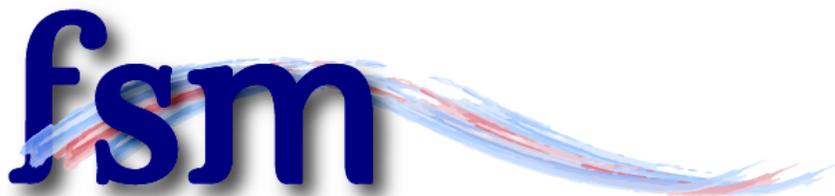




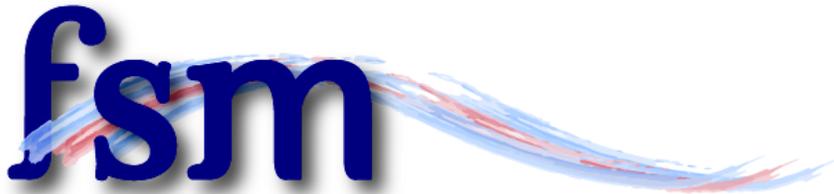
FAIRFAX STUDENT MINISTRY
H A N D B O O K

2013-2014



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WELCOME LETTER

We would like to start out by saying how much we love and appreciate the parents and teens of the Fairfax Church of Christ. We have been richly blessed by God by working with wonderful families who love the Lord and desire to grow in their relationship with Him. We are also supported by a great group of shepherds who are committed to this ministry to teens and families.

The following pages have been provided with a hope that you will understand the purpose and vision for Fairfax Student Ministry. It is also our goal to provide you with as much upfront information as possible to help you understand the in's and out's of the Fairfax Student Ministry. This is a family and like all families, we need to have an understanding of how our family operates. As a family we seek to honor everyone as best we can for the purpose of mutual edification and growth in the Lord.

We thank you for the chance to work with you and/or your family and we hope that you take every opportunity to become involved in the Lord's work here at Fairfax and within the Student Ministry. If you have any questions concerning the material contained in these pages, please do not hesitate to contact Phil McKinney. He would love to talk with you!

In Christ's Love,



Phil's Cell: 703-608-2037

Phil's Home: 703-327-8602

Email: phil@fcxx.org

STUDENT MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Phil McKinney II (Minister)

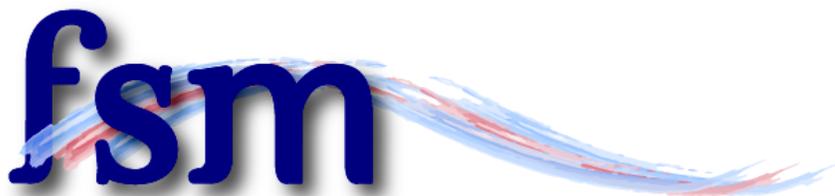
Sammie & Jill Young (Chairs)

Stan & Shelia Bedford

Richard & Michelle Miller

Scott & Melynda Renner

Brian & Mary Ellen Reynolds



VISION, MISSION, VALUES & PURPOSE

The Fairfax Student Ministry fully aligns itself with the Vision, Mission, and Values set forth by the FXCC leadership. We take these very seriously as we plan and look to the future. In addition to the FXCC VMV, we also find a specific purpose for the Fairfax Student Ministry. Please see all these (FXCC VMV & FSM Purpose) stated below:

OUR VISION

We will be God's heart to this community. Connected to God, we will live beyond our abilities, fears and imaginations. With God's power flowing through us, we commit to ...

- Deepen biblical understanding that increases spiritual maturity
- Honor God as the center of our worship and invite others into His presence
- Make the most of our unique location for local and far-reaching spiritual impact
- Provide a home for people seeking unconditional love, peace, belonging, and rest
- Reach out to diverse communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ

OUR MISSION

To boldly show Jesus, to love God, and to love others because God first loved us.

- The greatest truth: God loves us
- The greatest commands: Love God and others
- The great commission: Share the good news

OUR VALUES

The following values express our most passionate and unyielding priorities. They reflect our guiding commitments for vision implementation.

