanted to give you that heads up. Sixth grade leader huddle will be at the end of the night this

Wednesday and we will give an announcement so that, you know, when it's time for that.

Our next middle school special event is the blitz all Nighter on Friday, November 1st. We're looking for leaders who want to stay up and spend the night with us playing dodgeball and going bowling and ice skating and rollerblading and jumping on trampolines at sky zone, playing arcade games at spare time. 8 p.m. on Friday, November 1st till 8 a.m. on Saturday, we got a planning team who's already preparing diligently for that event and it's one of the highlights of the year. So you can go to the middle school events page and sign up if you know you want to attend blitz. If you don't wanna stay up all night, there are also parent help opportunities that you can find on the middle school events page.

For the How to win as a middle school volunteer document, I'm on the side that has some don'ts, these are things to not do as a volunteer. Number four says don't be a friend. Students need you to be a leader. Of course, we want you to be friendly, we want you to build relationships with students, but you are a leader first and foremost, which means that sometimes you're gonna need to make unpopular decisions with students.

Sometimes you're gonna have to uphold boundaries. Sometimes you're gonna have to kill the fun in the room for the sake of safety or respect or having a, a more meaningful night. So I want you to have fun with students, but we need you to be a leader first before you are a friend. And students have plenty of friends in their lives---their own peers. What they need are people who can lead them and guide them to maturity and growth in their lives.

This this is a specific challenge I think to those of you who are high school aged, there's that desire to be buddy, buddy with middle schoolers and, and we love that from time to time, but sometimes you gotta step up and be a leader.

Thank you for leading a middle school ministry and we'll see you on Wednesday night!