



Ozark-Bayou Region Young Life Leadership Manual

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What is Young Life?

Memory Verse- John 1:14 (The Message)

“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.”

Observations?

Applications?

What is Young Life?

Young Life is dedicated to giving every young person the opportunity to hear Jesus Christ explained in terms they can understand and have a chance to respond to this good news by beginning a relationship with Him. Going where adolescents are and loving them first is the basis for the Young Life way of building relationships, earning the right to be heard, and sharing the hope of Jesus.

Jim Rayburn, a church youth minister in Gainesville, Texas, felt challenged to connect with teenagers disinterested in God and the Church. As a result, Rayburn started Young Life in 1941. The staff of Young Life have developed a relational style of outreach by spending time with young people where they live, work, study, and play. There also is a weekly club meeting involving singing, a skit or two, and a talk about Jesus' amazing love for us.

Today the organization of Young Life is active in all 50 states and over 90 countries around the world. We are very committed to reaching kids and college students who have never had the opportunity to meet and know Jesus. This is only possible with the help, support, and hard work of volunteer leaders. We consider our mission to be of the utmost importance and our volunteers are our greatest asset!

Our Mission

To introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith.

(Young Life College mission statement: To introduce college and university students to Jesus Christ, help them grow in their faith and help them use their talents to serve with Jesus in this world.)

We accomplish our mission by:

- Praying for young people
- Going where kids and college students are
- Building personal relationships with them
- Earning the right to be heard
- Providing experiences that are fun, adventurous, and life changing
- Sharing our lives and the Gospel
- Loving them regardless of their response
- Nurturing them so they might grow in their faith
- Encouraging them to live connected to the body of Christ through church

Our Values:

Living according to and communicating the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ

Carrying out our mission under the authority of Scripture and relying on the Holy Spirit to empower our ministry

Encouraging the welfare and spiritual health of those who do this ministry, that they may minister out of a consistent and growing relationship with Christ and His followers

Researching and developing innovative approaches to reach uncommitted, disinterested people throughout the Ozark-Bayou Region.

Reaching young people of all social, cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds throughout the Ozark-Bayou Region.

Working with followers of Christ from a variety of traditions and local churches

Welcoming all those whom God calls to our mission who are linked to a common purpose of introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ

Observing high standards of stewardship for all the resources placed in our trust

Our Mission Community:

It takes many individuals cooperating in a local area to accomplish our mission. Our staff, leaders, committee, and donors work together to bring kids and college students in front of Jesus.

A Young Life Committee is a group of adults in the community who actively support Young Life through fundraising, securing administrative resources, and encouraging staff and leaders.

Incarnational Ministry

Incarnation:

- The act of clothing with flesh, or the state of being so clothed.
- A new personification of a familiar idea; "the embodiment of hope"
- A person or thing regarded as embodying or exhibiting some quality, idea, or the like

Incarnational ministry is the very foundation of Young Life. Young Life is a ministry that believes in relationships as the ultimate tool in our evangelistic efforts. What is incarnational ministry and what does it look like?

As we desire that others come to know Christ, our first question is probably, "What should I do?" Instead, let's look at the question this way: "What did God do?" When God looked at the world and wondered how to communicate to it His great love, how did He act?

First, here's what He didn't do:

- Informational approach – all information, all the time; just give them the facts; maybe drop a leaflet from the sky with “nine things God wants you to know”
Few people are really surprised by impersonal facts about God; they need more!
- Impositional approach – forcing the idea on people. “Just DO IT, you NEED it, you have to.”
Being told to do something by force makes it seem unpleasant – knowing Jesus begins to sound like a parent saying “eat your vegetables.” They need more than force; they need validity.
- Inspirational approach – trying to impress people with gimmicks... dancing bears for Jesus or a pole vaulter who vaulted 20 feet with no pole because Jesus did it; having exciting events that attract large numbers
This seems impressive, until someone who feels like a nobody goes home and looks in a mirror and realizes they still don't personally feel loved.

What DID God do?

Incarnation. He chose flesh and blood **relationships** with people by sending His son, Jesus, to live among humans. How simple and profound and beautiful; God came and lived in the midst of the world He created. He chose to be WITH people, AVAILABLE to their needs, and SHOW them unconditional love (John 1:14).

Relationships. This is what we need; this is what we respond to: The reality of a God who cares so much for us that He would come and live with us where we can touch and hear and know Him. Jesus spent time with the sick, tax collectors, prostitutes, lawyers...there was no place He was not free to go and no place He didn't have an impact (Luke 19:5).

The most effective way to promote radical change is through deep relationships. Young Life places a high priority on leaders developing meaningful friendships with all people involved in all levels of the ministry. This is based on the biblical model of Jesus who chose 12 people to be in his inner circle, has the 72 he sends out to work, and then the crowds that followed him through towns. This kind of life-on-life ministry is the best way to affect people's lives.

Incarnational, relationship driven ministry is proactive. As a leader, you will consistently step outside of your comfort zone to initiate relationships with all kinds of people.

The responsibility of every believer:

- Matthew 28:19-20 – *“Go now and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
We are all called to share the hope we have in Jesus.
- Sometimes our lives speak louder than our words. Living a life that in all aspects displays a love for God might be the only Jesus some people ever see.
- Young Life is about your personal ministry. Young Life is the tool God is providing for your personal ministry. Not everyone is called to Young Life, but everyone is called to live out the great commission in their own personal ministry with others.

Young Life in the Ozark-Bayou Region

Ministry Overview Regional Stats 2016:

- Young Life Areas- 24
- Young Life Clubs- 72
- Young Life Ministries- 94
- Average Kid Attending Weekly- 2,638
- Total Volunteers (including adult helpers and high school leaders)
- Young Life Campaigner Groups- 1,437
- Regional Impact- 19,554

- Young Life (Suburban and Inner-City)
- Young Life Capernaum
- YoungLives
- Wyldlife
- Young Life College

Leadership Training Requirements:

These requirements are mandatory because they reflect what the time commitment to Young Life Leadership is. They build unity, and help you grow in your faith in preparation for leadership.

Mandatory Church Attendance

Scripture emphasizes the necessity of strong, spiritual community. Worship with people of all ages is important because we see Christ's church in its entirety, and our eyes are opened to our community.

Weekly Time Breakdown for a Young Life Leader

- Leader Meetings - **2-2 ½ hours** per week.
- Club (Set-up, Prep, Take-down, etc.) - **3-4 hours** per week.
- Campaigners/Small Group - **2 hours** per week
- Contact Work - **2-4 hours** per week min

Total Time Per Week: 9-12 hours

Volunteer Leader Job Description

Purpose:

To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ incarnationally to teenagers and college students, so that they may be able to know and respond to Him

Job Title:

Volunteer Leader

Relationships:

Supervised by the team leaders. Will work closely with a volunteer leadership team. Will have personal friendships with middle school/junior high/high school kids/college students. Will minister to kids/students of one's own gender.

Responsibilities:

Contact Work: Spend at least 2 times a week with kids/peers outside of regular club or campaigner meetings. One of those contacts should be with at least one non-Club kid.

Club: Regularly help prepare, attend and participate in weekly Club meetings

Camps: Be available for weekend and summer camps.

Campaigners: Lead or participate in a Campaigners group.

Leadership: Attend all Leadership and team meetings.

Weekly Time Commitment:

(Average of 10 hours per week)

Breakdown:

Contact Work	2-3 hours per week
Club	2 hours per week
Campaigners/ Small Groups	2 hours per week
Leadership / preparation	3 hours per week

Yearly Time Commitment

Breakdown:

Summer Camp/Work Week	One Week
Weekend Camp/Overnight	One Weekend
Leadership Weekend	One Winter Weekend

Interacting on a Healthy Team: Five Dysfunctions of a Team

THE MODEL

Patrick Lencioni illustrates his model with a pyramid. A dysfunctional team is built on an unstable foundation – lack of trust – and is ultimately exposed by its inattention to results.



An absence of trust undermines the team's ability to engage in constructive conflict. Without healthy conflict, teams don't make solid commitments to plans and decisions. Where there is ambiguous commitment, there will also be unclear accountability. No accountability leads to an inattention to results. Therefore a healthy team is built on a commitment to deliver results and each person on the team is ready to be part of a network of accountability for those results. Knowing that they will be held accountable, they make sure they are committed to the decisions that are made by the team. That commitment is the by-product of healthy,

What is a Young Life Leader?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 10:23-25 – “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Observations?

Applications?

Being a Healthy Team Member

Communication: We primarily use e-mail and/or groupme to communicate since we only meet altogether once a week. It is your responsibility to CHECK your e-mail/phone, REPLY to ones which require it, and BE RESPONSIBLE for your part. Communicate well with those on your team, as well as your administrator and area director. Things run a lot more smoothly when people communicate effectively.

Ownership: Time is not ours, but is given to us by God; therefore, how you use your time matters. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the time with which God has gifted us. For example, habitual lateness communicates that you believe your time is more valuable than anyone else's.

Ephesians 5:15-16 *"Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil."*

There is no such thing as "lack of time." If you know your priorities and focus your time toward what you are called to do, you have time to get it all done. If, like so many people, you think you are "too busy" to get it all done, evaluate where you are spending your time, and learn to cut things out and manage your time effectively. There are people that are busier than you that manage to get it all done. They don't have more time than you have; they just use their time to better advantage.

Learn to say "NO." Sometimes the most effective use of your time requires that you say "no" to things you may want to do, feel like you should do, or that others think you should do. Know your priorities, gifts, and calling, and stick to them.

Learn the value of 5 spare minutes. Use that time to pray, send a quick text to a friend, invite kids to club, respond to your team leader, etc.

Learn what methods work best for you. Everyone is different. You may work best late at night, need a planner, put your life on your phone, etc. The important thing is to become aware of what you need to do and why.

Time management is a habit. It takes 28 days to make a habit. It takes self-discipline. Luckily, *"the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."*² Timothy 1:7

Time management affects everything.

Time management impacts our mission community. Time management impacts your team. Having a lack of time management results in doing less than we are capable of.

Planning. Take some time to fill out your weekly schedule on the next page. Block out the times that you have scheduled commitments (class, work, Bible study, church, sorority/fraternity meetings, Young Life activities, etc...). Then spend some time estimating how much time you need for things like homework, working out, quiet times, contact work, meals, sleep, errands, and the like. You'll be surprised at how much time you have available when you see it visually.

Young Life Leadership Code of Conduct:

Those who wish to be called Young Life leaders should desire to live a godly lifestyle; striving to grow spiritually, mentally, socially, and physically in a context of sacrificial service to your team and ministry.

Although you are free in Christ, as a leader in ministry, it is important to consider what Paul says about your freedom in Galatians 5:13: *"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."*

1 Timothy 4:12: *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."*

Spirituality: 2 Peter 3:18 *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* You should be growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and His Word. Time with Jesus, church attendance, and prayer should be a consistent part of your life in order to promote spiritual growth.

Evangelism: Matthew 28:19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."*

You should desire to see the Gospel presented to the lost and the world at large, with an emphasis towards participating personally in evangelism at the ministry you lead in.

Moral Purity: Ephesians 5:3 *"But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints."*

You should practice God's standard for moral conduct at all times, with a special emphasis on sexual purity. If you are under the age of 21, abstinence from the use of alcohol is mandatory. If over 21, please use discretion and responsibility when consuming alcohol – a beer with your friends is fine, going out and getting wasted is not. Be wise about where you drink in public and do not wear Young Life attire while drinking in public. Recognize that Scripture is clear about the sin of drunkenness.

Consider the expectations of the community and adapt to a standard of conduct appropriate for the setting without compromising God's standard. The appearance of propriety is often as important as the existence of it. That means no "shacking" with your boyfriend/girlfriend. Watch your tongue and behavior when you are in a setting where kids, parents, or community supporters of Young Life could be present. This includes what you put on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)!

