



PBC STUDENT LEADER PROGRAM

If you are reading this...then you probably applied to be a Student Leader. Thank you for desiring to be a part of the PBC Youth Core. This is not a small commitment; we will spend the following few pages discussing this. First, you need to know that not every student who applied to be a Student Leader was chosen for the position. While we would love for everyone who applied to be a Student Leader to become one, we only have a limited amount of slots that can be filled. So, if you weren't chosen this year, there is always next year to become one. In the meantime, let's talk about what it means to be a Student Leader.

What does it mean to be a PBC Student Leader? The Student Leader Program is a one-year commitment that requires active participation. As a Student Leader, you are not just holding a title, but you are in a continuous process of growth and development. Being a Student Leader means you are, first and foremost, a student. As a student, you are under the guidance of mentors who help you grow in your relationship with Christ while also learning leadership skills that you can use to lead your peers.

As a Student Leader, you are also a disciple of Christ. Ponderosa Bible Church Youth is dedicated to helping students enhance their relationship with Christ, gain knowledge of the Bible, and become Christ's disciples. Therefore, you must be a disciple yourself. Motivating others towards the same path will be easier if you are a disciple.

As a PBC Student Leader, you must be committed to leadership. This means you are not just any ordinary student but a Student Leader in training. Therefore, you will be held to a

different standard than your peers. Your actions and behavior will be treated differently because you are now part of the Leadership Team.

To sum it up, being a Student Leader at PBC Youth means you are a student, a disciple, and a leader in training. Your responsibilities as a Student Leader will fall into these categories.

What does a Student Leader DO?

As previously mentioned, being a Student Leader is not just a title but a process. If you're ready to take on the challenge of becoming a Student Leader, here's how:

STUDENT

Being a Student Leader requires a solid commitment to learning and mentoring. The youth pastor will provide the necessary training, but you must also agree to certain commitments.

- **Student Leaders are students of the scripture:**

- Students who are leaders are expected to show respect and attentiveness during any church service.
- Student Leaders at PBC Youth are dedicated to helping attendees focus during teaching sessions.

- **Student Leaders are committed to being good students at school:**

- Students cannot be good examples at Church if they engage in compromising behavior at school.
- Student Leaders understand that their academic work takes priority over their ministry responsibilities.
- If being a Student Leader negatively impacts their grades or their ability to be good students, their position as a Student Leader will be re-evaluated.

- **Student Leaders are committed to following the PBC Youth Guidelines in and out of Youth:**

- The Youth Guidelines are prominently displayed in a visible location and easily understood.
- The guidelines are not just rules for the youth group but are also meant to be followed daily.
- Every guideline is based on the teachings of the Bible to ensure that it is consistent with biblical principles and does not contradict them.

- **The guidelines are as follows:**

- A. Love one another (1 Peter 4:8)
- B. Have respect for your leaders (Hebrews 13:17)
- C. Grow in the faith (Acts 2:42)
- D. Protect your purity (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)
- E. Encourage each other with your speech (Ephesians 4:29)
- F. Include everyone (Romans 12:5)
- G. Be people of truth (John 4:24)

- These guidelines govern the ministry at PBC Youth and set the standards for every Student Leader.
- **Student Leaders are committed to being a “social media poster” that is above reproach:**
 - Student Leaders understand that as a leader at PBC Youth, all questionable social media posts will be brought into question by the Youth Pastor, and there will be consequences if the social media posts demonstrate compromise
 - Student Leaders understand that all private chats with other people on social media sites must be above reproach and judged by the standard of scripture. If any compromising chat is brought to the knowledge of the Youth Pastor, then it will be considered according to its contents with possible consequences if it demonstrates compromise.
 - Student Leaders are good examples to others in their social media posts.

As a Student Leader, you must understand that your responsibilities are not “left at the Youth Room doors.” You carry the name “PBC Youth” with you everywhere you go. As a Student Leader, others will judge you, and Ponderosa Bible Church will be judged according to your conduct. This is why you must have integrity in your devotional time, schooling, and social media accounts.

DISCIPLE

As a Student Leader, you are a student and a disciple. Being a disciple means that you are a follower of Christ, and a follower of Christ is what you must be if you are a Student Leader. This means that:

- **Student Leaders are committed to “honoring their mother and fathers” (Exodus 20:12):**
 - A Student Leader is a disciple at Church *and* home. Continued, unrepentant, bad behavior and rebellion at home are grounds for dismissal from the Student Leadership position.
- **Student Leaders are committed to being above reproach in their conduct towards others, in and away from PBC Youth:**
 - Student Leaders are not bullies, do not put others down, do not use profane language, and are an example of the love of Christ toward their peers
 - If the Student Leader in question is in a relationship, their relationship must exhibit purity, and their significant other must be a believer and have a life that demonstrates that they are, or the student will not be permitted to continue being a Student Leader.
 - Student Leaders are examples in how they conduct themselves.
- **Student Leaders are committed to growing in their discipleship:**

- Being a Student Leader is not just a position but a lifestyle. Asking a Student Leader to be committed to “growing in their discipleship” should be equivalent to asking them to do what they already live.
- Because the Student Leaders are committed disciples, they follow the scripture and do their best to apply it.