Connecting with God

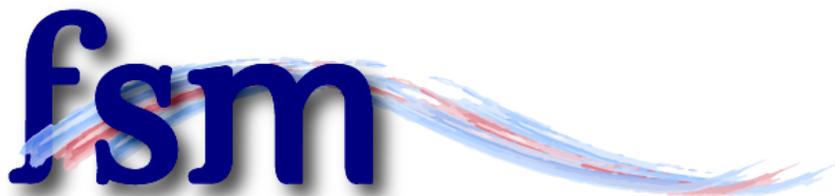
- Honoring the Authority of Christ
- The Bible as the Inspired Word of God
- Worship that Pleases God

Connecting with Christians

- Loving Community

Connecting with others

- Joyful Service



PURPOSE

God has given us a purpose for the Student Ministry here at the Fairfax Church of Christ. There are five things we feel our teens need upon their graduation from high school to be able to keep their commitment to Christ as they make the major adjustment from high school to college. When our teens leave their families, friends, home, church, and youth group, we want them to be:

- Pursuing a **DEEPER** relationship with God.

Christianity is about a relationship with God through Jesus Christ as the Spirit moves us closer to Him. We encourage our teens to focus their time and energy on getting to know who God is and understanding how God sees them because of His great love for them. It is not about rules; it is about the relationship.

- More **SELFLESS**.

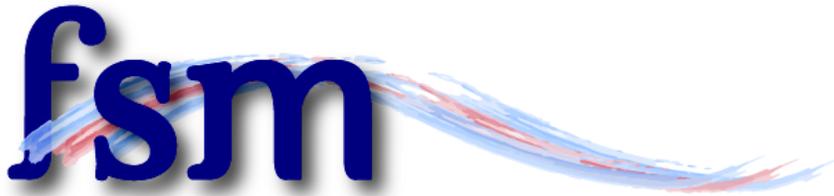
*Jesus' life was about others. He lived to serve others. He died to save others. He rose to set others free from the chains of death. Everything He did was for other people. We want our teens to understand this and as Jesus said, to find life by losing theirs for the sake of others. We want our teens to **BE ON FIRE** to reach the lost for the sake of Christ.*

- **COMMITTED** to Ministry & Service.

We want our teens to be active members of the Lord's body. We want them to be trained to see the needs of those around them and to know how to respond and help. We want them to be servant leaders in Jesus' church because that is what he was.

- More **INTEGRATED** into the church body.

Often when a teen graduates from high school they have some difficulty in transitioning into the next stage of their lives, particularly in relating to the church. For many teens the "Youth Group" is all they know of church. When they do not have that any longer there is a strong sense of displacement. In an effort to help these graduating teens adjust we want to connect them with as many mature Christian adults as possible, and to encourage teens to interact more with their families, and other members of the congregation so that the "Youth Group" will not be their only experience of "church."



- More **FAMILY-FOCUSED**.

Today's world is extremely busy, and it is difficult for families to have time to spend together. But it is imperative that they do. We want to encourage positive interaction between teens and their parents and for families to grow closer in their relationships with each other as they grow closer in their relationships with God.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & INVOLVEMENT

One thing we hear a lot is "How can we help?" or "Why haven't you called us to help?" Sometimes it is difficult to remember everyone who would like to help and, of course, our goal is to involve every parent in this ministry. Parents are always welcome to be a part of any Student Ministry event (unless otherwise specified). As a matter of fact, these events CANNOT happen without your help. Therefore, we are providing you with a list of ways in which you can help. You will find a list of those opportunities below. If you would like to help in one of these areas please contact us and we will assist you in this.

Chaperone Events

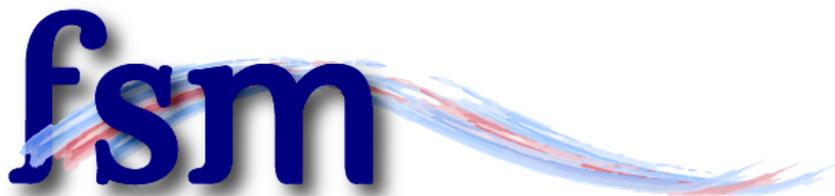
We are always in need of chaperones for all events, including: Retreats, Summer Mission Efforts, Lock-ins, Service projects, and many, many more. Please help us in this by signing up for specific events or by contacting us at the church office. We would love it if you came by to talk about this with us in more detail if you are unsure or unclear about chaperoning. There will be specific duties required by chaperones at events.

Drive Church Van or Provide Vehicle

We have need from time to time for individuals willing to drive the church van or their own vehicle to transport teens. If you are willing to help out in this, please let us know and we'll keep your name on a running list.

Food Preparation for Youth Events

Many of our youth events require a great deal of food preparation. We need as much help as possible with this. You will have opportunity to sign up to help with food preparation for all needed events. We will provide enough spaces for the number of cooks we will need for each event. Please help us with this important task.



