



TCAA Student Ministries

Leader Application Form

2023-2024

"Connecting Lost Students to a Mature Walk with Christ."





TCAA Student Ministries Student Ministries Leader Application

Commitment Term: July 2023 – June 2024

As Maximus from *Gladiator* put it, “What we do in life echoes in eternity.” Imagine—if God were to tell you that He was taking you “out of the game” in 6 weeks, what would you have left behind for the Kingdom?

This question should wake us up as Christians. While much of what dominates our daily lives can be utterly passing (Netflix, political comment wars, etc.), true disciples of Jesus should be consumed with thoughts like:

“For if I preach the Gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” *Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:16*

“For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building . . . Let each one take care how he builds upon it.” *Paul, 1 Corinthians 3:9-10*

“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so *prove* to be My disciples.” *Jesus, John 15:8*

These statements from Scripture demand that we each stop to ask: “Is my personal mission aligned with Jesus’ mission? Do I see spiritual ‘fruit-bearing’ as an absolute necessity? Am I purposing my life around making disciples?” In 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, Paul goes on to write that the quality of what we build will be exposed and evaluated when Jesus returns. To paraphrase his words, all Christians will be saved, but **not all will be rewarded.**

That thought should both terrify and excite us! We are invited to participate in the construction of God’s eternal dwelling place: His *people*. (1 Peter 2:5) How incredible! Pause and reflect... **What is your life building?** How are you going about building it? Further, how can we as Christians measure the worthiness and lastingness of our work?

Our **mission statement** in Student Ministries (“SM”) at TCAA is,

“Connecting lost students to a mature walk with Christ.”

What does it mean for someone to have a “mature” walk with Christ? 1 John 2:6 defines a “mature walk” in this way: “Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which Jesus walked.” There you have it: A mature walk with Jesus means walking as He walked. Therefore, “connecting students to a mature walk” means that we want to **help students live their lives the way that Jesus lived His life.** That’s what real discipleship looks like. That’s what real discipleship always produces.

Our disciple-making process is simple: We host **Sunday School** year-round, and Wednesday night **Youth Group** during the school year. These activities are designed to help save students and produce lives fully surrendered to Christ by 1) Producing a compelling and guiding knowledge of the Bible, 2) Fostering belonging among Christian peers and mentors, and 3) Inviting and equipping individuals to take measurable steps of growth in their personal relationships with Jesus. Throughout the year, we also host **StudentServe**, a leadership team for students, designed to train them to be confident, fruitful, lifelong disciple-makers. **StudentServe** meets 2 Sundays a month from July to April. These programs are our key opportunities to be “builders and harvesters” (1 Cor 3:9) in the lives of students.

What does the SM Leader role in this process look like? What can you expect if you join our team?

As an SM Leader, your ultimate goal and commitment will be to show students a **pattern for spiritual growth** through **modeling, investment, and invitation**:

- **MODELING** means that leaders demonstrate what a mature walk with Jesus looks like in their words, attitude, and actions. If a student spent a day or even an hour with you, what would they observe about Jesus' place in your life?
- **INVESTMENT** means that leaders put forth the time and effort to get to know their students, so that they'll know your words and leadership come from a place of genuine care. 10 years from now, what will your students remember you doing to show that you were personally devoted to their growth?
- **INVITATION** describes the critical but often uncomfortable step of issuing direct calls for life-change to your students, in the context of consistent and invested relationship. What specific challenges and accountability are you presenting that will motivate turning points in students' spiritual lives?

