
THAXTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Youth and Children Volunteer Packet

V O L N T E E R

all that's missing is U!

Dear Potential Volunteer,

I am so excited that you are interested in working with the youth and children's ministry here at Thaxton Baptist Church.

I am always looking for volunteers to serve on our team. I believe that a solid ministry is built on relationships between adult volunteers and students. These relationships are key to students feeling cared for and accepted. They are also open doors to share God's love in practical and exciting ways.

The quality of our volunteers is very important. I am looking for men and women who have a commitment and a passion for Christ, and a desire to care for children, junior high and high school students. Please take the time to read the material, consider your areas of giftedness and passion, and fill out the application form with much prayer and consideration. I place great value on this ministry, so I place great value on our volunteers.

Once I have received your application, I will call you to schedule an appointment with you. All information will be kept strictly confidential. In the mean time, please feel free to observe our Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday night programs.

I'm looking forward to meeting with you and spending some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any questions or need to reach me, please feel free to call me at 540-586-8348.

Serving them to reach them,

Thaxton Baptist Church

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

_____ I acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life and I have a personal relationship with Him.

_____ I am committed to growing and maturing my relationship with Christ through Bible reading, Scripture memorization, and involvement in accountability.

_____ I am committed to actively attending Thaxton's weekly worship services.

_____ I am committed to choices and a lifestyle that are both Godly and above reproach knowing that my lifestyle is a model for the children and youth I work with.

_____ I understand the philosophy and values of this ministry and agree with its purpose and commit to shepherding students that God brings into my ministry.

_____ Because I am making a significant commitment and my presence is vitally important, I agree to be consistent and timely to the programs I commit myself to. I also agree to communicate with the Youth and Children's pastor if I will be absent.

I am making a commitment to the following programs:

_____ Sunday morning: Children or Jr. High or Sr. High

_____ Sunday evening: Hosanna Choir or PACK Choir or Children's service

_____ Wednesday night: Children or Jr. High or Sr. High

_____ Special Events (VBS, outreach etc.)

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

HOW TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LIVES

This document will later explain the application process, but first it is important for you to understand what kind of commitment I ask of our volunteers. For an effective ministry with the youth and children you need to...

1. Understand the ministry values of the youth and children's ministry

Take a look at the ministry values that makes our ministry effective at reaching and caring for youth and children's.

2. Commit

Consider the role for which God has SHAPED you in order to build relationships with youth and children.

What does it mean to consider the role for which God has SHAPED you?

S.H.A.P.E.

- **S**piritual gifts—how has the Lord gifted you spiritually?
- **H**eart (Passion)—what drives you, excites you, motivates you?
- **A**bilities—what talents have you developed that you can share?
- **P**ersonality—what is your temperament, comfort level, etc.?
- **E**xperiences—what have you done that has prepared you to serve?

When evaluating in light of your SHAPE, you can see how important it is to have the right people plugged in to the right areas. When individuals are plugged in to the roles that best suit their shape it is a better situation for all involved. The ministry benefits greatly by having volunteers that do not get frustrated in their role and children and teens that receive the direction, mentoring, ministry leaders, care, love, and teaching that they need.

Spend some time searching out and finding your SHAPE. How do you fit in the youth and children's ministry? Don't be afraid to change your role if your SHAPE points you in a new direction.

3. Grow as a volunteer

Develop your personal ministry to youth and children and your personal walk with Jesus Christ.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED IN THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (EXPLAINED)

The first key to being involved in the youth and children's lives is to understand the philosophy and ministry values of the youth and children's ministry and how that drives our programs.

Ministry Values:

Ministry values reflect our values, attitudes and beliefs that “influence” our purpose. We try to incorporate these values into all of our programs.

Authenticity: Youth and children desperately need to see the “real thing”. Because of this, we try to be authentic in our approach to ministry. We want to present the gospel in a relevant and authentic manner and we want to model an authentic walk with Christ.

Adventure: Life for the believer is EXCITING! God promises us an adventurous, abundant life. We try to model to youth and children that Christianity is the most exciting life that they can possibly have.

Attention to Individual Needs: We want the size of our group to be an asset, not a liability. We try to be extra aware of youth and children on the fringes and do our best to meet individual needs so that no one falls “through the cracks”. This is just one reason why our volunteers are vital to the health of our youth and children's ministry.

Availability: Although we understand the need to balance ministry with our other priorities, we also recognize that the most effective ministry comes through adults being available to youth and children. We want to be effective, so we spend time with the youth and children.

