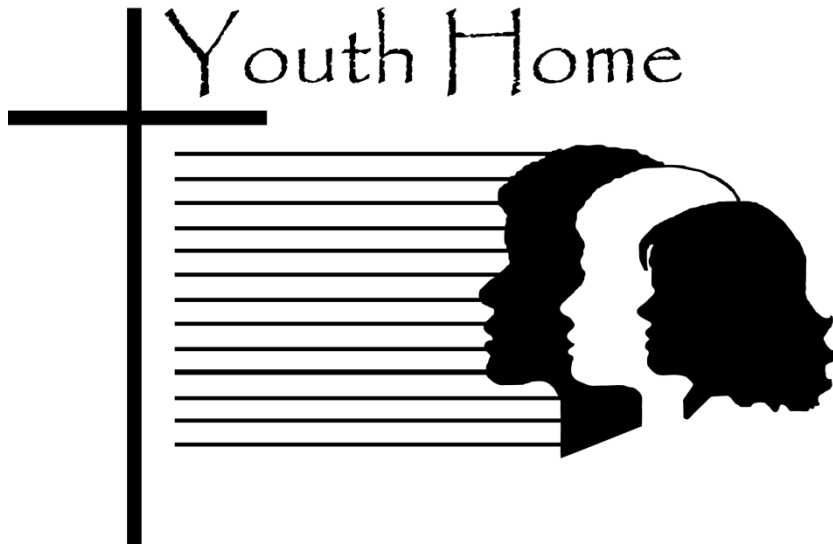


# Show-Me Christian Youth Home



## Group Leader Information Manual

# Our Mission: *Compelled by Christ to Rescue and Restore Young Lives*

**Who are We:** Show Me Christian Youth Home is dedicated to improving the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current home environment. Since 1967, we have helped nearly 2,000 young lives in crisis by offering Christ-centered residential care, educational and therapeutic services, allowing them to begin the process of healing the hurts from their past to building a successful future. We restore these children – hurt, neglected, abandoned, and abused- the foundational tools for a better tomorrow: a Home, a Family, a Future and a Faith.

Our goal is to be a safe, stable and loving home for:

- Children whose parents, grandparents, and guardians are struggling to provide care due to health, financial or emotional difficulties.
- Children whose parents are homeless, in jail, or suffer from mental or physical illness.
- Any child who is not thriving in their current environment.

Show-Me Christian Youth Home is dedicated to promoting the individual development of each child. We feel there are four major areas essential in this complete development process...

- **Spiritually** - Our child-care staff provides daily nurturing from God's Word. Breakfast devotions with the family, bedtime prayers, and weekly participation in church and youth group activities help to stimulate the spiritual growth of each child. Children also have opportunities to mature through church camp, Vacation Bible School programs and many other outings.
- **Academically** - Some of our children attend the public school, where the school faculty works closely with Show-Me staff to help them achieve academic success. The Show-Me Christian School is available to our children at each of our units and is growing each year, both in size and learning materials. Children also gain skills by participating in farm and home tasks. Children leave Show-Me well equipped to be productive adults.
- **Emotionally** - Many hurting youngsters arrive at Show-Me. Our goal is to assure them that God loves them, we love them and they can learn to love themselves. Childcare staff help them confront the issues and work through the healing process to build a bright future. In addition to daily contact with trained and dedicated house parents, children benefit from regular appointments with our licensed counselor.
- **Physically** - Healthy bodies and strong minds are a priority at Show-Me. Families enjoy nutritious meals together in their homes. Plenty of open space and recreational facilities, as well as school activities, promote healthy lifestyles. Medical, dental and eye care are available to each child.

# Preparing for your trip:

These pages contain basic information and group responsibilities. Any questions that may arise from this information can be answered by contacting the Volunteer Coordinator at 660-347-5982 or by email at [volunteer@showmekids.org](mailto:volunteer@showmekids.org)

While planning your trip we encourage you and your team to PRAY.

- Pray that your work at SMCYH will be glorifying to God
- Pray for your team's safety in your service and your travels to and from SMCYH
- Pray for our ministry, the children that live here and the staff who serve here.

Encourage your team to reach out to members of your congregation who are unable to participate on your trip to be your prayer partners. Allowing the entire church to play a significant role in the trip will be a blessing to all involved.