All leader responsibilities fit within that 3-part mission. Here are the **specific expectations** you are committing to fulfill, from **July 2023 through June 2024**, if serving as an SM Leader:

- Live** such that you can honestly say you are abiding in Christ (John 15:1-11) and seeking to be like Him (1 John 2:6; Luke 6:43-49), in mission, lifestyle, purity, service, worship, etc.
- On Sunday mornings, be present in the main **worship service** at TCAA (11am). This sets a critical example for students regarding worship habits and Christian community. Though **not** a requirement, leaders are strongly encouraged to attend Student Sunday School (9am), if able.
- On **Wednesday nights** (6:15-8pm during school year), be present to lead your assigned small group.*
- Attend the **1st StudentServe meeting** (4th Sunday of July). While not required, leaders are strongly encouraged to attend *all* team meetings, as StudentServe is the core of SM's mission and growth.
- Host 1 gathering** for your small group outside of normal youth activities each semester (2 per year). This will be done with the support of Pastor Luke!

**As occasional absences occur (due to work, travel, illness, etc.), we kindly ask that leaders let us know a week in advance, so that substitutes can be found to lead your Wednesday night small group.*

We want our leaders and ministry to be healthy, which requires margin in your schedule and consistency on Sundays and Wednesdays. In light of the expectations above, **prayerfully** consider the following questions:

1. Do I have other non-negotiable commitments that might hinder my ability to serve/attend faithfully on Sundays and Wednesdays this year?
2. Where else am I already serving and/or considering serving? Can I serve faithfully in all of these areas without experiencing burnout?
3. If I serve in youth, will I still have time for physical, emotional, and spiritual refreshment in my schedule?
4. How has God confirmed His call for me to serve with Student Ministries? What will my "anchor of calling" be when/if my involvement encounters challenges or distractions that tempt me to walk away?

Please **check each box** in the list of expectations above and **sign** below, indicating your understanding of and agreement to fulfill these expectations, before filling out the rest of this form.

Your Signature

****IMPORTANT DEADLINES, DATES, AND INFORMATION****

1. **Pastor Luke’s Contact Info:** (214) 274-6198 | lmcmeyers@tcaa.com
2. **Submission Deadline:** This form must be completed and submitted by **Sunday, July 23rd**. You can email a scanned or photographed copy to Pastor Luke, or submit it physically, either at lunch with Luke (his treat!) or during regular church activities.
3. Accepted leaders will be **required to attend** the **1st StudentServe meeting** on July 23rd, and our **Student Ministries Leader Training** on Wednesday, August 9th.

As you complete this application, you may write in your answers by hand, or type/print them and attach them to the form.

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Your Full Name: _____ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy): _____
 Cell Phone: _____ Spouse’s Name (if married): _____
 Primary Email: _____ Anniversary Date (if married): _____
 Home Address: _____
 Any/All Social Media Platforms You Use: _____

Best way to contact you (circle one): **Text** / **Email** / **Call** / **Carrier Pigeon** / **Other**
If “other,” please specify:

- a. What is a cool fact about you that most people don’t know?
- b. What is the biggest life event on your horizon this year (milestone, transition, celebration, obstacle)? Please tell me the date/season, if applicable!
- c. What is the biggest way I can support and pray for you personally this year?
- d. What is your preferred time/place to meet up 1-on-1?
- e. What is your **favorite** . . .
 Candy: _____ Snack: _____
 Cold Drink: _____ Hot Drink: _____
 Place to Eat: _____ Location for \$10 Gift Card: _____

2. SPIRITUAL LIFE

- a. Please share a brief story of how you came to know Jesus as your savior.
- b. The word “*testimony*” is a legal/courtroom term. It is used to describe the first-hand evidence that a witness presents to the jury to convince them to make the right decision, based on the facts. As Christians, we should think of our “testimonies” the same way: We are giving someone personal evidence—things we have experienced first-hand—to convince them to follow Jesus. So, what is *your* testimony? ***What things have you personally experienced that have convinced you that Jesus is worth following?*** How have you seen Him at work in your life? What has He changed in you? What would you be missing without Him? Please share briefly below.
- c. Describe your weekly spiritual life (Bible reading, prayer, church activity, accountability, discipleship/mentorship, Christian relationships outside of church, etc.).
- d. What do you think is the difference between **knowing *about* Jesus** and **knowing Jesus** (see James 2:19)? How are you actively pursuing the latter, on a daily basis?
- e. How comfortable are you **sharing the Gospel**? Please check one:
- I feel I could comfortably share the Gospel—even spontaneously—if the opportunity arose.
 - I know the basics of salvation and could probably share the Gospel, if given time to prepare.
 - I am unsure if I could explain the Gospel to someone.
 - The idea of sharing the Gospel with someone is actually very scary for me.
 - I don't think that I am called to be evangelistic, so this is not an area of importance for me.
- f. What is one **specific** way you want to grow spiritually over the coming year?