Planning Committees

These planning committees consist of parents and adults who have a desire to help plan specific youth activities along with involving our teens and their talents in ministry. Planning committees include: Themed Appreciation Dinners, Service projects, PowerHouse, Senior Appreciation, and others. If you have any interest in serving on one of these planning committees, please let us know.

Teach Classes

Every semester we need teachers on Sunday mornings for the classes offered. Therefore, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please let us know if you are available to teach for a specific semester and we will work to get you involved.

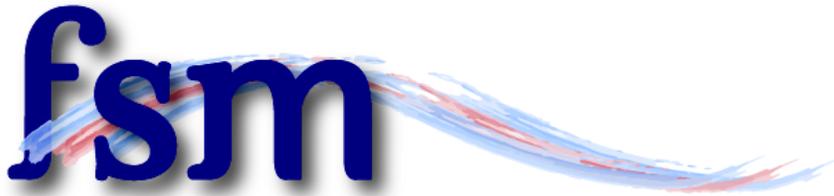
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Our goal for Christian education at FXCC is to train up our teens in the ways of God; to help them build a closer relationship with Christ; to understand and know what they believe and why they believe it; to be able to give the reason for the hope they have; and to help them in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ by maturing in spirit and in truth.

The curriculum will be based on what the Spiritual Formation Ministry has planned for the church as a whole. We understand that we will need to occasionally deviate from these plans in order to meet the needs of the students, or accommodate a trip. We will make every effort to stay on course with this curriculum. Since the adult classes will also follow the plan outlined for the church as a whole, we foresee dynamic conversations between the teens and their parents.

At FXCC we follow a semester format for teaching and curriculum. Below you will find how the semesters are structured:

SEMESTER	CLASSES	CURRICULUM
Fall Semester	ALL YOUTH GROUP (7 th -12 th Grades)	Study from Not On Bread Alone Menu
Spring Semester	7 th -8 th Grade Class/9 th -12 th Grade Class	Church-Wide Study
May-Mester	ALL Teens & Adults Meet	Combined Study
Summer Semester	Guys/Girls Bibles Classes	Gender Specific Study



MISSION EFFORTS

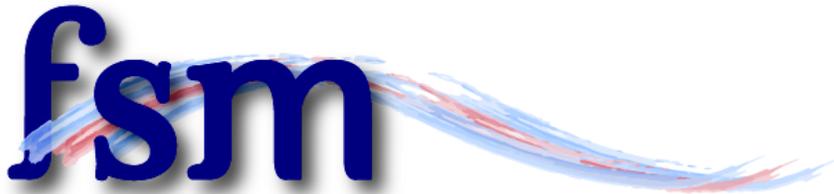
The Fairfax Student Ministry has a long history of mission efforts designed to help our teens and parents gain experience in sharing their faith and in looking beyond themselves to those in need. During the years, the Lord has taken us various places. These trips have not only been a blessing to those we ministered to, but also to the teens and adults who participated on these mission teams. Our focus for these efforts is to “seek the lost” by reaching out to those who need the Lord. You will see by the following descriptions and expectations that we take mission work very seriously as we hold out the Word of Life. We see these opportunities as training for our teens, parents, and other adults/individuals who participate. Therefore, we have more requirements of participants than we do on anything else we do in the Student Ministry.

The mission efforts are broken down into three areas: Community Missions, DR Magi Gift Mission, and one or two Summer Mission Efforts.

- **Community Missions** will take place throughout the year with Fairfax and the greater DC area as the focus. There are no age or additional requirements for these efforts. Little to NO cost will be involved.
- **DR Magi Gift Mission** will take place during December for 6-8 day period. The cost will be no more than \$850-\$1,000 and all 9th-12th grade teens are eligible for this mission effort. This effort is also open to 7th and 8th grade teens, but a parent must accompany the teen on the trip to be eligible.
- **Summer Mission Efforts** will take place during the summer for a period of one to two weeks. The cost will range from \$850-\$2500. Our **Summer Mission Efforts** will only be for 9th-12th grade teens. The additional requirements for these mission efforts are as follows:

The following is a list of eligibility requirements for all FSM Summer Mission Efforts:

1. All eligible candidates must sign up for the prospective mission effort and attend an informational meeting concerning the trip where they will receive an information sheet, application, and study guide for the mission effort test.
2. All eligible candidates must complete an application for the prospective mission effort and schedule an interview with Phil before the designated testing period.
3. All eligible candidates must study and be present for the test for their particular mission effort (must make a B or higher). Failure to take the test at the designated time without prior approval will mean disqualification.
4. An eligible candidate will also be given a “Commitment/Expectation Form” that must be read, signed, and dated by the team member and their parents and handed in at the time of testing.



EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

MONTHLY

DEVOTIONALS: Each month we have a series of devotionals set aside to build teens up through activities, fellowship and scriptural studies. These come in the form of M.A.D. or Saturday Somethings on the youth calendars. These take place on Saturdays from 5:30-9:30 and typically take place at the church building for a central location. Cost varies for these evenings, but usually a \$5 amount for food is needed (teens always have the option to come for free and bring their own food).

- **M.A.D:** Movie and Devotional is a time set-aside for the group to attend or watch a movie and discuss the religious aspects of that movie. These will usually take place on a Saturday evening and will include eating together.
- **Saturday Something:** An event that takes place on Saturday evening and will include a variety of activities from bonfires, service opportunities, hanging out, coffee house, or a simple devotional (and a variety of other events).

SERVICE PROJECTS: Each quarter we will participate in a local service project. Sometimes it will be so local that it will occur at the church building. Some service projects in the past have included the Chantilly Mews Service Sundays, basic needs giveaway, S.O.M.E, D.C. Central Kitchen, babysitting nights, prep for church events, The LAMB Center, etc. Because of the nature of service projects, we won't always know far in advance what, exactly, we'll be doing. But we'll let you know the Sunday prior to the event at latest.

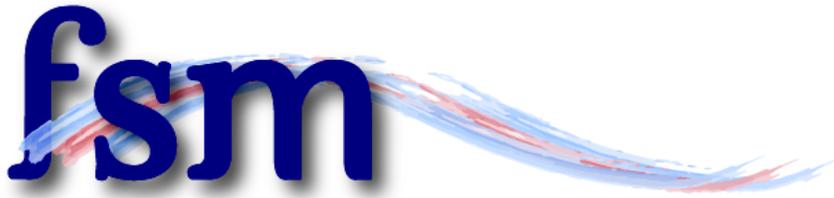
SUNRISE ASSISTED LIVING WORSHIP: The Sunrise service is a time of service for the citizens at Sunrise Assisted Living Center. We will take teens that have volunteered across the Parkway during Bible Class to lead a worship service and will return by the end of the Bible class hour. All teens and parents are invited to volunteer to help. There is no cost for this event and we will use the church van as transportation.

YEARLY

RETREATS (WINTER AND SPRING): We will host a Winter and Spring Retreat each school year. The Winter retreat will focus on a deeper spiritual theme to help our teens grow in their faith while the Spring Retreat will focus on team building and a weekend to reach out and to invite their friends.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: We will host a leadership summit for our students who wish to be better leaders in church, the student ministry, at school, and among their friends. This event is not open to visitors. *There is an application/interview process that is required to attend this event.* This is open to all FSM teens who meet the above requirements and is such a blessing and time of growth for all who attend.

LOCK-INS: Lock-ins are all night events generally held at the building. We will not have more than three lock-ins during the year.



POWERHOUSE/4:12: PowerHouse and 4:12 are our own youth rallies hosted at Fairfax Church of Christ. More information is provided as the event nears.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: The teens will have an opportunity to go to Sunrise Assisted Living to help provide encouragement and joy to the residents in the name of Christ. This will be a time to sing Christmas carols and spend some time in conversation.

Hosting the Over 60's Dinner & New Year's Lock-In: Teens and parents are invited to join us in a themed appreciation dinner for all our adults over 60 on New Year's Eve. This is a special time of service and fellowship that you don't want to miss out on. For those who participate in serving at the dinner, a lock-in to bring in the New Year together will follow.

SUMMER

NO GUYS/GIRLS ALLOWED: Gender specific events that are usually held in the summer to help build relationships within the group and provide a platform to invite friends.

W.O.W: Way Out Wednesdays are events that occur during the summer after Wednesday night classes/events as a fun and uplifting activity.

A.W.O.L: A Work of Love is a service project event held during the summer months, every other week.

GUY'S AND GIRL'S GETAWAY: Each summer we will have a Guy's and Girl's Getaway that is gender specific and focused on getting deeper in our relationship with God and building relationships with one another in a relaxed "getaway" fashion. These are fun trips that are often deeply spiritual and uplifting.

KING'S DOMINION: A fun trip to King's Dominion amusement park is held annually in August for our teens to spend the day together and have a great time.