Things to consider concerning moral purity:

1. Is your action helpful? I Cor. 6:12
2. Does your action control you? I Cor. 6:12
3. Does your action cause someone to stumble? I Cor. 8:13
4. Does your action Glorify God? I Cor. 10:31

Responsibility: Ephesians 5:15 *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise."* You should have a sense of personal initiative and responsibility, making an honest effort toward meeting commitments and deadlines. This has special relevance in regards to your Young Life responsibilities and things your Area Director or team leader asks you to do. If you are a student, we also ask that you maintain a GPA of 2.0.

A TEAM APPROACH

Just as Jesus calls us to live out our faith in community, he calls us to mission in community. A team approach is the way Jesus accomplished his mission:

*Jesus gathered people around Him for a purpose. *"He appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach."* (Mark 3:14) It was the pattern of His life to do ministry together, surrounded by the disciples, and not in isolation and doing it by Himself.

*Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs. He instructed them to share their life and ministry together. He even said that it was through our relationships with each other that others would believe in Him (John 17).

Team ministry is our example of how the Body of Christ is supposed to function. 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 spell this out. For a physical body to be healthy and complete, it must have all of its parts. God desires and requires diversity in the body of Christ. Therefore, the team ministry consists of:

- Different personalities – to relate to different kids and college students.
- Different abilities/gifts – to complete different tasks.
- Different viewpoints – to expand the horizons of ministry.
- Different sensitivities – to be aware of different needs.

Team ministry provides a platform for demonstrating to the unbelieving world just who Christ is, and who we are in Christ (John 13:34-35)

THE IMPORTANT POINT: How we relate to our team members really matters. Chuck Miller said that, "It is important to be the people of God before we begin to do the work of God." A key responsibility before Christ, for all of us, is to be growing in our relationships as a brother or sister to those on our leadership team. No "program" can ensure that this will happen. It is a matter of doing all that Scripture has said about our relationships with each other. Loving each other, praying for each other, serving each other, and regarding one another as more important than ourselves are all very important. When one is down or discouraged, another can help pull them up. We can pray for each other, be authentic with each other, and carry each other's burdens. Serving within the context of a team provides a structure to protect us from despair, discouragement, loss of perspective, and failing.

In an area, we have the staff team, who organizes and runs things while also ministering to team leaders, who run meetings, relay info to the team, and make sure they are loved and encouraged, so that team members can work well together to go out and reach kids/college students. This breakdown of the area requires a team approach at every level. We must all work together and do our part to reach the kids/college students in our area.

It is important to remember that the staff team makes decisions for the whole area. We need to respect their leadership and trust they are following the Lord as they make big-picture decisions that we may or may not fully understand or agree with.

Interacting on a Healthy Team: Conflict Management

What are the most obvious tendencies for people in conflict?

- **Pretend it is not there**...don't say anything...let it build up...and finally explode with anger...(usually does not resolve the issue without adding more devastation)
- **Talk to everyone else but the person you have conflict with** until they eventually hear of the problem and realize that now there is not only a problem with you but with 12 other people
- **Ignoring the situation completely**... never really knowing what happened, but that person is no longer your friend or partner in ministry

Question: What characterizes your approach to conflict? A. Avoid at all costs. B. I can face it, but I don't like it. C. Confrontation every once in a while clears the air.

Discussion Question: Are there people in your life who tend to drag you in as a third party to a conflict where you should not be involved? (Don't answer out loud, but really think this through.) Discuss all together: How can you handle this?

Conflict management styles:

- **Collaborating** – Problems are solved in ways in which optimum result is provided for all involved. Both sides get what they want and negative feelings are minimized.
Pros: Creates mutual trust; maintains positive relationships; builds commitment
Cons: Time consuming; energy consuming
- **Competing** – Authoritarian approach.
Pros: Goal oriented; quick
Cons: May breed hostility
- **Avoiding** – The non-confrontational style.
Pros: Does not escalate conflict; postpones difficulty
Cons: Unaddressed and unresolved problems lead to bigger problems later
- **Harmonizing** – Giving in to maintain relationships.
Pros: Minimizes injury when we are outmatched; relationships are maintained
Cons: Breeds resentment; exploits the weak.
- **Compromising** – The middle ground approach.
Pros – useful in complex issues without simple solutions; all parties are equal in power
Cons – No one is ever completely satisfied; less than optimal solutions sometimes result

Discussion Question: Think about your anger today or this week. What tends to trigger it? Is it most often fed by hurt, frustration, or fear? How do you tend to handle it?

Basic steps to resolve conflict:

- **Do not explode at someone and say or do things that escalate anger.** Nothing good comes from this.
- **Handle conflict as it arises by figuring out how you feel.** You may need to process this by writing, thinking, talking...but not with a friend who knows both of you who will be forced to choose sides.

- **If you are experiencing intense emotion it is not a bad idea to wait to process before addressing conflict.** People frequently use this as an excuse to do everything BUT work through the conflict. Don't chicken out!
- **Learn how to express your issue without blame.** "When this happened I felt..." "My intention was..." (Make sure you don't leave out the most important thing: your part!)
- **Own your part!** Learn the art of a sincere apology (i.e. "I am sorry I hurt your feelings." NOT "I am sorry your feelings were hurt.")
- **Listen to the other person's perspective, giving feedback to them about content and feelings until they feel understood.** When this happens you narrow down the areas of conflict. When both parties feel understood they can begin to see where the real problem lies and create a bridge of compromise, and then problem solving can take place.
- **Build areas of agreement.** Once you narrow the conflict down to the core of the problem you can begin working on solutions. Find the areas you can agree on, and then begin to create bridges of compromise.

Truly resolving conflict can take more time and energy than circumstances allow. For this reason, although true resolution remains the ideal goal, more often than not managing conflict is the more practical solution. Learning the art of conflict management creates healthier teams, and healthier teams lead to the results we desire in our mission to adolescents. Romans 12:18 – *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."*

Contact Work

Memory verse – 1 Thessalonians 2:8

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”

Observations?

Applications?

What is Contact Work?

"The problem isn't that young people have never heard the Gospel; the problem is they've never seen it work."

When we talk about "contact work" we speak of the very bloodline of Young Life. Young Life is a ministry of relationships and this – contact work – is where they begin. It is part of a much larger way of thinking – a radical relational, incarnational, or lifestyle evangelism. This is the ground floor of what Young Life is.

Many people will make the mistake of viewing the weekly club meeting as the focal point of Young Life. It isn't. The magic of a Young Life club meeting is not really in the meeting. It's in the fact that the leaders are involved in the lives of the young people in the room. The impact of a message (club talk) coming from a friend – someone who comes and hangs out at school, at practice, at lunch, in their home or dorm – is much deeper. The reaction is often "now I understand why this person cares for me..." and Christ is witnessed in a powerful way.

- Definition and Description
 - Earning the right to be heard
 - Going into their world and meeting them there
 - Building friendship
 - Demonstrating Christ's unconditional love by showing up, no matter what
 - Accepting them – no strings attached, regardless of their response
- Purpose
 - We go to young people for the same reason that Christ came to men: to reveal God to them with no strings attached. Don't be a Young Life pimp; never love someone in order to get them to come to Young Life.
 - We should love them because they **need love and because God calls us to love them**. This concept is crucial to our incarnational attitude.
- Scriptural basis for contact work
 - Jesus in Luke 5:27-33
 - How does this apply when we interact with adolescents?
 - Paul in 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 - What stands out to you about their attitude towards the Thessalonians?
 - How can we work to have that same attitude towards the people Christ calls us to minister to?

Adolescents in Today's Culture

Definition of adolescents

Adolescence: "A period in which young people engage in a psychosocial, independent search for a unique identity or separateness." Experts agree it is hard to put a time frame on it but loosely concur from puberty. As early as 11 yrs. old through mid to late 20s

Early Adolescence: A period when kids start puberty but are still concrete thinkers. Middle school/junior high

Mid Adolescence: "A period when teens are forced to function as several distinct selves in their distinct social worlds." (I.e. child, athlete, friend, follower of Christ). Roughly 9th-12th grades, including freshmen and sophomores in college

Late Adolescence: A period when the reflective ability emerges to analyze behavior, engage in conversation about that behavior and make changes. Early to mid 20s

Questions of identity and belonging-

- Who am I?
- Am I good enough?
- Where do I belong?
- Who loves me?

What are the 3 main stresses of adolescents?

Safety

- Is my family steady?
- Am I financially safe?
- Are my relationships safe?

The reason they feel unsafe is because, culturally, they feel abandoned and alone.

Why?

- Lack of role models (today's adults do not have strong morals and values of their own, so kids do not have a clear standard to aim for)
- Adults are not present
- Adults are not involved, no meaningful relationships
- Kids have little faith in adults
- Adults may have made the world difficult for them to function in, it's hostile
- Kids are more isolated and unsupervised
- They don't follow their own dreams and passions because they are too busy working on parents' and society's expectations for them
- The good of the group/team becomes the goal, not the good of the individual
- "We have lost the ability to spend unstructured downtime"

How does a Young Life Leader step into this and walk through it with them?

Contact Work: Things to Consider

Prayer:

Pray every time you do contact work. Pray before you get there; pray with your eyes once you're there; pray for people as soon as you leave. Pray for God's help remembering names. Pray that He will lead you to the person who needs His love today. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in you as you interact with people. The degree we will pray reflects the degree to which we think we can do it on our own. If we realize that apart from Christ we can accomplish nothing, then we must go to Him and seek His direction.

Realize it's a process:

You are a part of the process. Friendships aren't just made; they are grown. It will take some time to earn the right to be heard. People will listen to friends, not strangers, so be patient!

Don't look for immediate results:

Relationships take time, sometimes years, to develop. Much of the time you spend with people may not seem valuable or deep, but just being around is so important. Later on, you may hear someone say, "Hey, aren't you the guy who came and watched us practice all the time?"

Personally enter into their world:

It is only by us going in to their world that we can understand it. Be interested in them and what holds them, even if it's not something that really interests you.

Invite:

We don't want to pressure anyone to do anything. We invite people to be a part of a community, a family, and ultimately a relationship with their Savior.

Love the unlovely:

Just as Jesus did, so must we. Don't just hang out with the good looking, outgoing and fun people. Roll up your sleeves and get involved in the hardest parts of life and society. Move toward people in love.

Shared Adventure:

Jesus didn't just go to the synagogue and talk to the people He saw. He drew people in, built relationships with them, and then brought them along for his 3-year adventure of ministry. As we build relationships with adolescents, it's important to take them away from their turf to experience new things with you. This builds a new bond to the friendship that will not exist unless you share in something new and exciting together.

Videos and Questions

Video 1

What stands out to you? What is it that seems to truly define Young Life or make it unique and compelling to you?

What do you think Jim Rayburn meant when he said YL Leaders are "going through trees and parked cars" just to spend time with teenagers?

Which of Steve's descriptions do you think best describes Contact Work?

- Earning the right to be heard
- Wasting time with kids
- Building bridges of friendships
- Simply hanging out

Video 2

Why is a herd of Rhinos called a crash?

What are some things you will crash through personally to get to kids? Choose all that apply

Busy Schedules with work or school

Your wallet

Your fears and anxiety

Icy stares and cold shoulders

Misunderstanding from family and friends as to why you spend your time this way.

If a young Life leader earns the right to be heard through spending time with kids, but never points kids to Jesus, is it really Young Life?

