



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATION

*"I...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called"
Ephesians 4:1*

VISION

The Student Leadership Team exists to Make and Send Disciples who Love and Live like Jesus

MESSAGE FROM JEFF

LEADERSHIP IS A CHOICE... and I hope it is something you will consider choosing. Leadership is NOT just for the outgoing people, or the popular people, or the funny people. Leadership is NOT an event on a calendar or a new program to fill a student's already overbooked schedule. Leadership is a commitment.

The thing about commitments - at least the commitments that really matter - are that they are sometimes hard to keep. Sometimes a commitment in one area requires a sacrifice in another area. But isn't it in those seasons of tension and perseverance that we grow deeper and more mature than if we never tried? Sometimes it is within the context of these choices that we find out who we really are and who God wants us to become.

This packet is going to help you explore an opportunity to make such a commitment - an opportunity to be a part of the Student Leadership Team. I will be expecting a lot of the SLT and this commitment may not be for everyone, but if you're still reading this then I can only assume that you're willing to find out if it is right for you. Jesus expected a lot from His disciples and, for some of you, joining the SLT may be the next best step in your walk to follow Jesus.

Still interested? Then keep reading. I hope you will seriously consider the choice to be a leader of Riverside Student Ministry.

Blessings,
Jeff Speel
Student Pastor

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

LEADERSHIP IS MORE THAN JUST SHOWING UP TO EVENTS. Leadership is a commitment to be an influencer, and a commitment to serve.

John Maxwell, a famous leadership trainer, says, "Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

There is this really great story in the Bible where two of Jesus' disciples, who were brothers, actually got their momma to ask for special leadership positions with Jesus for them. Could you imagine how oddly frustrating that would be for Jesus? After some back and forth, Jesus described leadership this way,

"But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:25-28

The kind of leadership we're talking about is a little different than what the rest of the world might call leadership. We're looking for the kind of leadership Jesus was looking for. We're looking for the kind of leadership that is a beautiful combination of serving and influencing.

The SLT exists to **MAKE** and **SEND DISCIPLES** who **LOVE** and **LIVE** like **JESUS**.

TIMELINE AND MAKEUP OF THE SLT

THE SLT IS A 12-MONTH COMMITMENT. We will typically run from the end of one school year (May) through to the end of the next school year. At that time, a new SLT will be formed. A member from one year CAN be a member in a following year. However, the position is not guaranteed and the student will need to go through the application process each year.

The SLT will have a set number of open positions based on the size of the Student Ministry. Generally, we will be aiming for a 1:5 ratio, meaning if we have an average of 50 students we will aim to have an SLT of 10 students for that school year. The number of positions open can vary based on student ministry size and at the discretion of the Student Pastor.

There is not an expectation of x number of boys or x number of high school students in the SLT. Any student that meets the qualifications will be reviewed and it is our hope that each student will consider the SLT as an opportunity to both grow and to contribute.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SLT

Every member of the SLT must meet and maintain certain qualifications. Only those individually that meet the following qualifications will be considered.

THE APPLICANT MUST:

- be entering 7th-12th grade
- have a growing relationship with Jesus
- be connected with other followers of Jesus
- have a positive reputation

EXPECTATIONS OF THE SLT

It is our desire to “let you know what you’re getting into,” so to speak. So, we want to be completely up front with what will be expected from each member of the SLT. Please take these expectations seriously...because we do.

EACH MEMBER OF THE SLT WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

- Influence others through serving (i.e. lead)
- attend a monthly, non-negotiable, SLT meeting (entire team together)
- participate in a rotating weekly serve team (smaller teams within the SLT that rotate weekly)
- maintain a strong attendance in RSM Wednesday Gatherings
- provide critical feedback to leadership regarding Riverside Student Ministry (i.e. if there is a problem, speak up)
- remain in good standing with the SLT for the full 12-month commitment.

COMMITMENTS OF AN SLT MEMBER

If the above are firm expectations we use to measure success within the SLT, then the following is a list of commitments we are asking each member to choose and to be stretched by. Remember, we said at the beginning that leadership was a commitment more than an inherent character trait. Therefore, leadership is less about who you are and more about who you are becoming.