Student Leaders are disciples! This means that you are committed to following Jesus in public and private. It also means that you are showing the love of Christ to those around you and living a life that exhibits Him. To boil it all down, being a Student Leader means following and applying the Bible to your life.

LEADER IN TRAINING

You won't be a Student Leader forever! God willing, you may be in ministry, or your spouse will be. Maybe you will volunteer with another ministry or move on to another Church and volunteer there. Wherever God puts you, you can apply this training to whatever God has for you. But for here and now, Leaders in training will agree to the following:

- **Follow the instructions of the Youth Pastor and Leadership Core unless doing so is questionable or would cause the Student Leader to compromise their walk with Christ:**
 - The Student Leaders must understand that they are an example to their peers; therefore, if they follow the instructions given to them, their peers will also
 - Because students at PBC Youth can be so rowdy, the Student Leader must help when asked to ensure less chaos in the Youth Group.
 - Student Leaders understand that if they have an honest question about something they are being asked to do, they can feel free to talk to anyone in the Leadership Core about it and decline if they think they are being put in an uncomfortable or questionable position.
- **Student Leaders are respectful of the PBC Youth Group Leadership:**
 - Student Leaders will not be argumentative with the Youth Pastor or Adult Leaders.
 - Student Leaders will not encourage other Students to ignore or disrespect the PBC Youth Group Leadership.
 - Student Leaders will help the Youth Group leadership create a structured and well-behaved environment.
- **Student Leaders are being mentored in leadership:**
 - Each Student Leader will have assigned responsibilities that they will tend to weekly, ranging from leading a small group of students to helping ensure that the PBC Youth guidelines are followed. This aims to help the Student Leaders better understand what it means to be a leader and how they can better develop that in their own lives.

- Student Leaders will be asked to participate in all “discipleship classes.” These classes are conducted once a year at the end of the year and run until February of the following year. They are intended to help the Student Leaders grow in their faith.

And that is it! This may seem like a lot right now, but you need to know what is expected from you. One sentence summarizes this: “As a Student Leader, there is a higher standard set for you than for others.” Of course, if you are becoming a Student Leader, we understand that there is a learning curve and there is grace, but eventually, this is what we will want from all of our Student Leaders.

STUDENT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

You may be saying to yourself, “Wait, there’s more!?!” This is very understandable, but everything we mentioned above concerns your integrity as a Student Leader, not your responsibilities at the Youth Group. As a Student Leader, while ministry is ongoing, you will be expected to:

1. Show up half an hour early for all activities.
2. When you cannot attend a service or youth activity, text the youth pastor or a member of the Leadership.
3. Help clean up the youth room or any area where a youth activity has been held.
4. Dress modestly and appropriately for all PBC Youth Events.
5. Attend to assigned internship duties (Such as leading a small group, helping with games, etc.).
6. Contribute meaningfully to the teaching and youth group discussions.
7. Help keep the students under control during games, teaching, and small groups.
8. Be flexible (Because of the nature of the ministry, unpredictable things happen, which means you may be asked to do things you do not usually do! Please do them without arguing!)

These are all responsibilities consistent with Wednesday night and Thursday nights and any other outing where we have contact with the students. Every one of these responsibilities is essential to the ministry of PBC Youth. As a Student Leader, you make the ministry possible when you help in these areas or are flexible. The Student Leader is the heart of PBC Youth because the leadership hopes that one day, every student will consider what call God they may have on their lives. Thank you for considering the possibility of being a Student Leader!

REQUIRED SERVICES AND EVENTS

Being a Student Leader at PBC Youth is a significant responsibility, and it is only a year-long commitment. PBC Youth offers its students the opportunity to be Student Leaders so they can be

disciplined in the faith and learn what it means to be a leader among their peers. Therefore, the Youth Core focuses on training its Student Leaders through various events throughout the year. Every Student Leader must attend these events. Every applicant for youth leadership needs to consider these events and decide whether or not they can attend before applying for Student Leadership. Here is a list of events that every applicant must participate in if they are going to be a Student Leader:

1. **Wednesday Night Discipleship:** Because Student Leadership is a discipleship-oriented program, we want all our leaders to attend discipleship night to learn more about scripture and what it means to be a Christian. Wednesday was created as a Bible study for this reason.
2. **Thursday Youth Night:** This is when Student Leaders serve in the ministry and learn how to be leaders. They do this by leading games, serving in small groups, helping to keep small groups under control, and whatever other help is needed.
3. **Friday Night Youth Fellowship:** This is a once-a-month outreach and game night where PBC Youth does activities with the students, usually from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Student Leaders are expected to show up and be prepared to help in whatever ways are needed for this night.
4. **Student Leader Retreat:** This usually happens in March and is an opportunity for the Student Leadership to get away and spend time together. During the retreat, leaders will share their time as leaders, what lessons they learned, and what their favorite times were. They will also share in worship and Bible studies led by Pastor Josef and 17 Steps Up (PBC Youth Worship Team) and do fun activities together.
5. **PBC Youth Discipleship:** PBC Youth Discipleship is a 13-week intensive program held on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. PBC Youth aims to disciple Student Leaders and help them become more dedicated believers. The course focuses on one topic for the duration and breaks it down into weekly segments with corresponding homework. Students who attend every week and complete the homework will be rewarded with the “Discipleship Trip” on one weekend between April and May every year. PBC Youth Discipleship usually begins in October and runs through January of the following year.
6. **Summer Camp:** The Student Leader's grade will determine which camp they should attend (Jr. High or High School). Camp is a fantastic opportunity to strengthen their faith and deepen their understanding of following Jesus. Therefore, every Student Leader must attend summer camp. PBC Youth typically attends summer camp in June each year.
7. **Winter Camp:** Winter camp is another function that student leaders need to be part of because it is a place for them to demonstrate their leadership abilities. Summer camp tends to be more extended (Usually a week), while winter camp usually lasts over a weekend. Because of the shorter period, there usually is a larger group of students in one camp (There is no Jr. High and High School winter camp), which means that Student Leaders will not just be ministered to, but they will also be leading things like games, small groups, and cabins. Winter camp is usually the third weekend in January.

As mentioned earlier, being a Student Leader is a big commitment because it doesn't just entail leading students; it is about discipleship and learning how to be the best leader you can be. Because of that, we feel it is essential to create an environment where students are given every

opportunity to lead and learn what it means to be a Christian. Make sure that you talk with your parents about being a Student Leader and if you can meet the requirements to be involved.

STUDENT LEADER CONSEQUENCES

This is my least favorite subject, but it must be made known. Occasionally, someone who doesn't want to do the work necessary to be a leader will enter the Student Leader program. Maybe it is because they are not used to structure, or perhaps they do not clearly understand what is being asked of them. In any case, some lines need to be drawn in the sand with clear-cut consequences!

First and foremost, if you have decided to be a Student Leader but realize this is not your cup of tea, please talk to the Youth Pastor and be honest. Don't sabotage your internship in the hopes of getting fired. This does not look good for you, and at some later date, you may change your mind and decide you want to be a Student Leader. Being asked to leave is an excellent way to prevent any possible return from happening!

So, what do the consequences apply to?

The consequences apply to a range of things, but most of them are common sense. Examples are:

- Disrespecting the Adult Leadership or Youth Pastor
- A consistent failure to attend to assigned Student Leader obligations and responsibilities
- Not showing up to Youth services and functions and not alerting the Leadership or Youth Pastor of an inability to attend
- Consistently breaking the Youth Guidelines
- Demonstrating a lack of integrity in media posting
- Having a continuous disregard for school and parental rules, obligations, and authority
- Failing to demonstrate an excellent example to the students who attend PBC Youth

Of course, there is grace in the first few months as the Student Leader is learning how to be a Student Leader. However, this grace should not be taken advantage of, and eventually, the Student Leader should know what is expected of them without being asked. If the Student Leader continues to participate in behaviors that are unbecoming of a Student Leader, then the consequences are as follows:

- **First warning:** The Student Leader will be taken aside with an Adult Leader, and why they are being given a warning will be explained.
- **Second warning:** The Student Leader and the Youth Pastor will talk to the parent, and what they have done will be explained to the parent. The parent will be notified that this is the student's second warning, and the next time there is an issue, they will be dismissed from the Student Leader program.

- **Final Warning:** The Student Leader will sit with the Youth Pastor and the Adult Leadership. What they have done will be explained to the parents and the students, and they will be suspended from the Student Leader program for one month.
- **If the Student Leader is suspended repeatedly, the Leadership core will discuss permanent dismissal.**

The Leadership of PBC Youth Does not wish to suspend or dismiss any student from the Youth Leadership program. However, if a Student Leader is permanently dismissed, they cannot apply again for a year. This means they will have time to mature and reflect on why they were dismissed permanently. Should the Student decide they want to return, then such an option will be discussed with the Leadership Core, as well as the parents of the students.

STUDENT LEADER APPLICATION

...And that is everything! Praise God if you still believe God is calling you to the PBC Youth Leadership Program. I truly believe that God will grow your faith and fellowship with God. The greatest way that you can understand God better is to be used by him and spend time in his word. This is what the Student Leader Program is about! If this is the direction you feel God is leading you, please fill out the information below, and let's start doing ministry together. Welcome to the PBC Youth Leadership Core! (:

Josef Kruppenbacher
PBC Youth Pastor

1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."