Suggestions and Principles

- Focus your time with specific groups rather than with the whole school. Choose a group/team/class and seek to build friendships with the people in that group.
- Be consistent. Be around on a regular basis, not just every once in a while.
- Find a way to help them. Coach them, drive them around, tutor them, take food to them, etc. Convince them that you have something that they NEED and that you'll do it for them out of the goodness of your heart.
- Work HARD at learning names. Keep a notebook and write down names as often as possible if that's what will work for you. Write down details and a description of them right after leaving the school or game or function and review it before you plan to see them again. Add them on Facebook and make regular contact with them. See resource page for ideas!
- Learn to ask questions that do not have yes/no answers so that the conversation doesn't die.
- Meet people through other people.
- Expect them to be puzzled by you at first. Your presence might be a mystery for a while.
- Visit them where they work.
- Take them with you to things you are already going to do. Get in the habit of asking them to run errands with you.
- Be yourself. Don't try to impress with overdone or clever antics or by imitating others. You don't have to be a comedian, athlete or Mr./Ms. Personality to love people. You have the power of Jesus inside you.
- Pray for those you have met or want to meet. Ask God for a heart that breaks for lost people.
- Be casual. Don't work too hard at being friendly with lots of handshaking or rapid speech; just be yourself.
- Use the phone, text, Facebook, e-mail, whiteboards at the dorm, etc. Use lots of methods to communicate.
- Contact work is never finished! Once the right to be heard has been earned, fight to keep the right and continue to earn the right to go deeper with kids.

Club

Memory Verse – John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they might have life, and have it to the full.”

Observations?

Applications?

THE FIRST YOUNG LIFE CLUB

During the 1938-39 school year, Jim Rayburn decided to take a part-time job with a Gainesville, Texas church. Jim was the assistant pastor in charge of youth work; Clyde Kennedy, a minister with progressive ideas, was his boss.

Together the two men hashed out a novel idea – that Jim would work with unchurched kids exclusively, instead of those who already attended. Nothing suited Jim better than this approach. Experiences in the Southwest had taught him that most high-school kids avoid church if at all possible. Besides, Jim wasn't fond of such titles as 'minister', 'youth worker', or 'pastor', and he loathed black robes, clerical collars, and religious garb.

Armed with a soft spot in his heart for kids, a burning love affair with God, and a salary of five dollars a week, Jim headed for the local high-school. Little did anyone suspect how far reaching his efforts would be.

Jim studied every available book on youth ministries, yet failed to run across anything with which he agreed. Further searching led to a lady who was also working with high-school students' she called her group the "Miracle Book Club". As the kids didn't seem to mind the name, Jim adopted it for his group too. At first, progress was slow and results were disappointing. Meeting once a week after school in an empty classroom, Jim managed to interest eleven kids. For a man who loved to think big, this was a major disappointment; his "Miracle Book Club" was working no miracle.



"I didn't know how to run a club. I started having it in the afternoon, after school. I'd talked the school people into giving me a classroom. I started with three kids. One of them turned out to be a Christian, and the other two didn't turn out to be anything. They fast faded out. I got it up as high as eleven that year, but I'm telling you it was the saddest bunch of sacks you ever saw in your life."

"If you want to really see a bunch of sad apples, just have a meeting for kids who'll stay after school. I got the biggest selections of teachers' pets you ever saw, not a red corpuscle in the whole crowd. Everybody I wanted to reach was out on the football field and everywhere else, right while we were having our club meeting. After nine months of that, I knew I had to try something else."

Jim was learning that a high school is a complex subculture of its own. A person who fails to understand that subculture will never enter it. Kids run in cliques, and cliques don't usually intermingle. There are kids who are popular and kids who aren't. Neither group thinks highly of the other. A typical high school contains twenty to thirty separate groupings of students: athletes, eggheads, socialites, dopers, the drama crowd, the motorcycle crowd, college prep students, vocation students, the hot-rod gang, the party crowd, upperclassmen, lowerclassmen, blacks, whites, chicano, and so on. A person who plans to work with high school kids had better know which ones he seeks to befriend. It is most difficult to interest all students in the same activity.

Jim hadn't foreseen this problem and didn't know how to address it. Experimenting with various approaches led him to a simple conclusion: Attract the student leaders and they bring others; fail to attract them and attendance falls like a rock.

In the years that followed, Jim was often criticized for pursuing student leaders at the expense of equally needy kids who were less popular. But in no way did Jim view his method as beyond reproach – he had simply found a solution that produced results beyond his wildest expectations, and he rode the wave. It was not his calling to solve the sociological problems of the American high schools. Sociological problems are spiritual problems anyway. Solve the spiritual problem and you solve them both. Jim wanted kids to listen to the message of Jesus Christ and he accepted any method, which produced that result.

In January of 1940, Jim changed the Miracle Book Club format. The hour was changed from after school to early evening. And as kids preferred out-of-school activities, the meetings were moved into the homes of various students.

Jim described the beginning of his success with high school students: "What a change! I started having lively meetings. Two or three kids came out who were really sharp and could do something with the rest of the bunch. Their personal enthusiasm for the club got others to come, and it was wonderful. Right at the start the Lord took hold of two kids. One of them was Viddie Wewell. She was the very first youngster that was ever led to the Lord Jesus Christ in a club of mine. She was in that little high school society set, and she got those kids to come to club, she and a boy in the senior class.

"We decided we'd have a prayer meeting, those two kids and me. In the pastor's study that Sunday night, we started to pray for the club. The pastor met with us. He was pushing on me all the time. He didn't care if I did any work around the church. He just wanted to see those kids reached for Christ. He said, 'Don't monkey around with the people who come to church. I'll take care of them. You go down to that high school.' Boy, now just think of that, I wonder what would happen if there were more pastors like that, if there were some pastors in every town like that. That just said, 'Boy, I'm not doing so bad with the people who are coming to church. The thing that's bothering me is all those people who don't come. Somebody go out and get them.' That's what the church is all about, really.

"You can't read the book of Acts, you can't read the New Testament, you can't read the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, without coming to the conclusion that that's what the church is here for, to go after others. And why it's such a colossal flop is because it's so ingrown. Nobody hears the message except those who have always heard it, and they're not going to do anything about it so nothing happens. This guy just kept pushing me and pushing me, and out I went."

"I don't even think the prayer meeting was my idea. We'd had twelve kids at our club meeting the night those two kids came through for the Lord, and we decided to have this prayer meeting, and the next week we had twenty-three. And boy, we had another prayer meeting, a prayer meeting that wouldn't quit. And the next week we had thirty-two. In two weeks we went from twelve to thirty-two. And then we had another prayer meeting and the school was really out then. The next night we met in the biggest home in the whole town and we had fifty-one. And right at the end of the meeting, one of the toughest kids in the senior class got up and said, 'Wait a minute; I wanted to tell you that I accepted Jesus Christ while Jim was talking.' It was like a bomb dropped in the place. None of us had ever heard of anything like that. It was wonderful! One or two others who had gotten 'waked up' joined the prayer meeting the next Sunday night, and from fifty-one we

went to sixty-two, and from sixty-two to seventy-five. We had two meetings of seventy-five and kept praying."

"A beautiful little blonde girl, the school beauty queen, came to know the Savior and joined in that prayer meeting. She had never been in a prayer meeting in her whole life. We were praying around in a circle, taking turns, and she heard us praying for Burr Nichols, the captain of the football team. As soon as we raised our heads up from prayer, this little girl piped up and said, 'I'll get Burr.' Just like that! That prayer was answered fast! She was going with him and she said she'd have him at the next meeting."

"We started the next meeting, and that night I'll never forget. It was crowded in that hall where we were meeting. It was a big front hall, but seventy-five people are a lot of people for a hall. They were sitting on the floor, and I was crammed up against the front door. I kept looking for this blonde girl and Burr Nichols. They weren't there."

"We went through the songs, and it was time for my message. I'd stalled as long as I could, and just as I was getting up to speak, there came a clomp, clomp, clomp across the front porch. That door busted open behind me and here was this little blond cutie and Burr Nichols right behind her. She just pranced in and sat down in front of me. That was the only space on the whole floor. And there was Burr standing in front of that whole crowd; he turned around and sank down beside her."

"Well, I started in, and I was scared to death. I was just shaking in my boots. I gave the Gospel the best I knew. Burr hadn't been at the beginning of the meeting, and hadn't heard any singing or anything, but something about it he liked. He came around afterwards, and stuck out his big mitt, and shook my hand and said, 'Boy, Jim, I liked that. I'm coming back next week.'"

"Next week we started off with the same situation – a big crowd jammed up against the front door, but Burr Nichols wasn't there. I went all the way through and came to the message again. I saw the little blond girl in the audience and thought, 'Oh, oh, they've had a divorce this week.' But I was wrong."

"Just as I started to speak, there came the awfulest clomp, clomp, clomp across the front porch. Burr opened the front door and came in like he owned the place. He walked past me and said, 'Jim, I wouldn't have been so late, but I couldn't find some of these guys.' And four teammates came trailing in behind him."

"I found out that across the street from the high school a group of elderly women had been meeting for six years, every Monday morning, getting down on their knees in the living room of dear old Mrs. Frazier's. They prayed every Monday morning for six years, long before I ever heard of Gainesville, Texas, for the high school kids across the street. I was there a year before I heard of that prayer meeting. I used to go over there with those five or six old ladies and get down on my knees with them after that club started to roll. That was the thing the Lord used to start it."

"Back in seminary, a group of kids going to school there got interested in the club meeting in Gainesville. They'd get down on their knees and spend hours praying for that club meeting. It's no wonder why we had revival in that school!"

"That's how Young Life started. I didn't have in my mind to start anything, but that club went from 75 to 96, and then to 100 and then 119, and 135, and the week before finals there were 170 kids there."

"Burr Nichols closed in with the Savior about the fifth night he ever heard the Gospel. That fall, Burr went to Dallas to spot players for the announcer at one of the games. Riding back, they had a terrible accident and Burr was killed. His family wanted me to preach the funeral. They said I was the only preacher Burr had ever listened to."

"Burr grew up on the wrong side of the tracks and was a regular ruffian. All the Lord was waiting for was somebody to get a little bit interested in Burr – a little blonde beauty queen and a little pip-squeak theological student. Burr was a precious soul for whom the Lord died. This country is full of people like that. There are thousands of people in this country that no Christian has ever said a kind word to. Most of the kids in this nation are like that. A few million more of them will graduate from high school this year. Just like Burr Nichols, they never heard the story. And I can't stand that.

"Jesus Christ is the strongest, grandest, most fascinating personality to ever walk planet Earth. But a careless messenger with the wrong method can reduce all His magnificent to sheer boredom. And it's a sin to bore a kid with the Gospel." – Jim Rayburn

THE YOUNG LIFE CLUB

"...Whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:21

WHAT IS A YOUNG LIFE CLUB?

Club is our proclamation tool. We put young people in a neutral setting, give them a chance to be themselves with no expectations, and we proclaim the good news to them through fun, friendship, and faith expressed. Hopefully by now you've seen that relationships are the ground floor of YL and that club is just our storefront. It's how we showcase our product to the masses. Club is open to anyone and everyone at the school. All are welcome!

WHY DO PEOPLE COME TO CLUB?

Similar to performing market research, we study our audience. We must ask ourselves, "What are teens/college students wanting out of life?"

- They want to be themselves; they want to get to know themselves better.
- They want to meet new people, especially those of the opposite gender.
- They need to feel accepted and important, like they matter to someone.
- They want to hear about Christ in ways that they can understand and apply to life.
- They expect to have fun and be surprised.
- They want to be challenged in their faith and hear about God.

Elements of a Young Life Club: Jim Rayburn used to say that everything we do in Young Life should include LEAH.

Love of Christ displayed
Element of surprise
Adventure
Humor

PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS

1. The most important consideration—in a class all by itself, is the leaders' relationship with Christ. Club will always reflect the attitudes of the leaders. They are the ones who set the whole tone of club. They should radiate Christ in actions, words, and attitudes.
2. A successful club is one in which Jesus Christ is made known. It may have nothing to do with the number of kids, or how many laughs there were, or how smoothly everything ran. Making Jesus known at club simply means doing things in His way, with His attitudes and actions.
3. Don't fall into the trap of feeling good when Club goes well and feeling depressed when Club seems to go poorly. Club is God's, and so is all that happens there. We can give thanks for God's sovereignty. Many times a Club that seems to be going 'poorly' is still effective in proclaiming the Lord. Of course, we must work diligently to improve the effectiveness of our club.
4. Young Life Club is a team ministry. Christian kids and leaders are of major importance. They help set the atmosphere to be that of Christ's love. Their love and concern at Club build a vital

believing base for the message. People see Christ's works because of the Christian person they are sitting beside.