SENIOR TRIP: Before the school year begins, the new senior class will take a special trip designed to allow them to plan the year's FSM calendar and prepare for how they will lead the group through the year. The location of the trip is determined by the senior class and is a week long.

Of course there will be many events that arise from time to time. We will let you know when these events occur as well as when any sign up or deadline will be. Please be aware that we are trying to move all registrations (even for non-paying events) that require a sign up to FXCC.org website.



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
6	7	8 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	9 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	10	11	12
13	14 No School	15	16 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	17	18 TRANSFORM (7:00-9:30)	19 TRANSFORM (9:00-12:00)
20	21	22 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	23 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	24	25	26 Halloween Coffee House (5:30-9:30)
27 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	28	29	30 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	31	PowerHouse 2013	
***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					PowerHouse 2013	
3 PowerHouse 2013	4 No School	5 No School	6 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	7	8	9 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
10	11	12 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	13 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Fall Family Series (6:00-8:00)	21	22 No School	23 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
24 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	25	26	27 NO WEDNESDAY CLASS	28 No School Thanksgiving	29 No School	30
<p>***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.</p>						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Fall Family Series (6-8pm)	5	6 Winter Retreat 2013	7
DR Magi Mission Effort 2013						
8 Winter Retreat 2013	9	10 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	11	12	13	14 Saturday Something Xmas Caroling (5:30-9:30)
15	16	17 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Holiday Break						
29	30	31 Host 60+ Dinner/New Year's Lock-In	<i>***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.</i>			
Holiday Break						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Lock-In	2	3	4
5	6	7 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	8 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	9	10	11 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
12	13	14	15 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	16	17 Ski Trip 2014	18
19 Ski Trip 2014	20 MLK Holiday	21 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	22 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	23	24	25 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
26 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	27	28	29 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	30	31	
<p>***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.</p>						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2014

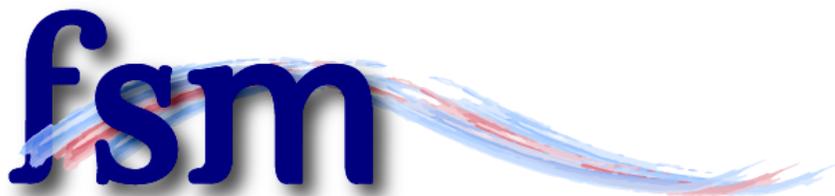
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	5 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	6	7	8 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
9	10	11	12 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	13	14 Leadership Summit	15 Leadership Summit
16 Leadership Summit	17 Leadership Summit Pres. Holiday	18 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	19 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	20	21	22 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
23 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	24	25	26 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	27	28	
<p>***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.</p>						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	5 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	6	7	8 Capital Forum on SF & D
9 Capital Forum on Spiritual Formation & Discipleship	10	11	12 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	13	14	15 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
16	17	18 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	19 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	27	28	29 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
30 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	31	***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.				



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	3	4 Spring Retreat 2014	5
6 Spring Retreat 2014	7	8 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	9 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	10	11	12 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
13	14	15	16 Spring Family Series (6-8pm)	17	18	19
SPRING BREAK (Mission/Activities)						
20	21	22 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	23 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	24	25	26 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
27 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	28	29	30 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)			
<p>***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.</p>						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	7 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	8	9	10 Mission EXPO
11	12	13	14 Spring Family Series (6:00-8:00)	15	16	17 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
18	19	20 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	21	22	23	24
25 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31
<p>***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.</p>						



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	4	5	6	7 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
8	9	10	11	12	13 LCPS Last Day	14
15 Senior Appreciation Banquet	16	17 PWCS Last Day	18	19	20 FCPS Last Day 7 th Grade Induction/Lock- In	21 7 th Grade Induction/Lock- In
22	23	24 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	25	26	27	28 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
29 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	30	31	***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.			



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

JULY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
SUMMER MISSION EFFORT						
6	7	8 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	9	10	11	12 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
SUMMER MISSION EFFORT						
13	14	15 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	16	17	18	19 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
FXCC V.B.S.						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
GUY'S GETAWAY			GIRL'S GETAWAY			
27 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	28	29	30	31		

*****Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.**



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE CALENDAR

AUGUST 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 King's Dominion Trip	6	7	8	9 Saturday Something (5:30-9:30)
10	11	12 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	13	14	15	16 M.A.D. (5:30-9:30)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
SENIOR TRIP						
24 Sunrise Service (10:35-11:35)	25	26 Tuesday Tradition (6:30-8:00)	27	28	29	30
31	***Unless otherwise stated, all activities will take place at the church building.					



EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

We realize that expectations and guidelines can be quite ambiguous in many areas of life. Therefore, we believe that it is important to make it known to you as a teen or parent what you can expect from us and we will expect from you. We will also provide guidelines that will be followed for all that we do within the Fairfax Student Ministry.

EXPECTATIONS

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

FRIENDS

We will provide a Christian peer group. We will make every effort to provide an environment where spiritual growth and fellowship can occur in the midst of Christian friendships.

LEADERS

We will strive to provide a team of responsible adult leaders who desire to serve others with hearts and hands and model a devoted and passionate relationship with Christ.

TRANSPORTATION

You can expect safe, efficient, and dependable transportation while traveling with the Fairfax Student Ministry. Your safety is paramount to us!

RESPONSIBILITY

While on youth functions, we will take the responsibility of the teens in our care. We take that responsibility very seriously while they are under our supervision. However, responsibility of teens during worship service, before and after classes, in the church parking lot, at home, etc. lies in the hands of parents. When teen actions are brought to our attention during these times, we will direct those comments to you as parents.

COMMUNICATION

We will make every effort to communicate to you as a family in every way. This will include communicating things that come to our attention about what is going on in your teen(s) life. It will also include communicating with you ways in which you can grow as a family. Communication will also be provided to you concerning what is going on in the Student Ministry (i.e., Calendars/Newsletters, Year-at-a-Glance, eBulletins, Web site, TEXTS, and so forth).



COOPERATION

We will involve you in any discipline situation that may arise involving your teen(s) (**see “Discipline Policy & Procedures”**). We strongly believe that a cooperative approach to correction returns the God-given responsibility of discipline to you as parents.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM PARENTS

PRAYER

We covet your prayers for this ministry. We will only move forward as God’s people if we petition Him daily for strength, humility, growth, and the ability to look beyond ourselves.

SUPPORT

We ask you to help and support this ministry. When decisions are made that the teens may not like, please help by supporting us (knowing that we are making these decisions to help the group as a whole). If there is something that we do that you do not agree with, please come to us personally and share it with us so that we can grow and learn together. Please do not go to someone else and share it with them. *You can be assured that we are supporting you and will also come to you with disagreements that may arise.* This is a Biblical principal that we must all work hard to follow (Matthew 5:22-24 & 18:15-17). We are making every effort with the teens to help them in the area of gossip and talking about others. We need your help in this as we model this principle to our teens.

RESPONSIBILITY

As we always say, parents are the number one influence in a teen’s life. We ask that you remember that you bear the primary responsibility for spiritual growth in your teen(s). There is little we can do to replace the training and instruction of a Godly parent (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

INVOLVEMENT

We NEED your help. Please make every effort to be involved in this ministry for your teen(s) and all the other families in this ministry. We are not perfect and we definitely do not have all the answers. But if we work together as a team, we feel confident that God will use us all as instruments in helping our teens grow in the Lord. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO FIND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED. Look at the “Ministry Opportunities & Involvement” sheet in this manual for more information.



FEEDBACK

Please provide us with any feedback that could be beneficial to us and this ministry as a whole. Let us know of special needs and prayer requests for your teen(s) and your family.

GUIDELINES & DISCIPLINE

Please make sure to read through the “Discipline Policy & Procedures” sheet in this manual. We expect your support and understanding in the enforcing of these guidelines and rules. Please remember that these are in place for reasons that benefit the group as a whole and not necessarily your individual teen(s). Please also support us in conveying to your teen(s) the importance and Biblical principle of respect to all the adult leaders that help out in this ministry. If we cannot receive your support in these areas, then we ask that your teen(s) not accompany us on any of our Student Ministry sponsored activities and events. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS!!!**

PROBLEMS

As unforeseen problems arise, please do not hesitate to contact us and let us know. We are here for YOU. Communication is key to all aspects of life and ministry. We realize that there are things that cannot be helped and situations that must have special attention. Please let us know when those come up. **WE UNDERSTAND!**

PUNCTUALITY

It is important when working with a group this size that we get going on time. We will always communicate a time of departure and arrival. This is to help both you as parents and us as the ministers/leaders. If your teen(s) are late, they may find that we have already left. We do not wish to leave anyone behind, but we also have reasons for leaving at a designated time. We need your help in this. We also commit to you to be on time ourselves. We will be early to meet the teens and we will make every effort to arrive back at the designated time. If, for some unseen reason, we will not make it back at the designated time, we will communicate to you through email, text, or have your teen(s) contact you. That is the easiest way to communicate to you while on trips.

