

**UPWARD BASKETBALL IS ABOUT THE SOUL NOT THE SCORE—
THE PLAYER NOT THE PROGRAM!**



“GREAT COMMISSION” TEAM



KNOW | GROW | SERVE | SHARE





"Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for the good work."
Nehemiah 2:18

As an Upward Basketball Volunteer, you have the incredible opportunity to rise up and build—not just skilled athletes, but young students of strong character and lasting faith.

The great evangelist Billy Graham once said:
"A coach will impact more people in one year than the average person will in an entire lifetime."

Whether coaching or serving in another role, we have an opportunity to share the gospel with countless lives! By weaving sports and faith, we can make an eternal impact on the Kingdom of God.

Let's make every opportunity count!



JOIN THE UPWARD BASKETBALL “GREAT COMMISSION” TEAM!

“He makes the whole body (team) fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body (team) is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

You don’t need to know the game of basketball to serve on the team—
YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW JESUS!

PLEASE PRAY!

This coming season over 50% of the players and their families do not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The harvest is ripe!

Through Upward Basketball we are living out the Great Commission!

“
**If you aim at nothing,
you will hit it every time.**
Pastor Pat”

With much prayer and discussion, we have laid out a strategy that we pray will win many souls to Christ:



UPWARD ENGAGEMENT PATHWAY

The Upward Engagement Pathway is a strategy to help us stay on our “game plan” — ready and focused on our mission, the Great Commission!

The Great Commission is relational!

These are the five main touchpoints we have with Upward families to build relationships and share the gospel.

1 REGISTRATION

This is the first touchpoint with families, as they register for the program.

GAME PLAN:

- ✓ Families receive a warm welcome and email greeting from our lead pastor and Upward director.

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PRACTICE NIGHTS

These begin the week of January 12. Practices run Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.

GAME PLAN:

- ✓ Head coaches are born-again believers in Christ. They will be on the frontlines of ministry with the families on their team.
- ✓ Team will have “huddle time” devotions at practices lead by the head coach.
- ✓ We will offer two parenting workshops during the season. These will take place during two weeks of practice nights.
- ✓ We will highlight different ministries throughout the season—encouraging leaders in those ministries to be present to answer questions.

2 EVALUATION NIGHTS

These are nights following registration, where every player comes in person to complete a skills assessment, size their uniforms, and confirm their registration.

Dates are: October 28 & 30

GAME PLAN:

- ✓ Everyone entering the building will be welcomed with a warm greeting and smile! Smiles are a testimony of God’s love in us! They are powerful!
- ✓ We’ll have a church ministry resource table as a touchpoint for parents to interact with members from our church family and be introduced to our church ministry.
- ✓ From registration, to jersey-sizing, and those evaluating basketball drills in the gym — we will staff it with warm, friendly volunteers, ready to welcome, celebrate and love on these families!

4

GAME CONNECTIONS

These begin Saturday, January 24.

GAME PLAN:

- ✓ Various touchpoints include: greeting families, serving in the snack shack, at the ministry resource table, or on the prayer team, sharing halftime devotions, referee, clean up, & more!
- ✓ At the halftime of every game we share an in-person or video testimony with the fans.

5

BEYOND THE SEASON

When the basketball season concludes the ministry isn’t over! Our desire is to continue building on the disciple-making relationships that began in season.

GAME PLAN:

- ✓ Invite families to special services and ministry events at Greece Assembly.
- ✓ Offer a special night out for Upward parents.
- ✓ Set up “Host Homes” to invite families over for dinner—being present to love on them and answer any questions they may have.



GREAT COMMISSION SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

OUR PRAYER is to see...

- **Players** move from the court *to committed followers of Jesus Christ!*
- **Fans** move from the crowd *to committed followers of Jesus Christ!*

HEAD COACH

Impact the lives of children—for eternity! Use your talents to teach sport fundamentals as well as the value of sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity and respect for authority. Never coached? Don't worry, we will provide you with all the resources necessary to teach the sport, coach your team, and most importantly, share the gospel of Jesus Christ!

ASSISTANT COACH

Make a difference in the lives of children and support the head coach. Use this time to see if you want to be a head coach in the future.

REFEREE

Did you play basketball growing up or have an understanding of the rules of the game? If so, use this gift to make an impact in the lives of children as an Upward referee.