EACH MEMBER OF THE SLT IS COMMITTED TO:

- **GROWING** to be more like Jesus
- **DISCOVERING** his/her ministry and giftedness
- **CONNECTING** with other followers of Jesus in meaningful relationships
- **REACHING** unbelieving friends with the hope found in Jesus
- **HONORING** God with his/her choices and attitude
- **SPEAKING** up fearlessly when silence is easier
- **STICKING** it out even when it gets hard

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

You made it this far! Congrats! The next step for you is to stop what you're doing... stop checking off the steps. Take a breath. This page isn't just a hoop to jump through. I want you to prayerfully consider the Student Leadership Team. Ask God if this is what He wants you to do. Being on the SLT doesn't make me or God like you more. You won't get a larger inheritance from your parents because you signed up. You're awesome whether you're on the team or not. Actually, I expect many students to discover this isn't the right time to apply... and that's perfectly fine. It's OK if you put this application down for a few days as you wait on God's direction. And it's OK if after doing so you realize now is not the time and you come back to it next year. Don't rush it and don't force it.

Really! This paper won't self-destruct while you pray. If it does, let me know. It'll make a great story. And it may be a sign we need to consider this application more closely.

Well OK then. Welcome back to the application. Here is how the application process works.

STEP 1: The application. You will need to complete the application on the next page and turn it in to the Student Pastor.

STEP 2: The references. I know you're awesome. You know you're awesome. But I'm not going to take just YOUR word on it. You need to get three (3) references: one from a parent/guardian, one from a school teacher, and one from your small group leader. It is YOUR job to get them their reference letters, which they will then complete and send to me. Write your name in the space provided and let your reference take care of the rest of the work.

STEP 3: The review. This is the hardest part for you because it means waiting on your end. On our end, a team of adult leaders in the student ministry will review all applications and references received. There may even be some interviews along the way. We'll let you know as soon as we can.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

Either write or type your answers to the following questions. You can use the back or additional sheets, if needed. BE HONEST. It is better to discuss a hard thing than it is to lie. When this part is complete, turn it in to Pastor Jeff on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night during RSM.

Name: _____ Grade _____ Today's Date: _____

Why do you want to be on the Student Leadership Team?

How would you tell your story of when you first began following Jesus?

How does your spiritual life look right now?

How would your friends describe your faith? How would your parents describe your faith?

What activities/organizations are you a part of or plan to be a part of? (ex. football, cheer-leading, band, ninja club, etc.)

Other than joining the SLT, what do you see as your next step in growing to become more like Jesus? What, if any, resources might help you in taking that next step?

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

PARENT/GUARDIAN REFERENCE

INSTRUCTIONS

STUDENT: Write your name in the top right corner of this reference and give it to your parent/guardian. It will be a good idea to explain to him/her why you're handing off this mostly blank sheet of paper.

PARENT/GUARDIAN: Your student is applying to be a part of the Student Leadership Team with Riverside Student Ministry. You should know we are asking a LOT of our SLT in terms of expectations and commitments. You should also know that your student was made aware of these expectations and commitments and still feels like this is a great way to GROW! I'm super proud. You should be proud, too. You should also review the expectations, qualifications, and commitments with your student prior to submitting this reference letter.

REFERENCE

Your Name:

I have one question for you: Given your understanding of the Student Leadership Team, why do you think your student would benefit from joining?

Please return this reference letter by:

1. Mail – Jeff Speel, 8660 Daniels Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33912
2. Email – jeff@riversidechurch.org
3. In Person - on a Sunday morning or Wednesday Night during RSM

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

TEACHER REFERENCE

INSTRUCTIONS

STUDENT: Write your name in the top right corner of this reference and give it to your teacher. It will be a good idea to explain to him/her why you're handing off this mostly blank sheet of paper.

TEACHER: You and I share a student. This student is applying to be a part of our Student Leadership Team and seems to take it pretty seriously. Moreover, he/she thinks highly enough of you to trust you with this reference letter. I know you will be honest and fair. Thank you for partnering with me in loving and teaching this student. You rock!

REFERENCE

Your Name:

Given your understanding of the Student Leadership Team, why do you think this student would benefit from joining?

Please return this reference letter by:

1. Mail – Jeff Speel, 8660 Daniels Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33912
2. Email – jeff@riversidechurch.org

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

SMALL GROUP LEADER REFERENCE

INSTRUCTIONS

STUDENT: Write your name in the top right corner of this reference and give it to your small group leader. It will be a good idea to explain to him/her why you're handing off this mostly blank sheet of paper.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: One of your students is applying for the SLT. That's a huge congrats to your small group and I'm celebrating with you. I know you're super proud and I know you know what to do. I love working alongside you and look forward to celebrating your ministry. You're my hero!

REFERENCE

Your Name:

I have one question for you: Given your understanding of the Student Leadership Team, why do you think this student would benefit from joining?

Please return this reference letter by:

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