f. What do you think your **spiritual gifts** are, and why? (Hint: A good way to figure this out is to ask, “What are the ways I enjoy being used by God? How do I usually like to serve/bless others?”)

g. Please give an honest description of your strengths and weaknesses. Ask for input from others who know you well!

i. Strengths:

ii. Weaknesses:

h. What age group do you think you'd be most comfortable serving with? Please **number the boxes below 1-3**, with 1 being your most comfortable and 3 being your least comfortable:

Middle School (7th — 8th)

9th — 10th Grade

11th — 12th Grade

i. Do you have any uncertainties/questions about joining our team (expectations, conflicts, ministry identity/goals, etc.)?

5. EXPERIENCE & BACKGROUND

- a. How long have you attended TCAA? How would you describe your current involvement (attendance, other areas of service, etc.)?

- b. Have you already completed TCAA's *Reducing the Risk* program? If so, please specify when.

- c. Please list three people (one from TCAA, two outside TCAA) whom you believe know you fairly well. They **CANNOT be relatives** (parents, grandparents, uncles, etc.). Indicate your relationship to them (employer, mentor, etc.) and include a phone number and email where they may be reached.

Name	Relationship to You	Phone #	Email
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- d. List any churches you have attended or served with (besides TCAA) in the last 5 years. If you served, list the ministry area and your supervisor, and describe the terms on which you left.

- e. Have you ever undergone a process of church discipline? This would include any incidents which effected or interrupted your ability to serve, lead, or participate in ministry, especially with minors. Please describe any such instances in detail.

6. COMMITMENT STATEMENTS

a. **Commitment to Biblical Lifestyle Standards:**

I, _____ (print name), understand that the guiding and binding standard for all of my behaviors and lifestyle choices is Christlikeness:

“Whoever says he abides in Him ought to **walk in the same way in which Jesus walked.**” 1 John 2:6

“How can we who died to sin still live in it? . . . Whatever **does not proceed from faith** is sin.” Romans 6:2, 14:23

“Only let your manner of life be **worthy of the Gospel of Christ . . .**” Philippians 1:27

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only **do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh**, but through love serve one another . . . For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to one another . . . And those who **belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**” Galatians 5:13, 17, 24

Therefore, as a Christian, I commit to regard myself as an ambassador of Jesus Christ, accountable to His law and committed to His Kingdom purposes. Whether socially or privately, before participating in an activity, consuming entertainment or media, engaging in relationships, partaking of substances, or embracing/teaching an interpretation of Scripture, I will ask whether my choices can truly be said to be the result of the Holy Spirit's leading. Should something serve to taint Christ's reputation through me; should it cause stumbling among others by promoting liberty where the Bible promotes self-control, or by exemplifying a questionable practice as something to be embraced by Christians; should it cause a fleshly desire, pattern, or mentality to take root or gain leeway in my life; should it cause the searing or burdening of my conscience; should it fail to adhere to biblical standards for believers in any way; I will willingly and proactively abstain from it. I request that I be held to this standard by Pastor Luke and TCAA.

Your Signature

Date

b. **Commitment to Serve as a Student Ministries Leader:**

Having read and completed this application in its entirety, I, _____ (print name), hereby commit (should I be accepted) to fulfill all of the outlined requirements and expectations for a TCAA Student Ministries leader, for the July '23 – June '24 commitment term. I request that I be held to this commitment by Pastor Luke and TCAA.

Your Signature

Date