ONE OTHER NOTE: *After events we will have adult leaders who are tired and ready to go home. Please make sure to be here promptly to pick up your teen to help us out with this.*



WHAT WE EXPECT FROM TEENS

RESPONSIBILITY

We expect each teen to take responsibility for his/her own actions.

RESPECT

- We expect each teen to cooperate and respect all adults and adult leaders.
- We expect each teen to respect other teens by lifting each other up rather than tearing them down.
- We expect each teen to respect the property of others, the church building, and the areas and property we visit while away.

PARTICIPATION

We expect each teen to participate in all activities with the entire group when deciding to be a part of a particular event, trip, or class. Exceptions for this are made in case of illness, injury, and other special circumstances.

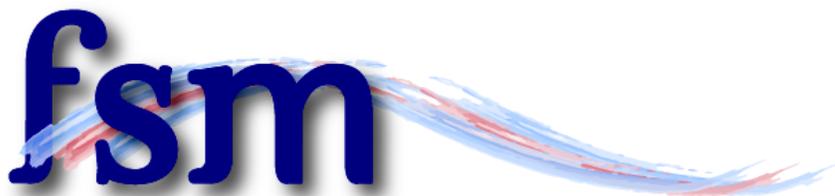
GUIDELINES

Philippians 4:8

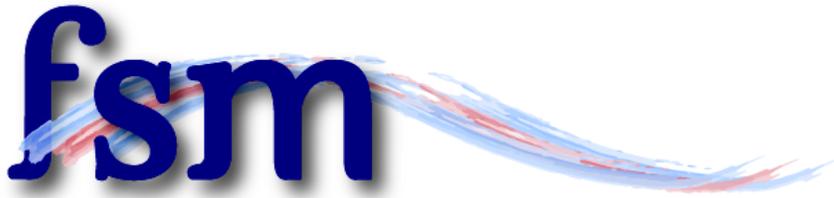
Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Guidelines are not put into place just to hold people down and use authority over them, but to help maintain the group and shine as Christian examples out of love for God. The following are rules & guidelines that we will work from in everything we do in order to minimize conflicts among the group and maximize spiritual growth. Most of these are common sense Christian guidelines.

- All teens are expected to ride the church vehicles when it is running (ha-ha) and when space is available. Those driving to the church will be able to leave their vehicles on the church property. Some exceptions will be made, but only by permission.
- No drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, fireworks, weapons, pornographic material or anything of the sort will be allowed during ANY event.



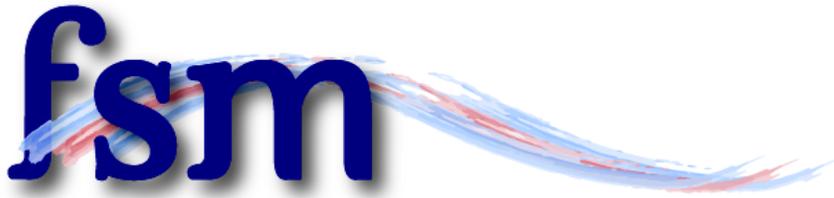
- Prescription and non-prescription medicines should be discussed between a parent and appropriate adult leader attending the event. Instructions in writing are always preferred.
- No disruptive behavior is allowed. That includes, but is not limited to fighting, cussing, vandalism, pranks, disrespect of authority, etc.
- Provisions are made to satisfy basic first aid needs.
- **“Permission Form, Medical Release Statement & Commitment to Christ”** forms must be signed for your teen annually in order to attend events.
- Dating couples should remember to set a Christian example to everyone. Physical contact should be kept to a minimum. Holding hands is the limit of PDA that is allowed of all dating couples in the youth group. (We’re serious about this)
- When audio players and video games are allowed, we ask that there be nothing in question played or listened to (USE COMMON SENSE AND CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES!).
- Clothing should be modest. The following guidelines must be kept while on youth events or the teen(s) will be sent home:
 1. Shorts must reach the bottom of your fingers when arms are down, fully extended and close to your side.
 2. Shirts must go below the belt area by three inches or have a t-shirt that is tucked in underneath. We do not wish to see bellies.
 3. Shirts must have a modest neckline. NO CLEAVAGE!
 4. Sleeveless shirts must be tight around the arm. We should not see bras. No tank-tops.
 5. Skirts must be no further than two inches above the knee.
 6. No low-rise pants unless shirts are tucked in.
 7. Pants must be worn at your waist and not at your knees (ha-ha).
 8. No clothing promoting alcohol, drugs, or obscenities.
 9. When water activities are planned both male and female teens must wear a dark colored t-shirt (black, brown, navy, etc.) at all times.
 10. When water activities are planned both male and female teens must also wear shorts that meet the above standards (you can not wear just a shirt with bikini bottoms)
 - *We understand that each family determines what is modest for their teen(s). However, while on youth group events, these are the guidelines that must be followed or the teen(s) will be asked to change clothes or leave.*



