

Leader Announcements

March 25

Hey, middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for the week of Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Theme: Choose Your Own Adventure Night

The theme for this Wednesday night is Choose Your Own Adventure. We're going to do something a little fun, a little different. It's Choose Your Own Adventure Night because we're going to have three different games going on. One in the cafe, one in the gym, and one in the bridges room. And during game time, students can choose one of those three games. And they can choose whatever game they want. So there will be a more active game in the gym and then some less active games in the cafe and in the bridges room. It's also Choose Your Own Adventure during teaching time because our interns, Jackson Baird, Miles Early, and Owen Wade, are each going to prepare a lesson that they will be teaching in three different locations simultaneously. And so students will be able to choose one of those three lessons to go to. And this will allow kids to go to pick a topic that interests them and they can go with their friends. They can mix genders, mix grades, go with whoever they want to. We'll make sure to provide descriptions of those talks so that kids can plan ahead of time and make an informed decision about what talk they attend. And then you'll be able to pick one of those three talks and one of those three games to be a part of as well. So that's the overall plan for this Wednesday night. You can click on the agenda for more specific information.

Upcoming Events

- This Saturday, March 28, we have Love You Des Moines Family Day from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Valley Community Center. This is where we're going to open up the community center for a variety of family-friendly activities. And we are looking for middle school students and really anybody from Valley Church who wants to help us love our

community to sign up and help lead the different activities that will happen during this time. So we'll need people to help pass out food, serve as greeters, be dodgeball referees, Lego helpers, craft helpers, cleanup support. There's so many options. There will be a link that you can click on to see all the volunteering options. It is open. The volunteer slots are open to any middle school, high school student, or adult from Valley Church who wants to help out.

- There's also another sports and Pokemon trading card night this Saturday, March 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Bridges Room at the Valley Community Center. If that's something that your middle schooler is interested in, feel free to bring them. Or if you have someone younger than middle school, it's really for anyone 17 and under. And the cost to attend is free.
- Next Wednesday, April 1st, is Open Gym and Movie Night. So it's a more laid-back Wednesday night. And the reason we do this is because there's no children's ministry on April 1st. There traditionally is not children's ministry on the week leading up to Easter. And so we don't want to run a full program. But we will have an open gym and movie night. That's Wednesday, April 1st.
- And then Wednesday, April 8, we are going to do a friend night and encourage students to invite friends. And that will be our first night where we get to meet as middle school ministry in the brand new sky venue at the Valley Community Center. I am very excited for that.

Leader Tip: Game Time

For the leader tip for today, I want to share a couple of things about game time. And I want to share about how you can play a role in helping game time go well in middle school ministry. I know that not all of you love to play games. Not all of you are super competitive or athletic. But we would love your involvement in game time to, first of all, provide supervision.

Especially to make sure that nobody is getting physically or emotionally hurt during the game time. So you can be on the lookout and help protect students. Your involvement in game time will help students to listen while we're giving instructions. Which will just help game time run more efficiently. Which means we'll have more time for other activities throughout the night.

In other words, then we don't have to spend as much time shushing students to listen during the instruction time. By participating in game time, it gives you another opportunity. Another way to connect with students. And your participation in game time can encourage more kids to participate. And I understand that you may have a fear of getting injured during the game time. So you don't need to go all out. There is a way of being involved in the game but not really playing. We call that "fake play." Rachel Hoffman is really good at that and can share good advice on how to fake play during game time. But we would love your participation during the game time for all of those reasons. And just to help us all have a great night in middle school ministry.

So thanks for listening. Thanks for checking in. That's all that we have for this week. We will see you this Wednesday night. Thank you!