

# **THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST! I'M THRILLED YOU MAY BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR STUDENT MINISTRY!**

At Saddleback Church, we believe everyone has something to offer and can be a “10” in some area of our church. Because God has entrusted us with over 1,000 high school students, we are constantly looking for men and women of God who might grow into becoming a “10” within our Student Ministry. Even if you feel like a “2” right now, I’m thankful you’re willing to explore opportunities to serve God within our Student Ministry.

I believe a healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships—between adult staff and students. Relationships are the key to students feeling loved and understanding God’s love in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in a student’s life.

The quality of our staff is very important. We are looking for men and women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. Please take time to read the following material and fill out the application with prayer and consideration. Because we place great value on this ministry, we also place great value on the health of our staff.

Once we have received your application, we will call you to schedule an appointment with one of our staff. Please know all information will be kept strictly confidential.

As you know, Saddleback is a great church and our Student Ministry is a great place to allow your time to make eternal investments in students’ lives! I’m looking forward to meeting you and spending some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Student Ministry office at (949)573-8733.

Excited to serve alongside you!

Leo Galarza  
Director of Student Ministry  
Saddleback Irvine  
leog@saddleback.net

# WHAT STUDENTS NEED

Our plan is to change the world one student at a time. Today's students do not connect to programs, they connect with people. The most effective way to impact students is through significant relationships with caring adults. One of the common roadblocks for adults getting started in youth ministry is a misconception about what it takes to be a youth worker.

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ARE...

- >>You must be young
- >>You must have outstanding Bible training
- >>You must be a perfect example of a Christian
- >>You must be a captivating communicator
- >>You must feel secure
- >>You must be able to act like one of the students
- >>You must have plenty of free time
- >>You must play guitar
- >>You must know the 8 most popular videos on MTV
- >>You must be wild, crazy and dynamic
- >>You must be liked by all students
- >>You must own a 15-passenger van

Student Ministry is not the easiest ministry in the church and it's normal and okay for you to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the more you're around students and see how God can use inadequate people (like us) to do great things.

Here's the truth about what students need...

## STUDENTS NEED ADULTS WHO WILL...

- >>Love God and live for Him
- >>Be interested in a student's life
- >>Take initiative to get to know students
- >>Pray for students
- >>Be real
- >>Say encouraging things
- >>Believe in students
- >>Laugh and have a good time
- >>Remember names
- >>Share God's love through personal experience
- >>Be consistent with attendance
- >>Be patient

# WHY WE EXIST AS A MINISTRY

Every ministry is driven by something. There is always some guiding force that determines the direction and goals for the individual or the group. Unless the driving force behind a church is biblical, the health and growth of the church will never be what God intended. Strong churches are not built on programs, personalities, or gimmicks. They are built on the eternal purposes of God. That is the foundation of our Student Ministry as well. Everything we do in our Student Ministry revolves around the five purposes of the church.

## The Five Purposes

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart' .....Worship..... Celebrating God's Presence  
'Love your neighbor as yourself' .....Ministry..... Demonstrating God's Love  
'Go and make disciples' .....Evangelism... Communicating God's Love  
'Baptizing them' .....Fellowship.....Incorporating God's people  
'Teaching them to obey' .....Discipleship... Educating God's family

**EVANGELISM** is sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who don't have a personal relationship with him. In IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY, we call this **REACH**.

FELLOWSHIP is connecting believers to one another with meaningful relationships for strength and support. In IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY, we call this **CONNECT**.

**DISCIPLESHIP** is the personal discovery of God's truth, the process by which one becomes more like his Son. In IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY, we call this **GROW**.

**MINISTRY** is meeting the needs of others in love. In IRVINE STUDENT, MINISTRY, we call this **DISCOVER**, because we know that it will take time for students to discover how God has gifted them for ministry.

**WORSHIP** is celebrating God's presence and honoring him with our lifestyle. In IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY, we call this **HONOR**.

*As a leader in IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY, it is essential that you know and understand our purpose statement.*

**Student Ministry exists to REACH non-believing students, to CONNECT them with other Christians, to help them GROW in their faith, and to challenge the growing to DISCOVER their ministry and HONOR God with their life.**

# 3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## **#1 Small Group Leader – Program: IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY Small Groups**

Our small groups are the BACKBONE of our ministry—they make our big group smaller, allowing students to connect with other Christians in meaningful relationships. As a small group leader, you'll meet with a 5 to 12 students once a week. We provide you with the curriculum (and the students!). This commitment requires about two and a half hours every week during the school year.

### **We need people who...**

- care for the students in their small group
- are willing to connect deeply with a few
- listen well
- guide students closer to Jesus
- hold students accountable in love

## **#2 Weekend Leader – Program: IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY Weekend Service (Sundays 11:00 am.)**

Our Weekend Services are the FRONT DOOR for our ministry. Every week, students come to Saddleback looking for a friendly and warm place to find acceptance. At these services, we try to break the stereotype that Church has to be boring. It's filled with laughter, videos, singing, dramas, and a message that challenges students toward spiritual maturity. Our Weekend Leaders play a huge role in making students feel welcomed and normally commit to one service every week. This is a vital role for our ministry because a student won't become theologically aware of God's love if he/she doesn't feel loved by anyone in a crowded room.

### **We need people who...**

- are friendly and take initiative to create a warm environment
- are positive and have a great attitude
- can live without a lot of affirmation from students
- can start conversations with students...even though it's tough!

### **#3 Technology and Video Editing- Program: Varies**

Are you talented at video editing, PowerPoint, media shout, or graphic design? We are always looking for people to help us use media to better reach students. We are constantly striving to discover new ways of communicating God's word and interacting students in our services and programs.

#### **We need people who...**

- are gifted at graphic design, video, or technology
- interested in reaching students in a relevant way
- passionate at using media to communicate God's word

#### **We need people who...**

- are passionate about students' serving
- follow through and are consistent
- encourage students to be committed
- love-on students in their ministry

# TAKING THE NEXT STEP

*Are you ready to take the next step toward becoming a Student Ministry volunteer?*

## **1. Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment**

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment as well as seek counsel of family and/or friends about serving in the Student Ministry.

## **2. Complete the IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY Application**

The IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY application should be included with this booklet. If not, please contact Leo Galarza at 949-573-8733 or [leog@saddleback.net](mailto:leog@saddleback.net) and we will send one to you. Please take your time and fill out all of the enclosed forms.

- Application & references
- IRVINE STUDENT MINISTRY Commitment
- Trak-1 Background check form

Once you have completed the application you can return it to Leo Galarza either by e-mail ([leog@saddleback.net](mailto:leog@saddleback.net)) or you can mail it to 1 Saddleback Pkwy, Lake Forest 92630 attention Leo Galarza.

## **3. Schedule an Interview**

Every one of our leaders must be interviewed. During this time, you'll have the chance to get to know more about us, and we'll learn more about you. You'll have the opportunity to describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in the Student Ministry. You can not be official as a volunteer until we have received all of your completed paperwork and you have had your personal interview.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact us!

**Leo Galarza**

**[leog@saddleback.net](mailto:leog@saddleback.net)**

**949-573-8733**