Accountability: There are few things we want more than to have a strong reputation both inside and outside the church. The higher our integrity, the larger and stronger our ministry will be. We want our youth and children's volunteers to be the most responsible, safe, and spiritually sincere people in the church.

Acceptance: Although we recognize the fact that all youth and children are different in personality, gifts, and spiritual levels, we make a strong effort to treat all youth and children as Christ would. Every youth and child that walks through our doors is the apple of God’s eye...even if at times it seems rotten.

Atmosphere: We are in the business of ministering to youth and children. Therefore we strive to constantly create an atmosphere that is warm, welcoming, friendly and exciting. Our atmosphere, both physically and spiritually, is geared to appeal to the youth and children ... not us!!

Program and Potential Audience

Program = Potential Audience + Ministry Values

Community Youth and Children

These are all the students in the surrounding area that we could potentially share God's love with. We generally do several outreach events throughout the year. VBS, Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat, coffeehouses, paintball outings, and other youth and children's outreach services are examples of programs designed to share with community youth and children about God's love.

Sunday Youth and Children

Our Sunday school classes for children, Jr. high and Sr. high are designed to create a warm, friendly atmosphere to present truths of Christianity in a relevant manner. This program is geared to expose non-believers and new believers to Christianity as well as provide meaningful input in the lives of students that are further along in their walk with Christ.

Wednesday Youth and Children

Our mid-week program is dedicated to helping youth and children connect with other believers and a caring adult. We meet collectively for singing, inductive Bible study, games, and refreshments before breaking into occasional small groups. Small groups of youth and children and an adult volunteer will meet during this time for connecting, encouragement, accountability, and prayer.

Youth and Children Retreats

For our youth and children who are looking to deepen their relationship with the Lord, we offer the youth and children's retreats. These retreats are events such as camps, mission trips and purposeful time of Bible study. These retreats encourage youth and children toward deepening their walk with Christ through Bible reading, Scripture memory, faithful attendance, reading Godly material, Christian services, and more.

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WHAT AM I COMMITTING TO?

Consistent attendance at programs

There is no substitute for faithfulness. Your presence makes ministry happen. (I ask that you arrive 15 minutes early and stay at least 15 minutes late. These are the key ministry times with youth and children.)

Shepherding Youth and Children during the week

Relational ministry is key with youth and children. Commit ½ an hour a week to follow-up with the youth and children through notes, prayer, meetings, phone calls, etc.

Attendance at Youth and Children's functions

As youth and children's volunteers there is no better time to get to know the youth and children than to attend and help chaperone youth and children's events. Volunteers are ALWAYS welcome to attend any events that you can. Please review the Year At A Glance calendar to see the dates of upcoming activities.

Model our ministry values

The ministry values picture the heart and soul we're looking for in our people.

Commitment Options

Option A—

Be committed to ministering at our weekend services—(Sunday youth and/or children services). These services vary greatly in commitment level and responsibility.

Option B—

Be committed to ministering in our Wednesday evening service. This commitment involves mentoring the youth and children both here and outside of church.

Option C—

Be committed to ministering in one of the behind the scenes roles that we have. i.e. helping plan events, volunteering in the office, doing organizational and administrative duties, etc.

REMEMBER—“Be committed to what you've committed to!!”

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER COVENANT

What can you expect from me?

- To give positive support to the volunteers
- To give spiritual support and leadership to the students and staff
- To empower you for success and fulfillment in your ministry
- To be dependable
- To be available
- To “chart the course” for the ministry
- To give honest, constructive input when needed
- To be motivators
- To be Christ-like role models to students and staff
- To model servant-leadership
- To keep you updated via e-mail

What can we expect from you?

- To be reliable and dependable
- To be a Christ-like role model for the youth, children and parents
- To have a servant’s heart
- To communicate with us regularly (needs, joys, frustrations, etc.)
- To be loyal to TBC and the youth ministry
- To seek a lifestyle of purity (relationships, habits, free-time, etc.)
- To be faithful in church attendance
- To be committed to personal spiritual growth
- To “Be committed to what you’ve committed to”

HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER— THE PROCESS

1. Express Interest

You may have an interest, but are unsure where you can help. Some of the best volunteers come from the most unlikely people, so take the next step as you prayerfully consider this ministry.

2. Initial Contact

This is an opportunity for us to briefly get to know each other and for us to hear about your desire to work in the youth and children's ministry. I will give you a general overview of our ministry and arrange for you to visit and observe our programs.

3. Receive Youth Ministry Material

You will be given a volunteer application packet describing the different areas of our ministry, the values of our ministry, and the purpose behind our ministry.

