Parish Youth Ministry Committee Structure—One Example

The following program structure is intended as a possible guide for assigning youth ministry team members to specific function in the youth ministry program. The structure can be adjusted to fit local needs and available resources. Youth ministry team members can serve on more than one committee and probably will need to do so. This structure is not intended to compartmentalize the team. Each committee must interface with each other committee and in any single event most if not all committees will have a piece of the entire event. For example, in a typical youth gathering evening, the Faith Formation Committee will provide some learning (catechetical) content while the Social Activities Committee can plan the icebreaker and provide refreshments, and the Prayer and Worship Committee can prepare and lead prayer, etc...

The Youth Ministry Team should have a planning meeting inviting each team member to pray on his/her gifts and decide where that member would like to offer that gift in terms of picking a committee to serve on.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

- Trains and supports adult and youth peer leadership team members.
- Coordinates volunteers and encourages parent involvement
- Oversees scheduling of events and creating calendar.
- Arranges and directs planning core team meetings.
- Keeps pastor and parish pastoral council informed.
- Monitors budget and spending.
- Monitors policies, safe environment, and appropriate forms.
- Keeps all committees in sync.

Social Activities Committee

- Prepares and leads games and icebreakers; tries to match icebreakers to youth session theme for that particular session.
- Plans and directs social events and trips (such as, game nights, movie socials, trips to sporting events, etc...)
- Plans and directs occasional parent socials
Faith Formation Committee
- Plans and leads interactive and engaging sessions that teach aspects of the faith to teens.
- Engages parents with their own faith formation by on line or handouts on parenting tips, linking to available adult faith formation opportunities, etc...
- Connects teens to useful youth ministry events and programs outside the parish (Diocesan youth rally, youth conferences, etc...)

Justice and Service Committee
- Plans, sets up, and leads service opportunities for teens at community service centers or other places for service.
- Connects teens and families to the parish service outreach. And provides parents with resources and contacts to encourage regular family outreach.
- Plans and leads opportunities for teens to learn more about our Church's teaching on social justice and justice issues.

Prayer and Worship Committee
- Advocates for teen roles in liturgy and worship in the parish.
- Plans and leads retreats.
- Assists Faith Formation Committee with prayer at every gathering.
- Engages teens and families with seasonal on line prayer or finds other ways to help teens develop their prayer lives.
- Provides parents with resources to encourage regular family prayer.

Communications and Promotion
- Manages communication tools—online communication, bulletin inserts, etc...
- Handles basic P.R. for teens and parents.
- Works with other committees to provide regular communications to parents on what’s happening in the youth ministry program and connect them to resources that help parents with the practical application of faith in the home.
- Handles P.R. to parish to keep on-going support for the youth ministry.

Outline prepared by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Columbus