5. When kids or college students leave club, they should feel like something was different about that one hour. As they continue to come, they should find out for themselves that it was Jesus Christ's presence that made it special. It was Christ in people, in the songs, in the laughs, in the message and in the attitudes.
6. Numbers are important! Christ's command to all of us is to go to the entire world and to every person. We will ask God to use us to reach as many as we can in our meetings. Well-attended meetings usually have a stronger feel of excitement and interest. But be careful not to use this as a benchmark of whether God is at work. Club can have a lower attendance and someone comes to know Christ, or have 200 kids and but the gospel was not well displayed.

Club Thoughts

- The meeting should last about an hour. In some urban or rural situations, the meeting may also involve recreational and social activities, and last for an evening. In places where the majority of teens do experience home as a place to escape FROM, club becomes a safe place to be and people want to stay as long as possible.
- It must be attractive – should move along smoothly and not drag. Transitions in Club are very important (i.e. playing music during transition times, those up front being prepared to fill time when needed, know the order of club, etc.).
- The meeting is designed to introduce the disinterested adolescents in the crowd to Jesus Christ. It should not become a clique for Christians; we must always guard against this as some Clubs become safe Christian sanctuaries.
- Leaders should make every effort to cooperate with the school activities and to help promote school spirit. Always be sensitive enough to include those who tend toward being 'drop outs'. Strive to win them also.
- Special care must be taken not to conflict with the program of local churches and to gently correct anyone who might consider Young Life his/her 'church'.
- The message is the climax of the meeting. All that is done earlier should prepare the way for the presentation of Jesus Christ.

ATMOSPHERE OF CLUB

- Typically in the middle school or high school setting, students sit on the floor and any available furniture, usually in the home of one of the participants, or in another facility. College clubs should consider using chairs. We do this so that everyone is on the same level. They also will get more engaged than if they can sit back comfortable in a chair or couch, but being on the ground together keeps them involved.
- Should be relaxed and enjoyable.
- Picture Christ's love flowing from you to each kid/college student.
- Let them know you appreciate being with them.

- Bring them together. Help them feel that it is their Club. Let them participate.
 - Have students help lead songs. They should be carefully 'coached' at first. Planning Club with students is a wonderful opportunity for Contact Work.
 - Have them clap, raise hands, answer questions, etc.
 - Have them yell for their class or team.
 - Have them help you pass out things, i.e. brochures.
 - At certain times in the year, you may want to allow them to share their faith with the group or lead in prayer.
- Keep things moving. Don't lose momentum.
- Each of the leaders should sit in the middle of a group of kids and give attention to the up-front leader at all times. This attitude will catch with the kids around the leaders.

TRADITIONAL INGREDIENTS OF THE YOUNG LIFE CLUB MEETING

**Some clubs, especially Wyldlife and Young Life College clubs, will find it best to not use some of the elements of a traditional high school club for various reasons. It is important, however, that the team look at the purpose behind the traditional club elements and make sure the club format they choose still accomplishes those purposes. **

Music: This has particular value in getting young people doing something together and in preparing them for the message. Good singing can be a tremendous asset to the meeting's atmosphere and effectiveness. The adolescent culture is highly influenced by the importance they place upon music in their daily lives.

Games/Skits: This is not just something thrown into the program to take up time, but rather an important ingredient for breaking down barriers and making people laugh and relax in a happy setting.

The Announcements: Mainly used to break the stride of the meeting and cover any future plans for the Club. Camp promotion may often be best done at this time.

The Talk (or message): The most important part of any Young Life Club is when a leader has the opportunity to speak of Jesus Christ to young people who do not know Him and give them something to believe so the Holy Spirit can do His work.

- Young Life club talks have become somewhat of a science over the years. When we give a talk, we want to stay true to Jim Rayburn's original vision for YL- Jesus Christ. Young Life is an outreach ministry working to engage adolescents and draw them into who Jesus is. Therefore, we focus on the life, stories, and death of Jesus Christ. Young Life is not here to moralize with believers, but to draw non-believers in through the most attractive man who has ever lived- Jesus Christ. We leave the rest of the bigger story of who God is for campaigners and church ministries.

The Close: Brief, but important in leaving kids with a good impression of the meeting and what was said. This might involve 'I hope you'll think about what you've heard tonight. Why don't you meet us at Sonic to hang out for a while? We hope to see you around this week, and hope you'll bring some friends to Club next week.'

Campaigners and Camp

Memory Verse – Matthew 28:16-20

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Observations?

Applications?

Reread the memory verse for this week, Matthew 28:16-20. These are Jesus' last words to his disciples before he ascended to be with the Father.

What are the 4 commands he gives us?

- Think of door-to-door evangelism. How does this compare/differ to what Jesus is talking about?

Look at the YL mission statement: To introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. Making disciples encompasses the whole statement, from the "introducing" to "helping them grow." How does campaigners fit into our mission?

Campaigners

Campaigners and small groups are essentially the same thing. They received their name back when Jim Rayburn held small group meetings called "The Young Life Campaign" and it has evolved since then. Young Life College refers to these as small groups to make it more attractive, whereas other Young Life ministries have kept the traditional name. Campaigners/small group is a core component of our outreach strategy in Young Life. Jesus didn't just command us to GO, He told us to make disciples. Campaigners is our disciple-making outlet. It's how we help students grow in their faith and become more like Jesus.

We do campaigners/small groups because discipleship is important to Jesus. We also do it because it gives a wider platform of students the opportunity to take ownership in Young Life. One key component of any campaigners/small group meeting should be to push students to have hearts for their lost friends – to pray for them and learn to love them with the heart of Jesus.

Young Life ministry is like a funnel – it's wide at the top and narrow at the bottom. The top represents students numerically with varying depths of relationships and spiritual interests. The bottom represents a small number who are serious about their relationship with Jesus or about learning more about Him. This small number is our campaigner or small group students.

Campaigners can look a million different ways and you can use a million different things to do it effectively – here are some universal tips for success.

What Jesus did: Jesus' plan for impact was astonishingly simple. He drew around Himself a small band of dedicated disciples. For three years he lived with, shared with, cared for, taught, corrected, trusted, forgave and loved them. They often failed him, disobeyed him, misunderstood him, hurt him and disappointed him. Yet never did he withdraw his love from them. And later, empowered by the Holy Spirit, this small group of trained disciples changed the world.

The Goal is Reproduction:

The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others. 2 Tim. 2:2

Life-on-life discipleship is the most effective way to influence the lives of adolescents, so we will have some of them deeply involved in our lives. Life-changing effectiveness comes from the personal time and not from meetings. A life-on-life relationship not only explains the truth, but visibly demonstrates it. Those who become a part of our lives have the opportunity to see our Christian faith lived out before their eyes. You can impress people from a distance, but you can only impact them from up close.

Leaders who wish to reproduce themselves must focus their efforts on a few people. Ask God to guide you to whom He wants you to hang out with. Look for those who want to go deeper, are compatible with you, and can be leaders of others. Then every time you are together look for how God might want you to help take them deeper in Christ. Pray together, share what God's teaching you, memorize scripture, exhort, encourage, and share your vision for their life. Give yourself away; pour your life into another's life and you will find life. If you are in love with Christ yourself, then your life is God's tool to use in the life of another.

Remember, the key to reproduction is to be growing ourselves. You are only going to take others as far as you've gone or have the vision to go.

The goal of campaigners/small groups is to start kids and college students on the road to maturity in Christ. This task requires a focus on basic life principles rather than just their behavior. We are given the incredible privilege of being involved with adolescents during a crucial time: as a young Christian, they are beginning to explore what it means to follow Christ, and at the same time, as an adolescent they are deciding what things they will count as important. These two characteristics provide the potential to produce people radically committed to Christ. We want them to become fellow ministers with us, transforming their school.

To nurture this kind of radical commitment, we need to include both meeting and one-on-one time in our plans. Our meetings need to strike a balance between involving the head, the heart, and the hands. We must be challenging kids not to settle with becoming "good Christians". We also want them to understand surrender, lordship, service, and what it means to have a relationship with Christ. These are essential for reproduction. Effective campaigner meetings should have these elements: **CARE**.

Community, Adventure, Responsibility, Education

CAMP/SHARED ADVENTURE

Camp is both the culmination of a year of ministry in a kid's life, **and** the start of the next.

Camp is a minimum three-week process. One week of prep and communication, one week of camp, and one week of intense follow-up.

Every leader who goes to camp is asked to pay their way. This is typically around \$800. We ask this because we believe we should enter into this process with our friends, who are also asked to pay for camp in full. It is an adventure to embark on together.

GETTING KIDS TO CAMP/COLLEGE STUDENTS TO WORK WEEK OR OTHER SHARED ADVENTURE

First of all--Camp sell is a spiritual adventure. It helps us to be faithful in our Christian call to:

- Go, move, be the ones to take the initiative (Matt. 28:18, Mark 16:15, Luke 4:18)
- Pursue to completion (Acts 20:24)
- Move out unashamedly (Rom. 1:16)
- Speak up boldly (Eph. 6:19)
- Keep the well being of the other in mind (1 Cor. 10:33)
- Have faith and confidence (2 Tim. 1:7, Heb. 11:6)
- Glorify God in answered prayers (Eph. 3:20-21)

A closer look at scripture

"Some men came, carrying with them a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:3-5

- How does this relate to camp?
- What does it look like in YL to get our friends to the feet of Jesus?
- What are the obstacles?
- Why does it matter that we work hard throughout the year to win kids over for camp?
- Why should you strive to go to camp and bring your friends with you?

Develop a prayer strategy

Camp is a spiritual endeavor. We should pray for all aspects of the trip. Since camp brings life transformation, we want as many kids/college students as possible to go; however, we should not neglect relationships for an exhausted effort focused only on numbers.

A. Involve leaders, committee, campaigners, and others who care for adolescents.

B. Every possible person should be prayed for. Don't forget to pray for your relationships with them and that they would meet Christ, not just that they will go on a trip.

C. Pray that kids/college students would not go if it were not God's will for them to be there. This builds confidence about those who are going. It also helps with the disappointments of the ones who can't go.

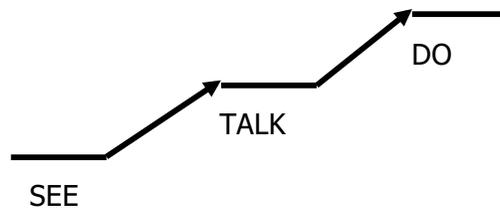
Week 1: Contact Work and Campaigners

A Practical Look at Contact Work

Contact Work is not a science; it is more of an art. It is however, an art that can be learned and developed over time. How do we move toward understanding and working on good relationship development? There are three parts, or levels, to contact work:

- Being **Seen**
- **Talking** to a person(s)
- **Doing** something with an individual or small group

Level one and level two are fine in and of themselves, but are most important as progressive steps to level three. The thing that builds the greatest relationship is doing something with someone. Anytime you do something with a person that relationship is strengthened. Friendship grows as a result of doing something with another person. We move forward from being seen by kids, to talking to individual kids and relating to their current life context, to doing something with them. The level of contact work that we want to move toward is doing things with kids: level three contact work.



These relationships often times evolve only after a long and prayerful process, from one level to the next.

As Young Life leaders, we need to intentionally make contact with kids in each of the three categories: Campaigner kids, Club kids and non-Club kids. We must be willing to do this with all kinds of kids, many of who are radically different from ourselves. Often our initial reaction is fear. Contact work is scary; we are crossing boundaries and breaking down walls and stereotypes. We are going into the battlefield and that is uncomfortable. We would be naïve to think it would be otherwise.