SNACK SHACK

Help our Upward ministry deliver a first-class experience by selling concessions at games. You can impact the lives of parents and kids through your hospitality and friendliness.

PRAYER TEAM

Prayer is the most powerful tool given to us! We need people who will be committed to praying each week for practice nights, game days, and most importantly, for souls!

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Make a difference by greeting families with a warm smile. A welcoming smile could be just what someone needs! You can greet families at evaluation nights or game days.

PRACTICE NIGHT PARTNER

Serve as a connection point to the church for parents and participants on a practice night. Helping connect families to the body of Christ by showing hospitality and intentionality.

SAFETY TEAM & MERT

We want to maintain a safe atmosphere. This involves having assigned individuals to provide safety during Upward activities, as well as those who can offer medical care for injuries.

SET-UP / CLEAN-UP

Help us make sure everything is ready for the families to have the best experience possible. Volunteer to be part of this crew during the week or on Saturdays.

OTHER AREAS INCLUDE...

- Facility and Grounds (snow shoveling)
- Season Celebration (event on March 22)
- Follow-up Team (post-season care)
- Host Homes (post-season dinner group)

“**How beautiful...are the feet of those who bring good news...**
Isaiah 52:7”

➔ WHY COACHING MATTERS

For those of you considering coaching this season...you are about to influence the lives of families for several weeks. Be excited and don't worry, Upward & Greece Assembly will provide the tools you need for the journey, even if you are new to the sport.

Hebrews 12:1-2, Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer, and perfecter of our faith."

YOUR ROLE IN SPORTS MINISTRY

As a coach, you will play a vital role in the sports ministry to players and families. You are on the front lines of what takes place this season.

Sports ministry requires that the sport and ministry are both done with excellence as you give your best effort in teaching the sport and caring for people through ministry opportunities. This league is not "just an Upward league" or "just a church league." It is our chance to provide the best youth sports experience in our community so we may demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ to families!

WE NEED GOOD COACHES

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27

"Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person." Genesis 2:7

When a coach is only concerned with winning at any cost, what is lost is the opportunity to help participants become better people. Being an Upward coach involves teaching more than just the athletic side of a sport. An Upward Sports coach considers Genesis 1:27 and 2:7 to realize that God created everyone. He created every young athlete participating in the league. He created the coaches and all the volunteers. God created everyone in His image. As image-bearers of God, we should treat everyone with the love and kindness that God treats them with.

PLAY WITH PURPOSE

A coach can help develop not only a player but a person! That person has a long-term impact on the community, their family, and eternity. You coach—they play with purpose. As a coach you play a major role in encouraging your players **mentally, athletically, spiritually and socially**.

...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16

EVERY SOUL MATTERS!

TO SIGN UP TO SERVE:

COACHING LINK: greeceassembly.org/upwardcoach

SEASON VOLUNTEER LINK: greeceassembly.org/upwardserve

EVALUATION NIGHT LINK: greeceassembly.org/evaluations

**Evaluation nights take place pre-season: October 28 & 30 — so let us know soon!*



UPWARD VOLUNTEER FORM

**Online registration is preferred (greeceassembly.org)*

APPLICANT INFORMATION

FULL NAME: _____ BIRTH DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING GREECE ASSEMBLY: _____

CHARACTER REFERENCE

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST

PLEASE PLACE A CHECK MARK NEXT TO THE AREA(S) IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED:

<u>PRE-SEASON</u>	<u>SEASON (January - March)</u>	<u>POST-SEASON</u>
<i>Evaluation Night—Oct 28</i> <i>Evaluation Night—Oct 30</i> <i>Evaluation Night—Nov 20</i> <i>Data Input</i> <i>Team Recruitment</i> <i>Prayer Team</i>	<i>Head Coach</i> <i>Assistant Coach</i> <i>Referee</i> <i>Snack Shack</i> <i>Hospitality</i> <i>Safety/MERT</i> <i>Prayer Team</i> <i>Set Up/Clean Up Team</i> <i>Practice Night Partner</i> <i>Facility & Grounds</i>	<i>Season Celebration</i> <i>Host Home</i> <i>Connection Team</i> <i>Event Planning</i>

ADDITIONAL NOTES/COMMENTS:

**Please complete and return to Pastor Vicky (Mailbox #62 or Office #207)*

