

SC Chapel

Youth Ministry Handbook

General Information

Welcome to Santa Clara Chapel Youth Ministry! We are so happy you are with us and that you want to take your faith, and your son's/daughter's faith to a deeper level.

Here at Santa Clara Chapel, we are proud to be using Life Teen & Edge Youth Ministries to reach out to our teens grades 6-12.

The Ministries:

To take our youth to a deeper level and help them to have a personal experience with Jesus Christ, we use the materials from Life Teen, Inc. These materials include curriculum for Life Nights (High School) and Edge Nights (Middle School), training for our Core Team, bible study guides, retreat plans, ministry videos, etc.

How it works: **Life Teen** and **Edge** resources are used in over 1,800 parishes around the world, and continually growing. The culture in which we all minister is not static, which is why Edge and Life Teen resources are released three times per year in Support boxes (both online and physical shipments). This allows us to respond to current culture trends our youth are faced with.

Life Teen, Inc. resources are consistently loyal to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, following the lead of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Life Nights (High School Grades 9-12): Each semester (3 months) is designed to have two catechetical nights per month, one issue night per month, and one social night per month. Each semester covers topics from the Catechism, Scripture and the Magisterium.

Edge Nights (Middle School Grades 6-8) are slightly different in that they are designed for a four-year period. Over the course of four years, a Middle School teen going through the Edge program will encounter and learn the entire Catechism. This compliments anything they're already getting through religious education classes.

Gather, Proclaim, Break and Send – Same as the Mass!

Each Edge and Life Night begins with the "Gather." This is a time of social interaction, usually in the form of a game, accompanied by a time of prayer. The "Proclaim" of the night comes next, usually a talk or reflection. The "Break" is next, typically small groups with a time of personal reflection. The "Send" of the evening closes everything with a prayer and/or a song. Then it's clean-up and time to go home!

(Confirmation Year 1 students are required to attend at least 20 Life Nights as part of their formation.)

Teens For Christ Leadership Team:

TFC team is a teen ministry here at Santa Clara Chapel focused on leading teens closer to Christ. It is in response to our Baptism, that all are called to serve Christ in one way or another. TFC Leadership Team is one of the ways a teen can live out that Call here at our parish. TFC Team plans and leads the many apostolates we have for Middle and High School youth in our parish (including Life Teen and Edge ministries.) Applications are available through Youth Ministry H.Q. office in the San Jose building or by emailing deanna@santaclaraparish.org.

The A-Team (Adult Core Leadership Team)

Besides being the Best of the Best! the A-Team is an adult ministry here at Santa Clara Chapel focused on leading teens closer to Christ. It is in response to our Baptism, that all are called to serve Christ in one way or another. Adult Core Team is one of the ways adults can serve Him here at our parish. The Adult Core Team oversees the Teens For Christ Team (TFC) that plans and leads the many apostolates we have for Middle and High School youth in our parish. As an Adult Core Team member, you are the eyes and ears for Mrs. Parks where she cannot always be as youth director. Mrs. Parks does her best to help minister to the teens, but she also needs field agents who can be on the ground with the teens helping to form them, guide them, and be the...well, adult in the room. By joining the A-Team you can make a difference in our teens' lives! Applications are available through Youth Ministry H.Q. office in the San Jose building or by emailing deanna@santaclaraparish.org.

Dress Guidelines

#1 Rule – dress appropriate to the night!

We recommend long shorts or pants/jeans; skirts can be dangerous with some of the games we play! Shirt necklines should come no lower than five fingers from the collar bone, and shirts should be long enough so as to raise your arms without your belly showing. Smiling is only allowed from your face. Be aware of the shoes you're wearing – high heels and flip flops can also be dangerous!

Absolutely NO gang wear, shirts with profanity or shirts that degrade a person's dignity. Hats should be removed before entering the building.

#2 Rule – use your grandma.

If you wouldn't wear it in front of your grandma, you shouldn't be wearing it! (if Jesus works more for you – use Him!)

Did you know?

The Vatican (that's St. Peter's in ROME, ITALY!) has the following dress code:

Accepted

Men

- Long pants
- At least short sleeves

Women

- The knees covered
- At least short sleeves (ie: shoulders covered)
- Necklines no more than five fingers from the collar bone

Rejected

- Shorts
- T-shirts without sleeves
- Short skirts
- Baseball caps inside the churches

You will literally not even be allowed into the church if you're not dressed appropriately!

PLEASE FOLLOW THE SAME GUIDELINES, ESPECIALLY FOR ATTENDING MASS!

Fees

Youth Ministry: \$15 per person/yr

Other fees: may occur as we plan new activities and events throughout the year (ex: pizza party, attending a Christian concert, retreats, etc.)

Fundraising Opportunities: will become available as needed. Teens are expected to participate if they want to take advantage of the funds acquired.