As a result, what frequently happens is that contact work is done with Campaigners and Club kids and is not done with non-Club kids on a regular basis. Seldom, if ever, do we get to level three contact work with non-Club kids. This causes our Young Life Club to be 'in grown'; much like a 'Christian' clique. That's not what we're about.

What causes us not to seek out the non-Club kids in level three? Perhaps a variety of issues, but the most common are: fear, not knowing what to do, not knowing why he or she should do contact work, the perception that one doesn't have enough time, and fatigue. These common obstacles build upon each other. They soon develop what might be called a Paralysis Circle, which hinders us from pursuing kids.

We need to remind ourselves every time we step onto a campus or spend time with a young person that the reality is – kids are dying for an adult friend and college students are dying for community. They are looking for healthy role models that they can respect, admire and confide in. Don't underestimate your role. Don't be intimidated. Kids and college students desperately want your friendship. It's often with the kids you least expect that the Lord will work most dramatically.

Have confidence in the One who calls you to those kids. Remember Christ and the reality of His presence in you, with you, and for you. He will give you confidence as you trust Him and take risks regularly.

As for some suggestions regarding what to talk about:

- Make them the experts. Ask things that the kids can talk about freely. (Sports, friends, etc...)
- Learn to ask about the feelings behind what they are saying. Show compassion & empathy.
- Practice the art of making kids feel special and loving them into their potential. This takes the touch of God's Spirit and grace in our own lives.
- Always let kids know you are at school primarily because of them, not because of Young Life. We are friends, not recruiters.
- Be willing and available to go deeper and to be one who challenges kids.
- Demonstrate servanthood in practical ways by offering rides, helping with school, etc.
- We need to individualize friendships, which means we need to limit the number of close relationships. Constantly have an attitude of going deep and wide. We go deep with a handful of kids and wide with many kids on campus. There are always new kids to meet and to befriend.

THE STAGES OF RELATIONSHIPS

INITIATING AND DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS

There are only two types of people; those you have met and those you are trying (and praying) to meet. Once you meet them the first time they become an acquaintance. Picture a continuum with 4 different stages that describe every relationship with every kid you know. The goal of Contact Work is to move kids/college students from the Acquaintance end towards the Discipleship end.

Recognize Acquaintance Friendship Spiritual Relationship ▶

To do so, develop a good system of time and places to go in order to initiate contact with kids. Be conscious of opportunities to move the relationship to a deeper level. This might happen through a shared experience or doing them a favor and seizing the opportunity for good talk.

THE FIRST STAGE - Recognize

Initiate friendships in THEIR environment or on their turf. These are primarily large group events such as a football game, the lunchroom, or a school play. Conversations are geared around learning their name, and their interests (i.e. sports, band, classes...).

- Be highly visible.

- Don't come on too strong. Sometimes we over-compensate for fear, lack of ease, etc. by "blowing kids away."
- Be sensitive to situations where you are not welcome.
- Stay away from places where you might compete or cause them to be 'ill at ease'.
- Don't overstay your welcome.
- Take someone with you that helps to break the ice.
- Don't talk about yourself.
- Remember Names. Remember Names. Remember Names. Refer to them by name.
- Remember what they participate in, what their upcoming concerns are...
- Dress properly – fit in to the situation. (i.e. don't over dress or under dress)

THE SECOND STAGE – Acquaintance

At this stage you can know their name and they know yours. You know a few things about them and their interests.

- Mostly takes place in schools, at school events, and at club.
- Ask probing questions.
- Leave them wanting more.
- Do what you say you will do. Earn their trust by doing so.
- Don't compete against them, but with them. (boys = sports / girls = appearance)

THE THIRD STAGE – Friendship

Take kids out of their environment. Take them out to eat, or to do something around town. Invite them to your house for a fun activity. Take them camping or on a weekend trip to a nearby town. Conversations are on a more vulnerable level concerning: fears, views of God, family problems, etc. At this level they might begin sharing and initiating time together.

- Be creative.
- Do this in small groups or one-on-one.
- Be consistent. You won't always 'feel' like going...go in faith and obedience.
- Exercise good judgment in where you take kids.
- Be concerned about their issues and problems (even if they seem silly to you).
- Remember to follow-up.
- Facebook, text, and call frequently.
- Remember birthdays and significant events (tryouts for a part in a play, or cheerleading)

THE FOURTH STAGE – Spiritual Relationship

This can range from answering questions they have about spiritual things to having them in a campaigner group to one-on-one discipleship.

- Talk to them about their questions.
- Take kids/your peers to church.
- Meet with regularly each week for accountability and growth.
- Teach them the importance of Christian fellowship.
- Challenge and exhort them to live a life of obedience.
- Raise the 'bar' for them to shoot for.
- Become more vulnerable regarding your struggles in life.

BOUNDARIES

Boundaries are healthy and essential! "Boundaries, simply defined, are the realization that I am a separate person, apart from others...With proper boundaries, I know what I am and am not responsible for." [Peter Scazzero, The Emotionally Healthy Church]. Not having boundaries affects you and all of your relationships.

Jesus, himself, set boundaries. He did not heal every sick person (Mark 1:29-45), nor did He allow everyone to follow Him (Luke 6:12-16). He centered Himself in the Father and focused on the Father's business, not the pressing needs He saw.

We must be careful, though, not to rename "selfishness" as "boundaries." In Matthew 5:40-41 Jesus says, *"And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles."*

Here are some things to keep in mind when working in ministry.

*Information disclosure - Is what you want to reveal going to benefit the relationship or the person? Or is it going to hinder the other person's growth?

*Sometimes, you simply can't be the one to help—you don't have what someone needs (i.e. professional counseling or social work services).

*Time/resources management

- Figure out your capabilities and what can fit in your schedule.
- Make boundaries so you are not too involved with the other person/situation, causing other areas of your life to suffer.
- Not being able to do everything for everyone does not make you a bad leader.

*Keep in mind the principle of "Just manageable difficulties" - challenges that are hard enough to really test our abilities, but not so tough that we are apt to fail at them severely or frequently. If you find leadership "easy," you are probably not challenging yourself. If you are more overwhelmed than not, this may be a boundary issue.

* It's all about communication. Set realistic expectations for yourself and for your "girl" or your "guy" and make sure you communicate them clearly.

*Taking breaks is okay. There is no guilt in getting adequate rest.

CREATIVE CONTACT WORK

Some Specific Ideas

College sports (live or TV)	Sports Fantasy Leagues
Shooting Pool	Backpacking
Camping	Rappelling
Canoeing	Rock climbing
Tennis	Fishing
Racquetball	Softball
Shopping	Kite flying
Golf	Aerobics
Horseback riding	Swimming
Slumber parties	Let a kid teach you a skill, or sport
Swimming	Go for Coffee
Your health club	Video games
Skating	Zoo
Amusement parks	Rent a movie
Wash your car	Plan a practical joke on a leader
Biking	School plays
Making Ice Cream	Powder puff football
Concerts	Ultimate Frisbee
Putt-putt	Visit a potential college
Scuba diving	Christmas caroling
Bowling	Tutoring
Make a home movie for Club	Lunch
Odd jobs around your house	Volunteer work
Ping-Pong	Habitat for Humanity
Board games	Take them to Church
Roller Blading	Babysitting
Flying	Hay rides
Community Service Project	Picture taking
Local Parks	Tubing
Running	Show them your office
Athletic events	Fix your car
Make jewelry	Fix their car
Playing guitar	Shared hobbies
Movies	Chicken Finger Friday

Comments:

- Ask kids what they would like to do.
- Let kids teach you.
- Listen for invitations from kids (sometimes very subtle!)
- Drive kids someplace.
- Ask kids into your life (wash car, go shopping, show them your office, meet your parents)
- Don't stop during the summer.

NON-VERBAL CONTACT WORK

“Proclaim the Gospel, proclaim the Gospel, at all times proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and if necessary...use words.” St. Francis of Assisi

What do you want others to know non-verbally about the love of Christ before they hear the Gospel spoken?

- You are real – be yourself, be vulnerable, people can see through falseness
- You identify with them – know where they are hurting – empathy not sympathy
- You understand them – few people seek to understand, hence they don't feel free to open up
- You listen to them – you need to know what is behind the words they are saying...and aren't saying. Use 'Active Listening' skills.
- You affirm them. Respect them.
- You not only love them, but you LIKE them.
- Don't try to change people, only the Holy Spirit changes people.
- Love unconditionally. Unconditional love accepts them right where they are. Love the sinner, not the sin.
- Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know everything.
- Don't be afraid to say you are sorry.
- Love the unlovely – don't just befriend the 'in crowd'.
- Love the ones who don't love you.
- Pursue those who don't pursue you.
- Be the initiator.
- Step out of the normal; be uncomfortable. Don't be afraid to be embarrassed.
- Challenge
- Encourage
- Care about them physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Know their name and their birthday.
- Show up at their important events.
- Ask for an update about concerns they had during one of your prior conversations.
- Don't be one of the crowd. Don't join in sarcasm or ridicule.
- Be adaptable.
- Serve them.
- Be consistent. Even when you don't FEEL like being there for them.
- Don't forget what it means to be Lost.
- Allow them the freedom to say no to Christ, without you rejecting them.
- Don't say I told you so.
- Pray for the chance to serve them in a way that costs you deeply. For the love of Christ.

A Practical look at Campaigners

Create an environment where following Jesus and asking questions about Him is attractive.

Dawson Trotman, the founder of The Navigators, was once asked how he got people to memorize Scripture, Dawson replied, "That's easy! You just create an environment where memorizing Scripture is attractive." This is the single greatest piece of practical advice for effective ministry: Make it attractive.

Use your creativity to shape an environment where it is exciting and attractive to be together and learn, ask questions about, and seek Jesus. It's more than just weekly meetings. It's an adventure, a lifestyle, and a community. Following Jesus isn't just a program; it's a way of life.

Have a curriculum!

You wouldn't think much of a your professors if they didn't have a lesson plan. Likewise, you need to have one for small group/campaigners. There are countless different things you can do. Your local Young Life staff can help you get your hands on whatever material you might need. Here are a few suggestions.

Go through a book of the Bible. Learn to read and study the Bible together.

Do a topical study of the Bible. Go through different passages and verses about a certain topic, like love, discipleship, sin, etc.

Read a book together. You can pick any book that has spiritual themes and that gives you a chance to learn more about Jesus. Just make sure that you incorporate Scripture into your time together and compare any "truths" from the book with the Bible to make sure they line up with what God says. This will require more effort on the leader's part.

Follow the prepared lessons on the Young Life website.

Think ahead.

Little things make a difference. Have things like time, place, and transportation planned out. Make sure to find a time that works for everyone. In choosing your location, make sure it's a place where everyone feels safe and comfortable asking questions and sharing about their lives.

Think about what extra questions might be raised during your time and be prepared to answer them. You may not always know all the answers, but know where to find them. If your group is a group of primarily non-believers, work to share the Gospel in your time together.

Planning steps:

Write out your ultimate goal for the discussion.

Write out specific objectives.

Brainstorm Scripture references and pick out the ones you want to use.

Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point.

Brainstorm sharing questions.

Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate your point.

Brainstorm icebreakers.

Play sometimes.

Plan to have fun together sometimes instead of meeting. At Christmas you could bake cookies or have a White Elephant party. Play a game of basketball or kickball. Plan an overnight or an out of town adventure! Live life together and make sure to have FUN sometimes!

Guidelines for leading small groups

Be Prepared:

Seek God's guidance before you start. You need to depend on Christ.

Pray!!! Be prayerful before, during, and after.

Plan your times each week to get them to talk openly about themselves and the gospel.

Set some basic guidelines:

Have everyone sit on the same level so you can make eye contact with everyone.

Tell them you'll meet each week and they will get to know each other better.

Let them know that negative humor and teasing are unacceptable.

