

re:Student Leaders 2024

Dear Pastors, Youth Leaders and Cross Seekers Sponsors,

Our student leader (formerly CSM) program at Cross Seekers camp is rapidly growing! And that's a great problem to have. It means that high school kids are seeing the value of volunteering their time and energy to be the hands and feet of Jesus during their summer break.

With this exciting growth comes a challenge. We have reached the time when we have more students interested than we have positions available. In the past we have accepted nearly everyone who has applied. We can no longer continue to do that.

As we begin to think about the 2024 summer camp it's important that we are filling these positions with **highly qualified students**. We are going to need your help to do that.

Because we don't have personal relationships with your students it is impossible for us to know if their lives match the information they share on their applications. One thing we've learned in the last 2 years is that we can ask really good questions and students can (and have) exaggerate and over-emphasize their qualifications. Even references haven't been super helpful because we all want to think our kids are the best fit for the job (and we totally get that, we think the same about our applicants).

Student Leaders are often needed to help encourage campers during the evening services. If you've been to camp, you know these evening moments are some of the most important moments of camp. It is here that many students are open to confessing their sin and accepting Jesus as their Savior. **Having student leaders who are *able* and *willing* to lead campers through these conversations is crucial.**

A more attentive qualification process will result in a better experience for all parties: camp staff, sponsors, campers and other student leaders.

The application process is going to begin sooner this year so that we have more time to adequately train and prepare student leaders for their service at camp. YOU are an integral part of helping us get highly qualified student leaders sooner rather than later. Before you start to hand out applications to your 9th-12th grade students **please qualify your students based on the following points.**

This is not an all-inclusive list of things to consider. It is a list of things to consider **above** other things. The fact that a student wants to attend Cross Seekers as a

Student Leader does not automatically qualify them. Desire is a good place to start, but we must consider *ability* as a greater factor.

Student Leaders:

- Have a *strong* personal relationship with the Lord,
 - Have a testimony and be willing to share it publicly
 - Regular bible reading
 - Active prayer life
 - Spiritual maturity
- Are active in their local church,
 - Consistent church attendance
 - Volunteering to serve in ministry (audio, nursery, teaching Sunday school, etc)
- Are leaders among their peers
 - Mature in their interactions with peers of the same and opposite sex
 - Willing to go first
 - Respected by peers
 - Willing to follow when workers are needed
- Have a heart to serve
 - Humble servant - not concerned about status, prestige, or recognition

High School students who have COMPLETED at least their ninth grade **and** are 14 years old or older are eligible to apply.

Cross Seekers Student Leaders DO NOT replace Adult Sponsors.

In short, every student in 9-12th grade is automatically disqualified until you qualify them through this process. If you need to have personal discussions with students before handing them an application, please do that. If you need to pray for discernment over who would be a great student leader, please do that.

We know that occasionally there is pressure to approve someone who you know might not be the best fit, making your job more difficult. We know, understand and have had to deal with this same issue in our own congregations and applicants. We want to do our best to help you in these situations.

If you need to allow a student to apply to keep the peace in your congregation, but you know they aren't the right fit, please contact us so that the camp committee can make the decision not to approve the applicant, taking the pressure off of you.

You know your congregations the best! We are excited to have you qualifying your students for the role of student leader. If you have questions or need help please contact:

Sara Stapleton sarastapleton00@gmail.com (620) 338-5524

Doug Ellison pastordougellison@me.com or

Josh Gordon youth@fsbcgc.com

God Bless,
2024 Cross Seekers Camp Committee

Copy and send this link to your students
[STUDENT LEADER APPLICATION](#)

Applications are **DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted!

Selections and notifications (via email) will be completed by March 1.

Student Leader Training will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024.