4. Complete the Application Packet

The packet is designed in order to obtain appropriate information to be used in the selection process. Again, a great ministry is counting on great volunteers.

5. Observe Programs

While in the process of completing the application process, you are encouraged to observe our programs during planned visits with myself. This is an important opportunity to get a feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities placed on you.

6. Interview

This is an opportunity for you to share thoughts from your observations, describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working with the youth and children's ministry. We'll discuss a more specific job description that coincides with your gifts, talents, passion, and abilities.

7. Consider the Commitment

I want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek counsel from family/friends about your commitment.

8. Follow-up Meeting with Me

Once you've made your decision to make the commitment, you'll sign a commitment contract, which lays out the expectations for the ministry. We will also make sure all of your application material has been received.

9. Begin Ministry

This time frame will vary depending on your involvement and desire.

Thaxton Baptist Church Youth and Children's Volunteer Application

Thank you for taking the time to share with us about you. We want you to know that the following information will be confidential and only shared with appropriate pastoral staff.

General Information

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

DOB _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail Address _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Work: Part time _____ Full time _____ Student _____

Marital Status: Single _____ Married _____ Divorced _____

Education

High School _____ Year Graduated _____

College _____ Year Graduated _____

Degree _____

Personal Information

Please write a brief testimony about how and when you became a Christian.

How would you describe your spiritual walk now?

What accountability to your spiritual walk do you have?

What people or experiences have been most significant in your growth as a Christian?

What do you do when you have a conflict with someone? How do you handle confrontation?

Are there any special issues or concerns happening in your life right now that would have an impact in your commitment and involvement in the youth and children's ministry (relationships, other commitments, etc.)?

Legal/Lifestyle Concerns

In caring for youth and children, we believe it is our responsibility to seek adult volunteers that are able to provide healthy, safe and loving relationships. Any special concerns can be discussed individually with the pastoral staff.

Have you ever gone through treatment for alcohol or drug use? _____ yes _____ no
If yes, please describe:

Do you have any habits that would impact your commitment or involvement in the youth and children's ministry?

What is your view on drinking alcohol and using drugs?

Have you ever been arrested and/or convicted of a crime? _____ yes _____ no
If yes, please describe:

Have you ever been accused of or convicted of any form of child abuse? _____ yes
_____ no

Ministry Information

How long have you attended Thaxton Baptist Church?

What other ministries have you been involved in and what are your reasons for ending those ministries?

Have you ever been in a youth and children's ministry before, either as a student or adult leader?

Describe your impressions of the experience.

What spiritual gifts do you feel you have and how would you like to use them in this youth and children's ministry?

Do you have any special skills that could be helpful to the youth and children's ministry (drama, music, sports, etc.)?

Why do you want to work in the youth and children's ministry?

What are some of your expectations of the youth and children's ministry and staff?

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I, the undersigned, give my authorization to Thaxton Baptist Church to release any records or information relating to working with minors.

I understand that the personal information will be held confidential by the professional church staff.

Signature _____

Date _____

Thaxton Baptist Church Background Check Authorization

Print Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Former Name(s) and Dates
Used: _____

Current Address Since: _____
(Mo/Yr) (Street) (City) (Zip/
State)

Previous Address From: _____
(Mo/Yr) (Street) (City) (Zip/
State)

Previous Address From: _____
(Mo/Yr) (Street) (City) (Zip/
State)

Social Security Number: _____ DOB: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Drivers License Number/State: _____

*** SSS# must be given as well as driver's license# in order for the background check to be completed.**

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby authorize **Thaxton Baptist Church** and its designated agents and representatives to conduct a comprehensive review of my background causing a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report to be generated for employment and/or volunteer purposes. I understand that the scope of the consumer report/ investigative consumer report may include, but is not limited to the following areas: verification of social security number; credit reports, current and previous residences; employment history, education background, character references; drug testing, civil and criminal history records from any criminal justice agency in any or all federal, state, county jurisdictions; driving records, birth records, and any other public records.

I further authorize any individual, company, firm, corporation, or public agency (including the Social Security Administration and law enforcement agencies) to divulge any and all information, verbal or written, pertaining to me, to **Thaxton Baptist Church** or its agents. I further authorize the complete release of any records or data pertaining to me which the individual, company, firm, corporation, or public agency may have, to include information or data received from other sources.

**** Thaxton Baptist Church** and its designated agents and representatives shall maintain all information received from this authorization in a confidential manner in order to protect the applicants personal information, including, but not limited to, addresses, social security numbers, and dates of birth.

Signature: _____ Date: _____