

Middle School Volunteer Announcements October 7

Hello, middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for the week of Wednesday, October 7, 2026. Thank you all for joining us.

Fall Retreat - Thank You

I'm recording these before Fall Retreat. So if you're watching these or listening to these or reading these announcements, it is now after fall retreat. And I'm just anticipating that it will have been an amazing weekend. And make sure you rest up if you're able to, if you attended. And thank you to those of you that generously gave of your time and your energy to come to fall retreat.

This Wednesday Night

This Wednesday night, we'll continue with our grade-based game rotation. So each grade will be doing a different game or activity at the beginning of the night. Our worship pastor, Jake Farrell, is going to do the teaching, and I'm excited for that. He has spoken a couple times last year in middle school and did an excellent job. And so he'll be able to use his communication gift to share with students. And then we'll have small groups. And I'm excited that we're getting rolling with having middle school students in the Wednesday night worship band as well. So that's just a brief overview of this Wednesday night.

Coming Up

Here's a couple of things coming up just to put on your radar.

- Eighth grade quest, is a theology class just for eighth graders that meets twice a month on Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. And that is launching on Sunday, October 11. So if you know an eighth grader

who wants to really dig in and learn more about why we believe what we believe, please encourage them to sign up for quest.

- On Wednesday, October 14, that is going to be a Friend Night. So the theme is friendship and we're going to encourage all middle school students to invite a friend. We would love to pack out the Sky Venue and man, it'd be awesome to have like 300 people in the room for friend night.
- The Great Pumpkin Party is October 18 through 21. There's plenty of opportunities for you to serve and middle school students can serve by leading the carnival game stations. And it's a highlight for us as a church in regards to reaching out and loving our community.
- And then less than six weeks away, we've got the Blitz All Nighter on Friday, November 13. Since fall retreat is over, the countdown now begins to the Blitz All Nighter.

Leader Tip: Necessary Endings

For the leader tip this week, I'm going to share about the idea of necessary endings. There's a book by that same title written by a Christian psychologist named Henry Cloud, who is most well known for writing a book called Boundaries. But a number of years ago, he wrote a book called Necessary Endings. And the main idea behind the book is that we tend to resist endings. We avoid endings. We think ending things or stopping things is bad. And that is not the best way to go through life because the reality is sometimes we need to let go of certain things or end certain things in order to step into the next thing or to step in to something better.

And that can apply in churches or in business, thinking about different strategies or different programs that might need to be ended so that new things can be invested in. It can also apply in personal relationships, and it also applies sometimes to our job status.

And as many of you probably heard, recently we announced that in May of 2027, I am planning to step away from my job leading the middle school ministry here at Valley Church. And I want you to know that I am so grateful for the 13 plus years that I have had to be a part of this ministry and

connect with so many amazing students and parents and volunteers like yourself. I'm grateful.

Lord willing, we'll continue to have an awesome year in the middle school ministry. And I just, I know that it's time. It's time to pass the baton to the next person. So there is grief when we end things, but there's also celebrating and there's also excitement and looking forward to what is next. I'm grateful for your support this year in middle school, and we're going to continue on. I'm expecting an amazing year in the middle school ministry. The plan is, Lord willing, it's just going to continue to be amazing into the future, into June, 2027 and beyond. And having great people like you on board is going to help that become a reality. See you this Wednesday night. Thanks for all you do!