Have them agree that what they say will be confidential.

Let them know that no question is a dumb/bad/stupid/pointless one.

Don't be afraid of silence!

If no one answers right away, that's okay. Do not interrupt the silence just because it feels awkward. Chances are they are probably thinking. Someone will be brave enough to answer first and get the conversation started.

Try to get everyone to share and respect when other people are speaking:

At times it may be appropriate to go around the circle, letting each kid speak, especially if you have an unusually quiet group, or a couple of people who take up all the time talking. Allow people to 'pass' if they do not want to answer. Be careful where you start, try to avoid the ones who have all the answers.

You can use a sock or ball to take turns. Toss it to someone who talks and then they throw it to someone else.

It helps to sit across from the quiet ones. Whoever sits directly across from you is more likely to speak and whoever sits next to you is least likely to speak.

If appropriate, you can share life stories to create an open atmosphere.

Try not to let the group stray off the subject:

If you sense someone is asking a significant question, discuss it, answer it briefly and come back on the subject. Tell them you will talk further afterward.

Sometimes questions (i.e. "what about people who have never heard about Christ?") are a smoke screen to avoid the personal implications of the gospel.

If you don't have an answer, don't fake it:

They will appreciate your honesty. Tell them you will try to find the answer.

Close in prayer:

You can close briefly, have a group member pray, let everyone pray silently and then you close, or have open prayer for anyone who wants to pray.

Videos and Questions:

Video 1

What is the first step to starting a Campaigners group?

Why is contact work so important in YL? Check all that apply-

- earn the right to be heard
- learn kids schedules
- learn names
- meet faculty
- meet parents

Video 2

What does it look like to hang out with your friends on "mutual turf"?

Video 3

What are examples of meaningful conversations?

Todd talks about choosing "one time, one place" as you move from random activities to having a consistent time to meet. Why do you think keeping it consistent is so important?

Video 4

Put the 5 steps of starting a campaigner group in chronological order:

- ___ Mutual turf
- ___ Consistency
- ___ Their turf
- ___ Bible Study
- ___ Routine

Week 2: Club and Camp

A Practical look at Club

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LEADER

Before:

Arrive early to prepare, get organized and pray for your night. It's important that you be there when club attendees get there – or be there early enough to pray and then go pick up people who need a ride.

During:

The most important thing you will do during club is to be with the kids and college students whom you have relationships with. Sit with them, sing with them, play with them and encourage them in the fun of it all! Be enthusiastic! A term you will hear a lot in Young Life relating to this is "being an OH BOY! leader." You set the tone for the evening. Laugh when something is supposed to be funny (even if it's not) or be silly when a fun song is being sung.

Do your assigned job and be ready for it – from leading songs to a skit to giving a talk or making announcements, be ready to do what you're supposed to do without it having to consume your whole evening so you can't be with your friends. Don't be up front unless you're supposed to be, and don't linger in the back. Don't take away from whoever is up front by drawing attention to yourself.

Pray for your friends and co-leaders as club progresses toward the message of the night.

During the talk, pay attention! Look at the person who is speaking. If you are doing this, the people around you are likely to follow. Be quiet. If others around you are whispering, tap them to get them to stop. Even if they don't want to listen to the talk, it's important that they don't distract others who are trying to pay attention.

After:

Visit with your friends! Tell them you are glad they were there. Be available to answer questions or set up a time to hang out later in the week. Leave to do contact work with them. Go to Sonic, Starbucks, or Wendy's, or take them home. Continue to love them and follow up with them.

CLEAN UP! Most of the time, club takes place in a borrowed facility. Leave it as clean or cleaner than you found it. Do not leave your teammates to do all the work. Everyone has tests and projects and other things to do, so working as a team to clean up will get everyone to their other responsibilities faster.

All the time:

PRAY! Pray for your friends to show up. Pray for them once they are there. Pray that their hearts are open to the message of Christ and that He is glorified through all of the components of club. Pray with your eyes as you look at your friends and continue to pray for them until the next time you see them.

“If the message of the Gospel is dull, then what in Heaven’s name is worthy to be called exciting?
The people who killed Christ never, to do them justice, accused Him of being a bore – on the
contrary, they thought Him too dynamic to be safe” – Dorothy Sayers

It must be attractive – should move along smoothly and not drag. Transitions in Club are very important (i.e. playing music during transition times, those up front being prepared to fill time when needed, know the order of club, etc.).

Keep careful records! These are usually in the form of ‘Club Cards’ filled out by the attendees themselves once a year. It is imperative that the Club Leadership knows whom he/she is ministering to.

Leaders must exercise care in the protection of personal property, as well as in the conduct of kids/college students before and after Club, particularly those driving automobiles. Any damaged property must be replaced and proper apologies given.

Was Club Successful?

1. If 30 kids or college students came to club, and you did these things, it was a great Young Life club. If you had 200 come, and you didn’t do these things, it was just a Young Life club.
2. **Did you pray?** Before, during and after club? Young Life really is the Lord’s business. We need to arrive at club ready to love people for the Lord. Ask the Lord to make us ready and to go before us. You can never pray too much. When you think you’ve prayed enough, think again.
3. **Did everyone feel welcome and important?** One reason we have club is for people to begin to experience the Christian community. Everyone should experience Young Life as a personal, caring environment where they sense they are welcome, they are awesome, and we are glad they are here. It would be a sad situation if someone came to club and nobody said hello, made contact, or made some gesture to make them feel included.
4. **Was it adequately organized?** Our first priority is people. Our club needs to be adequately organized so people can focus on what we are truly about. Do we look like we know what we are doing? Our planning and presentations need to be a positive experience. Be good at what you’re doing before you get to club so that it happens naturally, and you can focus on hanging out with people, not on getting yourself together for a skit or other responsibilities.
5. **Was it fun?** Club needs to be more fun than serious. Club needs to be attractive to those farthest from the gospel. Club needs to be entertaining, fun, light, and festive. It does not have to be award winning, but it has to be good, fun, and people-centered.
6. **Was it in good taste?** There is a fine line to keep in mind. The people at club can be used, but not abused. Laugh with them, not at them.

A Practical look at Camp

Develop a strategy to tell kids/students about the trip

- A. Know who is going and who might go
- B. Work together as a team
- C. Have available camp sell tools, such as the camp video and brochures

Getting kids/college students to say YES to camp

Going to camp is such a privilege – getting to spend time with your student friends and in many circumstances watch them experience the gospel of Jesus for the first time is a true gift. The general rule for camp is you go if the kids/college students you are pursuing go. This looks a little different on the college ministry level, but we want you to work hard at getting your friends to experience life at Young Life camp, no matter the age group you're working with. Work Week can be critical in a college student's life because it shows them true community in Christ and what serving Him is like. Here are some things that you as a leader can do to help "sell" camp to your friends:

- Always have camp info with you. Know all the details and be able to talk about them easily.
- Be positive. Let people know you WANT them on the trip, that it wouldn't be the same without them.
- Have one student who is already excited help you sell camp to his/her friends.
- Close the deal – get deposits and commitments as soon as possible – go to their homes, pester them if necessary.
- Put in the effort to help your friends raise money if they need it.
- Pray for wisdom about when to back off and when to be persistent.
- When you hear an excuse, know that some sincerely want to go, others are unsure and some just don't want to. Pray for God to change these people's hearts and unblock their circumstances.
- Know that ultimately God will have exactly the ones He wants at camp on the bus. Having this mindset should encourage you to be excited about those who sign up and give you peace about the ones who don't.

Inviting kids to camp isn't easy. We have to put in the work to get them there. It will cost you deeply just as it cost the paralytics friends to get him through the roof. Be prepared to pay a high cost to get your friends to the feet of Jesus

Leading at Camp

Cabin Times: A major responsibility of leaders at a Young Life camp is to run cabin time. The purpose of cabin time is to get people talking so they can process the message. Cabin time also helps a leader understand what everyone is thinking. It is also a chance for kids/college students to begin to share their lives with each other. As a leader, you are the key person, making sure that the camp staff's attempts to communicate the gospel are, in fact, reaching your friends.

- Share a testimony: At some point during the camp, give your testimony or have someone who is already a believer share his/her story.
- Coach campaigner kids/small group people on how to help:
- Ask them to be pace setters, helping you get the group together.
- Tell them to let their friends do most of the talking. Give them a signal for when you want them to answer.
- Ask them to help you by listening closely to what their friends are saying and also by silently praying during the time.
- Get feedback from them about what they see happening with their friends.
- Encourage campaigners to join you for a quiet time in the morning. Read Scripture, pray with them, and give them a vision for ministry with their friends.
- If your group seems to know "all the right answers": Look for creative ways to challenge them. Sometimes playing devil's advocate will help. Remember, just because they give the proper answers doesn't mean Christ is real in their lives.
- The purpose of cabin time is get them talking so you can find out what they are thinking.
- Your job is to start the conversation, keep it on track and listen carefully. This is not a time for you to give another club talk, but for you to listen.
- You can start them talking by beginning cabin times with a question everyone can answer. These can be superficial early in the week ("What is your favorite movie?") and become deeper as openness grows ("how would you describe your family?")

The schedule is a secret: Remember to tell them only what they need to know about the schedule. Leave them wondering and wanting more. Inform them early in the week that you will tell them what they need to know. A good line when kid's keep asking about the schedule: "It's hard to say."

Cabin Discipline:

- Once kids are in the cabin for the night it is your job to keep them there. If you let your kids out, you make it difficult for every other leader at camp. Try to make it fun to be together.
- Be sensitive to your noise level and to what is happening in other cabins around yours. We are a community.
- Take leadership to get kids to sleep. If they are tired, it is tough for them to understand and pay attention to the gospel.
- Don't allow practical jokes. They always demand retaliation and usually get out of control as the week progresses.
- You need to make sure all your kids are at every meal and event. Head leaders are there to help you, not to do your job.

FOLLOW UP

The Great Commission (Mt. 28:19,20) is to make disciples, not just converts. Our goal should be "to present every man complete in Christ." (Col 1:28)

We are some kids' or college students' first contact with the Christian world. Their impression of who God is and what the Christian life is like will be influenced directly by us. We need to have a vision for the new Christian's life and what they can become in Christ. 1 Thess. 2:7-12 has several key follow-up points:

- They are babies in Christ and need nurturing (vs. 7)
- We need to..."impart to you not only gospel but also our very lives" (vs. 8)
- Our example is our primary method of teaching (vs. 9, 10)
- We should exhort, encourage, implore (vs. 11)
- Our goal is to equip them to "walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you" (vs. 12)

- Be Prepared:

Make sure you have Bibles and other beginning literature: "Beginning with Christ", "My Heart Christ's Home", "My First 30 Quiet Times"

- At Camp:

Once a kid makes a decision to follow Christ, discipleship starts. Encourage them to have a quiet time with you the next day. Give them a follow-up book and talk about it. Pray with them. We can get them started on the right or on the wrong foot.

III. Use the Ride Home:

- Review a new Christian pamphlet with them. Memorize a verse together.
- Explain "Quiet Time" and have one on the bus. If you can get together a group who can encourage each other, even better. Pick a passage, have them read it alone, get together and discuss what they learn.
- Give them a Bible and begin to show them how to use it.
- Encourage them to tell one friend about their decision to follow Christ during the next week. This helps them take a stand for Christ. It makes them act on their commitment, making it real back home.
- Pray for them and tell them you will call them soon.

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Being a YLC student leader is not as easily definable as it is at the high/middle school level. It is not about doing contact work for a certain number of hours but **living a life of contact work in the relationships college students are in right now** (similar to high school students who are junior leaders in their school). It's a matter of being intentional in your current spheres of influence (e.g. living situation, classroom, extracurricular activities, families, etc.). Make it work with your schedule.

