

# Committed High Schoolers



**It's time for a long-overdue update! Since it's been almost five months since the last update and I have a lot to share, I'll send out a few smaller updates over the next couple of months rather than one big update. In this one I'll focus on one ministry highlight from the past several months and its possibilities for the future.**

This year we intentionally expanded the number of spiritual emphasis weeks in which we take high school students with us as team members. In addition to Concord Christian Academy students joining us at a Massachusetts school during CCA's annual service week, we also had a team of high schoolers (and one of the teachers) from Jesse Remington High School join us at another school in Massachusetts. They willingly gave up their vacation week to come with us! In March we also had 2 high school girls from Berkshire Christian School venture to a school in New York with us. They did much of their classwork ahead of time to be able to miss a week of classes.

What does this mean for the future? We are intentionally planning our schedule next year to provide more opportunities for high schoolers to come with us. When schools in one state are on vacation, we're trying to schedule a spiritual emphasis week in another state. In addition, we will try to recruit students from schools where they may be allowed to get ahead in their classwork and then join us for a week. We're excited about the possibilities! Please pray for new doors to open, and if you or a high school student you know are interested in joining us for a week, please let me know! [matthuffman88@gmail.com](mailto:matthuffman88@gmail.com)



**Jenny and Emily taught origami after school.**





## Advantages to bringing high schoolers with us:

- More team members = more ministry opportunities. Not only can we do more, but different students also connect with different team members.
- The elementary and middle school students can relate to them better.
- There is added energy to the team and to the week.
- They get to put their faith into action as well as receive so much from giving of themselves.
- We can mentor them as they mentor the younger students.
- They get to stay with an awesome host family and experience life at another school. It expands their Christian circle and they can see God at work in other places besides their own school/church/family.
- It's fun! ☺

### What the students said about the high schoolers:

*"I think it was a great idea to bring along teenagers. It was really easy to connect with them, especially at lunch. Overall, this was definitely the best Spiritual Emphasis Week I've ever experienced."* – Catherine

*"I liked how they brought teenagers along. It's a good way to connect."* – Quincy

*"This week was so fun and the fact that almost all of the people there were teenagers was really inspiring."* – Robbie

*"Every day 2 or more Coastlands people would play basketball with us at morning break. I also liked how they came to lunch with us and talked with us. I really liked how they had high schoolers."* – Joseph

*"This year's spiritual Emphasis week was the best I have experienced. I thought it was awesome that the high school kids would give up their winter break to spend time with us. It made me want to maybe join something like Coastlands when I am older. I LEARNED A LOT, and most of it was crucial to my walk with Christ."* – Jayden

*"This year's Spiritual Emphasis Week was awesome. I am so glad that we got so many great high school kids! I am so thankful that they gave up their break for us. I will be praying that it will work out so they can come next year. This week brought me much closer to my walk with God. I can't wait till next year and I will pray that everyone will be back (and some new faces too). Thanks Coastlands!"* – Josh