

## **JOB DESCRIPTION – YOUTH ADVISOR**

**JOB/TASK:** *Youth Advisor*

**NUMBER OF PERSONS NEEDED:** *Team of 4-8*

**TIME COMMITMENT/FREQUENCY:** *6:00 - 8:00 PM weekly, September-June, plus retreats, special events*

**SUPERVISOR /CONTACT:** *Director of Youth Ministry*

**MINISTRY GROUP RESPONSIBLE:** *Christian Education*

**REFERENCES:** (people who have done this job and would be willing to answer questions about it): *Shobhan Grayson, Doug Smith, Brian Cassidy*

The youth program at Lewinsville is for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a year-long ministry, although events are scheduled less frequently during the summer months.

Unless otherwise noted, we meet from 6:00-8:00pm on Sunday evenings in the youth center for dinner (provided by a parent), followed by group games and discussion. Service projects and special events such as retreats, ski trips, etc. are also scheduled throughout the year.

### **ADVISOR MINISTRY**

The youth advisors are adult volunteers who facilitate discussions with the youth, lead games and activities, and serve as mentors and role models of faithful Christian living. We have always been fortunate at Lewinsville to have a large team of volunteers so not every advisor need be present every Sunday night. A rotation schedule is coordinated by the Director of Youth Ministry.

### **SKILLS YOUTH ADVISORS NEED:**

Knowledge – Adults who work with youth need an understanding of physical, emotional and spiritual development of the youth they are ministering to. Middle school youth have different needs than a senior high youth.

Discipline – Adults who work with youth need to know how to appropriately discipline youth. Adult leaders walk the fine line between friend and adult. Some behaviors can be overlooked, but leaders should have boundaries and expect some order.

Listening – Youth want an adult friend who will listen to them. They often ask for advice, but what they really want is for you to give them an opportunity to deal with the issue.

Confidentiality – What is said at youth meetings must remain there. Youth need to feel secure that what they say will not be repeated. Only in life-threatening situations should an adult report what a youth has said. Some things are required by law to be reported. If you are unsure whether something you were told should be reported, talk with a pastor

about it.

Modeling – Adult leaders model what faith means in everyday life. They do not have to have their faith all worked out. Youth are searching for what it means to live as a Christian. Adult leaders can even model by setting limits or by stating beliefs.

Self-Disclosure – Adult leaders need to know that it is okay to share that they struggle with some of the same issues that youth do. However, appropriate levels of disclosure must be observed. Youth are not there to help you with your problems.