DISTINCTIVES OF A YLC LEADER:

- **Understanding your campus:** As a student, you are the best resource in terms of getting and keeping a pulse on the campus and its culture.
- **Effective contact work:** It is unlikely that staff will connect with the farthest out student. But YOU can connect YLC with your friends and those on the margins by introducing us on campus, bringing them to events, etc. This happens as you live intentionally in the relationships you are already in.
- **A vision for significance:** You can impact another! Someone in the same place as you in life.
- **Realizing your unique position:** When in high school or middle school it means a lot to have an older person influencing you, but college students are usually more concerned or just as concerned with finding community and true friends who will listen to them and walk through life with them. As a college student work with other college students, you are able to live life with people daily in a way other ministries are unable to. This holds extreme importance and significance.
- **Growing the area:** YLC is vitally important to the growth and health of our YL area as a whole. Most of our leaders start out by coming to college club and decide to get more involved. The friends you intentionally live life with could become a leader one day!



Contact Work: YoungLives

- YoungLives girls want to do activities that involve their babies. Contact work that has been effective: Using the kids' playpen area at the mall and just walking around; going to the park; grocery shopping; swimming at the pool; decorating holiday cookies; playing a kid movie at your place while you talk; visiting the animal shelter, etc.
- Lunches are the main avenue for contact work in high school YL; however, it's really tough for YoungLives. Our YoungLives girls utilize their lunches for baby appointments, tutoring, etc. It's ok to visit them at lunch; in fact, it makes them feel really special, but make sure they are available before coming.
- If they skip school, try not to hang out with them. It will only encourage their behavior and they will feel like whenever they skip school, this means they get to hang out with cool college girls or their Mentor Moms.

Be aware of setting boundaries:

- Not getting fast food for one of your girls at 11pm at night because she just texted you asking you to bring her food.
- Not making all her doctor's appointments for her because she asked you to find her a doctor and needs help. Give her the phone number and show her how to call and make an appointment. Empower her.
- Not being tempted to give her rides to every appointment or place. She will start getting comfortable and know you are there to help, but you are not there to be her taxi. If you just met her, then sure, give her a ride, but don't make it a habit--it will burn both you and your gas.
- Not saying "YES" to everything if you really can't do something for her.
- Don't say "Oh, I'll babysit your baby whenever you need me to! I love babies!" We should never make promises we cannot keep and we want to avoid last-minute pressure to babysit.

**Now of course, each situation is different, and she really may need you to watch her baby because an emergency came up, or she may need you to give her ride to an appointment because she has no other way of getting there and her baby is very ill. However, just be careful that you aren't being used and building a framework of entitlement.

Cell phones:

- Don't expect that one phone number they give you to be the number they will always call you from or where you will be able to reach them. Always ask how you can reach them. Most of them have prepaid phones or use their baby daddy's phone, or uncle, or mom, or mom's boyfriend, or boyfriend's sister's husband, or Google plus (yes, these are all real life experiences).



“The smallest things mean the world to our Capernaum friends! What you do together isn’t what’s important; spending time together, building your friendship and sharing your life is what counts.”

Contact Work Ideas

1. Volunteer in a special education classroom.
2. Volunteer with Special Olympics or cheer on Capernaum friends at their games.
3. Go to the movies.
4. Go out for dinner or ice cream.
5. Go to the mall or run other errands.
6. Call your Capernaum friend on the phone, write a letter or e-mail.
7. Invite your friend over to your apartment/house to hang out, play video games, do makeovers, watch TV, etc.
8. Take your friend to church with you.
9. Take a walk, bike ride or other outdoor activity.
10. Find out what your Capernaum friend likes to do and do that.

Tips on working with Schools

1. Follow through on commitments. Faithfully show up when you say you will be there and be on time.
2. If you know you can’t be there one week, let the teacher know in advance.
3. Go with a servant attitude and constantly look for ways to serve teachers and aides. Jump in and help rather than waiting to be asked. Remember you are there to serve the teachers and kids and not primarily to invite kids to club.
4. Ask questions! Ask teachers about how to interact with and best serve their students.
5. Be an “Oh Boy!” volunteer. Show excitement and enthusiasm about whatever you’re doing.
6. Be careful about asking teachers for students’ diagnoses, as they may be protective of this information. Instead, ask teachers for tips on how to work with students.
7. Follow and promote rules/guidelines established by teachers. For example, don’t allow a Capernaum friend to kiss you on the cheek when you come into the classroom if he is not allowed to kiss people at school. Though you may see his kissing as sweet or cute, allowing him to kiss you would be disrespectful to teachers and unsupportive of his educational/vocational goals.
8. Thank teachers and aides every time you leave the school. Continually show appreciation for the opportunity to serve in the classroom.
9. Win the right to be heard with teachers before asking for their help in contacting parents about club. Remember that you are doing contact work with teachers as much as you are doing it with kids.

Working with Parents

1. Know that some parents may initially be skeptical of you and/or Young Life and that most will become your biggest fans after you have earned their trust.
2. The best way to earn trust with parents is by following through on your commitments. Most parents are used to people walking in and out of their kids' lives or being paid to spend time with them. You have a unique opportunity, as someone who wants to freely spend time with their kids, to radically impact the entire family.
3. Before taking Capernaum friends to club, ask parents what you need to know to best care for their child. This may include pertinent medical information, behavior management tips, alternative communication methods, and suggestions for how to help your friend participate.
4. Follow up with parents after taking your Capernaum friend to club, especially after the first club.
5. Consistently communicate with parents about club details (e.g., transportation logistics, club location and time, etc.) at least one day before club.

Building relationships

1. Seek to see kids with disabilities as just that — kids who happen to have disabilities and whose disabilities are just a part of who they are, not all that they are.
2. Show up! Your friends will look forward to seeing you all week.
3. Don't be afraid to establish boundaries. For example, limit the number of times they can call or hug you if they are calling or hugging too often. Lovingly setting boundaries will help your friend be more successful in relating to and working with others.
5. Here are some conversation starters and activities to help you get to know Capernaum friends:
 - A. What's your favorite ... sports team, food, movie, TV show, hobby, kind of music, ice cream flavor and every other category!
 - B. Choices game ... Would you rather go to a movie or go bowling, eat pizza or a hamburger, play video games or watch TV, go to the beach or the mountains, watch football or basketball, go out to eat or eat at home, be in winter or summer, etc. The choices are endless!
 - C. Ask when your friend's birthday is and how he or she likes to celebrate. Share some of your favorite birthday memories.
 - D. Many students with disabilities play games during the school day, such as educational computer games and board games. Find out what your friend likes and do it.

Remember the words of Jesus: I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)

Music in Young Life College

The difference in the song choice between Young Life clubs with high school students and Young Life College may differ, but the **purpose** of having music remains the same. The purpose of having music is to:

- Engage everyone in the meeting
- Unify the group
- Set up the Club talk

We want the crowd to be "centerstage." The duty of a club music leader is not to perform, but to facilitate and lead effectively. Music sets the tone (no pun intended) for the entire club. It brings energy, a welcoming ambiance, transitions between sections of club, and is a common interest among all people. Music is a part of the proclamation of the Gospel.

Club Music Principles to Remember:

- Proclaim and glorify Christ in every way - Col 3:23, 4:5
- Target the "farthest student out." - Col. 4:5-6
- "It's a sin to bore someone with the gospel." - John 10:10
- Strive for excellence/show extravagant love. - Col. 3:23, John 12:1-8

When selecting songs:

- **Ensure all lyrics and meanings honor God**
- **Pick sing-able songs**
 - Practice the songs beforehand, hum them in your head between classes, and imagine singing them with a larger group of people. Only pick songs that will be comfortable to lead and for a group to sing along with.
- **Order the songs respectfully.**
 - Begin with upbeat, higher energy songs. Lead into moderately paced songs. End with your choice of spiritual songs (preferably themed with talk).
- **Assume there are non-Christians in Club**
 - This is **very** important and very fair to assume. Part of engaging the crowd and unifying everyone means that non-Christian students and/or those no longer interested in Christianity feel as included and as much of a part of Club as anyone else. This may mean simplifying spiritual songs and speech.
 - *Note: There is beauty in simplicity. Simplifying something doesn't necessarily mean "watering it down." In fact, it makes the gospel more clearly understood for believers and non-believers alike.

Applications for the entire Club music team:

- Take attitude of song **facilitators** and **leaders**, not performers
- Practice well to ensure excellent atmosphere of Club
- Be fully ready to go (rehearsed, equipment, sound, etc) by Club starting time
- Have leaders devoted to leading the crowd (this probably will be someone without an instrument) to lead clapping, motions, etc
- Consider talk topic when choosing songs

More Tips on Effective Song-Leading:

- Know when to start and end a song.

- Encourage those who are singing.
 - Example: "Y'all sound great," "Beautiful," "I love it," etc.
- Relies on enthusiasm more than vocal talent.
- Has fun with the group
 - The song leader's attitude is **very** contagious! Be genuinely joyful.
- There is a difference between leading worship at church or campers and leading songs in a Young Life club. Just as the speaker should take the attitude of a teacher instead of a preacher, so a song leader should ask kids to consider the lyrics and not assume that they already believe.

Comparison between leading music at a church and leading at a Young Life Club	
Leading music at a church:	Leading music at a Young Life Club:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In church we lead our friends, mostly believers, into worship – a personal connection, recognizing who He is. ▪ It's assumed that most are believers and have/are familiar with the Holy Spirit. ▪ Example of affirmation to the attendees: "Let's prepare our hearts... The Spirit is alive here... Let's praise His glory... etc." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The primary goal in leading music at a Young Life Club is to 1.) Build unity and 2.) To introduce the speaker/topic of scripture. ▪ It's assumed that there are many unbelievers and are unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit. ▪ Example of affirmation to the attendees: "You guys sound great... sing along with me... Here we go... etc."

Example set of songs:

- (Up-beat, unifying song)
- (Semi-up-beat song)
- (Medium-paced song)
- (Spiritual Song)
- (Spiritual Song)
 - *This is not a set list to use at every club, just a basic model to build a set list around.
 - *Remember to pick songs that are comfortable for an entire group to sing along with.
 - **Most importantly, pray with the music team before Club. Pray for your friends in the group during Club. Pray continually throughout the day that the Lord will use the music aspect of Club as a tool in his process of transforming lives!

A Closer Look at the Elements

A. MUSIC

There is something special about music. It is no surprise then that one of the tools we use in relational ministry is music. But today group singing is something to flee from for many people, especially guys. We need to be both current and cautious using certain historical tools, which may turn kids/college students off to Club. Most people who dislike Club, list the singing as the chief reason. Likewise, most who love to go to Club, list the singing as a main factor. So take a regular pulse of the kids/college students in your program and experiment – electric guitars and drum machines can help to make singing more acceptable to cool kids.

Pros and Cons

a. Why have music in Clubs?

- It unifies a group
- It is enjoyable.
- It sets a mood.
- It entertains.
- It disarms, breaks down barriers.
- It presents a message – some kids open their lives to Christ through the message of a song.
- It identifies with where kids are.
- It creates involvement on the part of kids. (If they participate with their body, their more likely to participate with their ears or mind)

b. Why not have music in club?

- Some kids/college students simply don't like to sing. If a couple people in a group of 50-100 aren't into the music, they don't stand out as much; but in a smaller group, a couple of kids being uncomfortable or embarrassed is a big deal. Keep in mind the size of your group and their overall feelings about singing.
- Keeps some people away who would otherwise come.
- In middle school, for example, kids are already at a vulnerable age where they feel self-conscious. The added pressure of singing in a group or being silly/goofy can make club an uncomfortable environment, which is the opposite of what it is intended to be.
- Leadership team may lack people with gifts needed to make it effective.

- c. **Solution** – As a leadership team, prayerfully determine the best course of action for your ministry in terms of singing. Losing sight of these reasons can mean we do music simply as a form, rather than as a function, which enables us to accomplish our purpose. The goal is to create a situation in which kids/college students feel safe, where they drop some of their barriers to the Gospel and are open to understand both the verbal and nonverbal expressions of the Gospel.