## **Prior to your arrival:**

**Group leaders, it is important that we have all of your information turned in 2 weeks prior to your arrival. This is so that we may have time to prepare for your housing, meals, and projects. This will also ensure that we have the proper staff available to host you during your time here.**

We have tried to make all the necessary information readily available to you. All information is available on our website at [showmekids.org](http://showmekids.org) under the volunteer tab on the "Get Involved" page. You can even register your group online. If you prefer a packet be sent to you in the mail, please contact our volunteer coordinator.

Forms can be filled out on the website, or you can print them and mail them, once completed. If you have minors in your group, the registration form that includes a liability release will need to be signed by their parent or guardian. Each form needs to be completed by each participant in your group above the age of 12.

**These forms are absolutely necessary to ensure the safety of all of our volunteers and our ministry.**

## **Youth Groups**

- At least one male and one female sponsor per group. (If group is comprised of both sexes)
- Junior High groups 5:1 adult to child ratio.
- Senior High groups 7:1 adult to child ratio.
- Please encourage your young people to dress modestly.
- We would also ask that interaction between your group and the children living at Show-Me Christian Youth Home be limited to planned and structured activities.
- For safety reasons, a staff member must be present when interacting with youth who reside at Show-Me.
- We encourage sharing photos of your visit; for the children's protection, do not post identifying information of any youth in placement. (for instance, label photos "one of the awesome kids we met at Show-Me")

## **Arrival**

The Volunteer Coordinator will greet you at our Multi-Purpose Building. The two story blue building at the back of our campus. We ask that each member of your team sign-in, if they haven't previously registered. After your group has signed in, our Volunteer Coordinator will take your group on a tour of our entire campus. The coordinator will show you where you will be sleeping, eating and working.

## **Possible Projects and Needs**

- Sorting and organizing donations
  - Fashion Barn
  - Receiving Barn
  - Woodshop
  - Supply Building
  - Food Barn
- General Labor
  - Painting / Cleaning
  - Mowing and trimming yards
  - Mailings

If your group has a special project you would like to complete, please let us know when you register with the volunteer coordinator.

### **Sample Daily Schedule**

8:00 Breakfast at the multi  
8:30 Devotion and Breakfast cleanup  
9:00 Morning work assignments  
12:00 Lunch at the multi  
12:30 Lunch cleanup  
1:00 Afternoon work assignments  
4:30 Cleanup for dinner, rest  
5:30 Dinner, hosted by one of our Show-Me Families  
6:30 Dinner cleanup  
7:00 Free time

### **Devotions**

We understand that your time here can be very rewarding. We hope that each member of your group will use this time to draw closer to God in new and fresh ways. To help you do this, we provide a five day devotional booklet to be used during your time here. If you aren't here a full week, use it as you can. We are committed to shutting down the daily work projects by 5:00 pm, allowing groups to have time after the evening meal for group and individual devotion time. Each group leader can decide how to best incorporate the booklet into your trip. We also have morning devotions, given by one of our staff members each morning after breakfast.

### **Meals**

All meals will be provided in our Multi-Purpose Building: Breakfast 8:00 a.m., Lunch 12:00 p.m., and Dinner between 5:00 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dinner time can vary depending on your work project and other factors during the summer. The volunteer coordinator will provide you with a final schedule prior to your arrival.

**Please plan for your group members to assist with clean-up after each meal.**

### **What to bring**

There is a suggested packing list at the end of this packet to help your group prepare for your trip.

Don't panic if you forget something, we have some items on hand "just in case". Just let us know what you need, and we will do our best to provide it for you.

## **Packing List**

Participation Form- Turned into your leader, 2 weeks prior to departure, or register online

Pillow

Blanket

Bible

Toiletries

Towels (Beach and Bath)

Bathing Suit- Girls, must be one piece, or cover mid-riff

Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, lip balm

Water Bottle

Bottled Drinks, if you have a specific preference

Close-toed shoes, appropriate for working outside

Work Clothes- Shorts are ok, but must be an appropriate length. Please do not wear shirts with only spaghetti straps. Most days your clothes will get dirty. Pack items that you don't mind working in.

Change of clothes- you may want to bring clothes to change into after your work day has concluded.

Special Snacks or treats as desired. You will have access to a refrigerator and freezer.

Toiletries-deodorant, soap, shampoo

Towels- We do have some available, but would need to be washed before your departure.

Camera

We do not recommend bringing items that are of a high value (MP3 players, portable game systems, large amounts of cash, etc). We do our best to ensure that your items are safe, but cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items.

If you have questions on other items you may need to bring, please do not hesitate to contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (660) 347-5982 or at [volunteer@showmekids.org](mailto:volunteer@showmekids.org)