

Volunteer Job Description: Giving A Talk

Youth Ministry Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date / Time / Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you so much for supporting OLPH Youth Ministry! Sharing your time and your talents with young people is key to a successful youth ministry program at our parish. To help you feel more confident in your role, here are some helpful hints:

- **Arrive early!** Spend some time visiting with the young people prior to your talk. It will help you to feel more comfortable if you know/recognize your audience and are familiar with the setting.
- **Be flexible!** We always have good intentions of staying on schedule, but we often find ourselves changing the agenda to meet the needs of the youth.
- **Be active!** Kids always seem to warm up to adults who are participating right along side of them. If we begin the evening with a silly game, don't be afraid to be silly. If we are beginning the activity in prayer, pray. It is all about being a role model!
- **Be prepared.** Whether you memorize your talk, write down the details on note cards, or have a script, it is important that you have your thoughts organized. Don't wait until the last minute to plan out your talk.
- **Use props and/or music to help connect.** Add interest and a bit of your personality to the talk by including props and music. For example, if your talk is about "hearing God calling," bring along a telephone. If you are speaking about important people in your life, share photographs of those individuals. If you are talking about a trip or a pilgrimage you have taken, show a map of the location, souvenirs, etc.
- **Practice.** Speaking in front of a mirror is helpful. However, to get the full effect, give your talk at least once in its entirety to a living, breathing human being. Ask him/her to critique your talk giving you positive feedback and ideas for bettering the presentation. (If you need a sounding board, feel free to contact Michelle. She would be happy to meet with you and provide constructive criticism.)
- **Speak to them, not at them.** Retreat talks or witnessings are not a lecture. They are not a forum to get your personal agenda across to a captive audience.
- **Don't be afraid to ask... anything!** If you have a question about what we are doing (an issue of safety, a reason for a particular rule, a suggestion to make the agenda flow more smoothly, etc.) ASK!

## OLPH Youth Ministry

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**"It takes a whole Church to do Youth Ministry!"**