Music can be a very powerful tool in helping build a platform for relationally sharing the Gospel. It often 'can draw' in a disinterested teen, much like humor will do for others. However, when music ceases to be an effective tool, for whatever reason, we must seek alternatives. We must always ask ourselves, "does this particular song enhance the proclamation of the Gospel, or does it present a mixed signal?"

- **Preparation**

We should work to make it high quality. If half the meeting is given to singing, then it ought not simply be a time-filler, but a vital and enjoyable component. Preparation is the key. Plan AND practice the songs that will be sung, in what key, how to start, how to end. Can the musicians play the songs? Get there early enough to tune up and practice. Common sense dictates the necessity to be ready with the music.

- **Tips for success**

1. Doing the same songs over and over is a negative for club singing. Expand the repertoire. Don't be afraid to teach new songs.
2. Get kids involved where possible, especially in playing instruments.
3. Remember: Leaders often play a big role in setting the tone for club. Get into it. Be excited!

- **Choice of Songs**

Choose a variety of types of songs – slow, fast, heavy content, fun, hand motions. Have a variety. Be concerned with content. Keep in mind our intent to reflect the Gospel in all we do. Use of the same songs creates a clique, alienates newcomers.

Start on a lively note, end with more emphasis on harmony and unity. Slow the tempo down to prepare for the message. It is usually wise not to open club with a new song. Open with something that will get the ball rolling immediately. The same is true after a break, such as announcements. Come back with something familiar to pull the crowd together.

- **Other Ideas in Place of Singing**

Creativity is needed if it is decided group singing is not effective. The club team should discuss the purposes singing was supposed to meet and decide on other options. Most do not quit singing entirely, but choose to cut down the amount of singing done weekly and have occasional meetings without singing.

Some have made great use of video – having kids/college students make their own videos to show in club (screen first), going to the school or a local hangout and interviewing someone (can be done both humorously or seriously), going to kids' homes (with parental permission) when they aren't home and videotaping their room. Others have used videos from popular songs for group discussion or as an introduction to the message.

Others have used small groups effectively, getting kids talking with each other about various topics. Allowing kids to actively process information boosts their understanding of it. We use this premise at outreach camps with 'cabin times'. We can creatively and appropriately use it at home, too.

- **Games**

- **The Purpose**

- Catalyst to cause kids/college students to get involved with club (most important)

- Something to catch them off guard – especially new people.
- Relaxes the crowd and unifies the group - emotional involvement
- Breaks down barriers – breaks down the stereotype that nothing Christian can be fun.

- **Types of Games**
 - Mixers: the whole group is involved. Usually consists of teams or partners.
 - Up-front: involves a few.

- **Tips for success**
 - Don't involve the same people every week but involve those who need and can handle up-front exposure.
 - Get permission before planning to play messy games if you are in a borrowed space.
 - Be very careful about involving new people (first timers) – they may be embarrassed.
 - Don't get stuck in a rut where everyone knows they will always get messy or made fun of at the end. Try giving away prizes...it will be easier to get volunteers.
 - Keep a list of the games you play to avoid repetition.
 - Make up-front games appropriate to the size of club. Don't ask for 8 volunteers in a club of 12.
 - Stay away from "camp type" games so that kids can still be surprised at camp (i.e. games that involve a kid and his/her leader)

C. Skits

1. Good Skits

- Are usually short – 5 to 7 minutes.
- Are never crude, in poor taste or destructive to personal feelings or property.
- Are related to club and the people there.
- Do not make humorous references to the spiritual aspect of club.
- Are peppy and funny, and in this way help break down barriers that people may have regarding religious meetings as stuffy and boring.
- Have someone else announce the skit and bring you out (to theme music of course)
- Use props, costumes and theme music when possible. If you're not funny...you can always look funny.
- Be enthusiastic! Laugh when something is supposed to be funny. Even if it bombs.

2. Preparation

- Suit the skit to the location
- Anticipate problems. Think through each step of the skit logistically – walk it out.
- Practice!!! Leave nothing to chance. Remember, this is for the Lord.

3. Walk-on characters

Continuity of skits, or series: walk-ons are especially good for promotion. Excitement builds with a good walk-on character for 3-4 weeks in a row. But know when to quit.

D. Announcements

1. Who Makes Them?

- Whoever makes the announcements should plan them so they are clear, brief and attractive. Remember Young Life is NOT the weekly club meeting, it's relationships - a community. Announcements should invite kids to jump on board and become a part.
- Some clubs have made announcements into a fun weekly skit. For example, Snicker Trivia combines a weekly trivia contest (with announcements thrown in) awarding small Snickers to whoever answers correctly.

2. What Are Some Typical Announcements?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▪ Camp promotion or information. | e. Announce special events
(Parent Nights, All City etc.) |
| ▪ Club meeting place for next week. | f. Contest results |
| ▪ Location of and explanation of Campaigners
(inviting new folks to try it) | g. Community project plans/reports |
| ▪ Explanation of Club Card | h. Introduce new leaders periodically |

E. "The Talk"

1. What is it?

This is our chance to directly and verbally tell kids/college students about Jesus and to challenge them to explore the possibility of starting a relationship with Him. It is not a time to preach at them and make them feel badly about themselves. It is just a time to talk about who Jesus is.

2. Some helpful ingredients in telling people about Jesus during the club talk:

- Jesus should **always** be mentioned. Strive to present Jesus and not a lifestyle or idea.
- The Bible should **always** be used in every message – it is our only tangible source of truth. Using an actual Bible instead of looking at phone or tablet is preferred. Some kids may have never seen a Bible before.
- Humor is helpful, if it is natural – most of us tend to overuse even our natural talents and overshadow Christ.
- We must have only one thing in mind to say, letting the introduction serve to bring focus to that central theme. Each week should be a verbal snapshot of Him.
- The scripture should be read and retranslated into modern language so that we won't lose people.
- Always speak to those who know the least.
- Respect kids enough not to go over 15 minutes at high school and 10 minutes Wyldlife clubs. College club talks may run a little longer, go a little deeper, and be about different subjects.
- Work hard at bringing the scriptures alive through animation and imagination.
- Speak as we would to our dearest friend.
- Be genuine. Utilize good eye contact. Talk with your friends, not to them. Let them see your heart.
- Be enthusiastic. Be as excited about Jesus as you wish they could be.

The Talk Progression

The typical high school and Wyldlife club talks follow a topical progression that begins the first of the semester and ends with the last club of the semester. College talks tend to be more topical, although a progression could be used, as well. The progression (not the specific talks) is repeated each semester. The progression is flexible in terms of the number of weeks spent on each segment, but may generally be described as:

Week 1: Introduction - Is there a God?

We believe God is interested in our lives. We want to challenge you to take a look at who Jesus really is and decide for yourself if you want anything to do with Him.

Weeks 2-7: Person of Christ - Each week focuses on one of His characteristics:

His deity (calming the storm)

His power/desire to turn the ordinary into extraordinary (turning the water into wine)

His compassion (women caught in adultery)

His call to friendship with the outcast (Zacchaeus)

Weeks 8-9: The Need of Man

The definition of Sin vs. the sins we commit

All of us have the same problem (no matter if you think you're better or worse than anyone else)

The consequence of our Sin

Week 10: The Cross

God couldn't bear to leave us separated from Him, without an opportunity to be rescued.

Why did He have to die?

Was there any other way?

It's a FREE gift.

It's the ultimate love story.

Weeks 11-12: Appropriation

The choice is yours. You can say yes to the free gift of salvation through the cross, or you can refuse it and pay the price.

What does it mean to be a Christian? Having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

What now?

*Wyldlife and YoungLives have less clubs a year than a typical high school and may combine some talks or move things around some.

Campaigners Semester Plan

First Semester – 13 weeks

- Put Jesus First
 - *Kids understand the Great Command and their purpose in life.*
 - *Kids feel excited to be part of a team at their school committed to putting Christ first.*
- Love One Another
 - *Kids understand that by loving others they demonstrate they are truly followers of Christ.*
 - *They see the importance of loving each other in the family of God as a priority.*
- Listen to Jesus
 - *Learn the value of listening to Jesus and some helpful techniques for doing so.*
 - *Develop the habit of spending regular quiet time with the Lord.*
- Put God's Word Into Practice
 - *Students begin a life-long process of being transformed by God's Word as they put it into practice.*
 - *Their faith is strengthened as they see the Lord at work in and through them in tangible ways.*
- Practice What We Believe About Prayer
 - *Help kids understand the power of prayer.*
 - *Give kids vision and tools to implement a personal prayer strategy.*
 - *Enable the Campaigner group to choose a prayer project and carry it out.*
- Develop Vision for Reaching Others
 - *Campaigners know that a significant part of our lives as believers is telling others about Jesus Christ.*
 - *Kids see their potential to make an incredible impact in their school and community with the Gospel.*
- What Does Jesus Say About Purity?
 - *Kids understand the concept of purity from Christ's perspective.*
 - *Kids feel motivated to live purely in all areas of their lives.*
- What Does Jesus Say About Honesty?
 - *Kids understand the importance God places on honesty.*
 - *Kids feel motivated to be transparent and to deal honestly with all.*
- What Does Jesus Say About Forgiveness?
 - *Feel the joy of releasing "old baggage."*
 - *Learn how to give ourselves, and others, what the Lord has given us ... forgiveness.*
- Serve Others
 - *Kids gain vision for how service blesses their lives and the lives of others.*
 - *Kids leave excited about some practical steps for serving their peers.*
- The Value of True Fellowship
 - *Kids learn the benefits and blessings of pursuing Christ together with like-minded friends.*

Second Semester – 16 weeks

Studying Jesus

- What Jesus Did
 - *Goal: Kids will understand that Jesus' claims about who He is are backed up by what He did. In turn, their actions should reflect who they say they are as followers of Christ.*

- The Person of Jesus
 - *Goal: Kids will understand some characteristics of Jesus Christ and how He met people where they were and loved them.*
- Who Does Jesus Say He Is?
 - *Goal: By looking at Scripture in the book of John, kids will learn how Jesus described Himself and what impact that should have on them as followers of Jesus Christ.*
- What Jesus Tells Us To Do
 - *Goal: Kids will look at some of Jesus' central teachings and how they reflect His character and will gain a better understanding of how to apply them to our lives.*

Other Good Topics

- The Body of Christ
 - *Goal: Kids will understand what the Church is and how God wants the body of Christ to function.*
- Self-Acceptance
 - *Goal: Kids will learn to accept themselves based on God's unconditional love for them.*
- The Holy Spirit
 - *Goal: Kids will begin to discover the intimate nature of God's love for them by understanding that God has come to live within them.*
- Quiet Times
 - *Goal: Kids will understand the purpose of having a quiet time and God's desire to spend time with them, as well as get ideas on how to spend time with Him.*
- The Resurrection
 - *Goal: Kids will understand that the resurrection proves that Jesus is God, makes all of Jesus Christ's claims true, and makes the forgiveness of our sin complete. It also enables us to live new lives.*
- Bearing Fruit
 - *Goal: Kids will gain a greater understanding of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and how it grows in our lives.*
- Unprepared
 - *Goal: Kids will see that God is reliable and trustworthy, especially when circumstances or obstacles seem too great to overcome.*
- Joy
 - *Goal: Kids will understand the difference between joy and happiness and will see how real joy can occur in the midst of suffering.*
- The Hall of Faith
 - *Goal: Kids will understand the biblical definition of faith and how to apply it to their lives.*
- Loving God
 - *Goal: Kids will gain an understanding of loving God with your heart, mind, soul and strength.*

*We are trying something new this year where all of high school campaigners adopt this curriculum for the year. It could change over time and may look different for Wyldlife.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am							
10am							
11am							
12pm							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							

Fill this out and look at the holes that are filled by TV, social media, naps, hanging with friends, etc. You have more time than you think!