

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

We are called to serve and witness in our local churches and to the communities we live in. A youth leader is equipped for his or her ministry by the gifts received from the Holy Spirit.

From the record of Christ's life, we receive an indication of the value He has placed upon the young. He selected young adults among the twelve apostles such as John "the beloved".

Those who lead youth and young adults today must see them as an important part of today's church, not the church to come, for they are about the same age as were the founders of Adventism.

Activities and Events

In addition to Sabbath School, youth will benefit from other activities. Work with the group to plan events which will keep interest and involvement alive.

Suggestions include:

- *open house* in a home once or twice a month. (A Friday night get-together with special topics)
- a *Saturday night* group activity to foster positive social relationships
- an *all-day or weekend outing*
- select a community outreach project or plan a mission trip where youth and young adults can demonstrate their faith in concrete ways and act on good intentions.
"Fly 'n Builds" provide opportunities to give service to the mission field. The conference staff will know how to help you make arrangements.
Your local church *community services* leader will know about needs among the poor in your community. Opportunities exist to *"adopt a family"* or *"adopt a grandparent"* or become involved in some other project such as *tutoring, health screening, helping the homeless and disaster relief.*



THE MINISTRY OF THE **Youth Sabbath School Director**

Have you been asked to serve your local church as Youth Sabbath School Leader? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what a Youth Sabbath School Leader is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

The Role of the Youth Sabbath School Leader

The leader of the youth/young adult division of the Sabbath School serves the most alive, idealistic, inquisitive and promising members of the body of Christ. It is a crucial role for the church!

The importance of this ministry cannot be over-emphasized. This task involves caring for a group of people who are sometimes difficult to accept. Some of them still deal with tremendous changes in their emotions, behaviour, attitudes and beliefs. Some still have not made concrete choices about their vocation. Some are married while many are finding mates and some will be permanently single. A leader's Christian commitment, unconditional love and support for youth may be tested as they struggle to find their way.

The youth leader is responsible for:

- developing and organizing a Sabbath School program and one or more classes for the 16-30 age group
- selecting assistants to help direct Sabbath School activities
- attending the Sabbath Council as this group develops the overall plan for Sabbath School
- finding ways to identify with the particular concerns, fears and needs of youth members
- being aware of the secular culture that influences youth and young adults (books, DVDs, music and television programs)

Becoming a Youth Leader

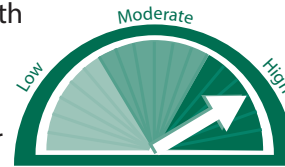
A leader is elected by the church nominating committee on a yearly basis.

Responsible to Sabbath School Director

Term of Office At least one year and ideally longer to allow relationships to be built and nurtured.

Time Commitment

- The time demanded for youth ministry is high. In addition to Sabbath morning, you will need to have at least two hours a week for preparation, planning meetings and to make personal contacts.
- The leader and assistants should share obligations and learn to delegate so no one is burdened with too many details.
- Be willing to be available on regular informal occasions and when special needs arise. Your work as a leader may involve time on a weekday.



The Youth leader must be able to look at people with the eyes of Christ and love them as they are.



Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of Youth Sabbath School Leader.

- **Teaching:** Is the capacity to communicate the love of Jesus in a practical, meaningful way. To facilitate a climate where real learning can occur, where no question is forbidden and all questions deserve answers.
- **Hospitality:** is the ability to provide a genuine, safe and comfortable place to be. A youth leader needs to show genuine hospitality wherever he or she goes, causing youth to feel relaxed and valued.
- **Exhortation:** The special ability to encourage and comfort others. It involves helping and healing, particularly for those who are bereaved, lonely or discouraged.
- **Pastor/shepherd:** To be able to carry a personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers, overseeing, protecting and guiding. (This gift is not limited to church pastors)
- **Leadership:** Is the ability to help a group set goals and communicate those goals to others. Leaders promote harmony and team work. A leader should exercise diligence and faith in ministry.