DISCIPLINE POLICY & PROCEDURES

Though the majority of our teens are raised to respect authority and rules and are a joy to be with, there are those occasions when (for a variety of reasons) it becomes necessary to enforce a degree of discipline on certain individuals who are not cooperating. During the years, we have found you, the parent, to be the key to appropriate behavior and respect. The following are the discipline policies and procedures that we will follow while on youth group events. *Also, please make sure to read the “Commitment to Christ” portion of the “Permission Form, Medical Release Statement & Commitment to Christ.”*

- While on FSM sponsored events, we ask that all participants understand that we represent Christ first, then our congregation and our family. We ask that teens conduct themselves in the best possible manner. If a teen is guilty of inappropriate behavior or if they have not adhered to a given rule or guideline, the only recourse is to send them home (**AT THE PARENTS’ INCONVENIENCE AND/OR EXPENSE**). In these circumstances, we will inform parents of the reasons for the discipline and why the actions were taken.
- While in classes, meetings, or any other type of class, we expect teens to behave appropriately and with respect. In the case where a teen chooses not to follow this guideline, we will accompany them to their parents’ class or ask a parent to attend with them.
- We encourage parents not to use the withholding of church activities as a means of punishment. We feel that this sends the wrong message to the teen. We do understand that it may be the only measure of discipline at the time and we will always respect your judgment in this area.
- In extreme cases, we will involve our shepherds in the process of discipline and for guidance and prayers.



REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Registration procedures are always something that families question. How do I register? When and how do I pay? These are the questions we would like to answer for you.

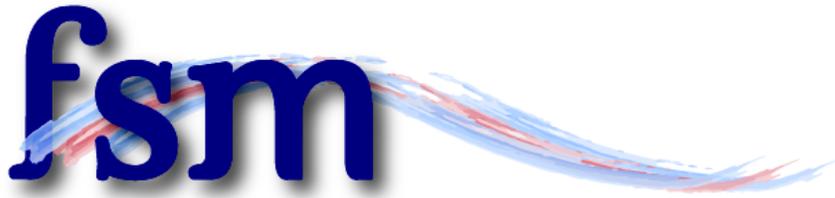
We always consider registration and expenses when planning events. We realize funds are limited in families and there are several other things that require funds in school and elsewhere. Therefore, we make every effort to make the cost of our youth events and trips as minimal as possible. Please also realize that the funds required from you will always be supplemented by the Student Ministry Budget. All our events are “non-profit” events. We would like to also convey that ***MONEY SHOULD NEVER BE A DETERENT FOR A TEEN’S SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ATTENDANCE TO AN EVENT!!!*** We are blessed with built-in funds and contributors to help in this. Having said this, there are some procedures that must be followed registering for events:

PROCEDURES:

WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL TEENS AND PARENTS TO REGISTER/SIGN UP ON THE FXCC.ORG/STUDENTS WEBSITE.

1. We ask that teens (and parents) register online one week ahead of the event (this will not be the case in Mission Efforts, special circumstances, etc.). The sign up will generally be up at several weeks ahead of the event to help you with this.
2. At this point, we will enter what we call our “grace week” when teens have an opportunity to drop or add to an event list without penalty.
3. If a teen or parent approaches us the day prior/of the trip, it may be necessary to incur a portion or the full price of the trip due to expenditures already incurred. This will be on a case-by-case, trip-by-trip basis.
4. Online Registration and payment is preferred, but checks (and in certain cases, cash) are also accepted.

We will make every effort to help teens and our families out in these matters and we are also understanding of particular or unusual circumstances and we want to help you out in any way. All we ask is that you contact us and work it out with us personally so that we can be involved in the decision process. Always let us know of anything we can do to enhance these procedures to help you out as a family.



MAY...

The LORD bless you

and keep you;

the LORD make his face shine upon you

and be gracious to you;

the LORD turn his face toward you

and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)