

Teen Leader Guidelines



Age Guidelines for Serving in NextGen Ministries

These age guidelines are for your safety as well as the children.

- Middle school students (**6th graders**) may serve alongside their parents. Additional opportunities to serve without parents may be available based on availability, maturity, and small group leader recommendation.
- Middle school students (**7th-8th grade**) may serve with children 18 months through third grade. There are a limited number of these positions available.
- Senior high school students (9th-12th grade) may serve with children 12 months through 8th grade.
- Must be **18 years old or older** to serve with children under the age of one-year-old.

Expectations

A desire to serve God by helping in our NextGen Ministries.

- Our first desire is YOUR spiritual development, so this cannot be the only hour you are at church each week. There are great opportunities for you to learn and grow at Center Pointe.
- We ask that you be involved in a small group. Serving in NextGen Ministries is not a replacement for participating in a small group and attending student services and/or church.
- You can honor God by your actions and attitude toward the adults and children. Remember, you are a reflection of God's love to the children in the room you are serving.
- To be a teen leader, you need to want to serve and feel the call by God to help with the children.

Responsibilities

This is a big responsibility. It can be fun, but remember your role as a leader comes first.

- Be on time to your assigned area.
- When interacting with children, get down on their level by doing what they do...reading, playing with toys & games, singing songs, blowing bubbles, working on activities and crafts, etc.
- Be willing to pass out snacks, clean up toys & games, help with crafts & activities, etc. Every task plays an important part in building relationships with the children.
- Don't worry; you won't be changing any diapers.
- Assist leaders in keeping children safe.
- Give children your full attention. **Do not use a cell phone when you are serving.**
- Ask for help when you need it. Every question you have is important and adds value.
- When you are finished, please ask the adult in the room if it's all right for you to leave.

Safety Reminders

The safety of the children in NextGen is our top priority. We want parents to feel confident that we provide a loving and safe environment for their child.

- You must have an adult with you in the room/group at all times.
- For the safety of our children and those serving NextGen Ministries, there must always be 2 leaders with the children.
- Remember the children are little (they are younger & smaller than you). Be as gentle as possible and maintain appropriate physical behaviors. Wrestling is for home.

- Only high school age teens and older may release a child to the person who has the security tag.
- Only high school age teens and older may walk children who are crying in the hallways. Nursery children may not leave the Nursery Hallway.
- No child 3 and over should ever be picked up.
- NEVER leave a child alone for ANY reason.

Snacks may be served in some of the NextGen Environments. Following are some additional reminders:

- Snacks are for the children.
- Please wash your hands before and after serving snacks.
- We ask that children be seated at a table to eat snack.
- Please do not feed children any snacks that have fallen on the floor.
- Check each child's security tag for allergy information before offering a snack.

Due to allergies, please do not offer any snacks other than those provided by Center Pointe.

CP appreciates all you do for NextGen Ministries. Our teens are a huge asset and a blessing to both the children and the parents. We hear many wonderful stories about how important you are to the adults who serve alongside of you.

Please complete and return this portion

I understand that I am valued and appreciated. I know that my service in NextGen Ministries benefits the adults, children and myself. By signing this paper, I agree to the above guidelines for teen leaders. I have also reviewed these guidelines with a parent.

Print Name: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____