

Dear Youth Group Parents,

Welcome to a new year of Youth Group! I am very excited about the things we have planned for the year and the unplanned things that the Spirit will lead us through! There are a host of things I could introduce in this letter but I want to focus on Youth Worship nights for now. Youth Worship generally takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, the first one being Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. The entire schedule is on the reverse of this page. Youth Worship nights are composed of two activities. First, at 5:30 we have dinner followed immediately by the Youth Worship service at 6:00. The service generally has singing, prayer, and a special speaker/message. Second, at the end of Youth Worship around 7:00, we will have a very brief break followed by Small Groups. Small Group composition may vary by grade and leader but generally takes place in one of the smaller meeting rooms with teens in the same grade. We encourage all students to participate in Small Groups but their attendance is up to the teen, their guest(s), and their family. After small groups (around 7:30-8:00) all students are invited to return to the Summit for snack and group games. If a teen does leave and chooses not to attend small groups they should not participate in snack and games after small group time.

One addition to our program this year is the formation of “Subway Groups”. In our Summer Serve trip to Brooklyn each leader was paired with 4-5 teens to make sure no one got lost on the subway, everyone was heading the right direction, and that each student had a chance to have the attention of one of the leaders. We are going to continue that concept into the ministry year. We may meet with our Subway Groups occasionally for small group time, other times it is just a check in or perhaps a note. It is another way for us as leaders to connect with teens.

Enjoying dinner together has consistently been one of the things students have enjoyed most about youth worship nights. I again ask you for your help in serving dinners this ministry year. Youth Group has had amazing meals in the past and the kids are all looking forward to it again this year. We have taken as much care as we can to balance the teams for each of the dates, but if you are in need of resources – either financial or simply preparation and set up help – the adult youth group leaders and myself are eager to help. Please see the attached schedule and teams as well as an overview/instruction sheet.

Thank you for your service in this effort. Our youth group is composed of sometimes as many as 25% of non Georgetown members. Your help is a true act of hospitality and love to the youth of the area. If you have questions about food or preparations, feel free to give me a call at 616.218.7456 or, better yet, email me at [eric@ericdeyoung.com](mailto:eric@ericdeyoung.com).

Please pray for this ministry and all of the students this year.

Thank you!  
Eric

p.s. If you are like me, sometimes my mailbox items can get misplaced or information I thought I had written down, I threw away. I will have most everything I put in mailboxes available online at [georgetownyouthgroup.org](http://georgetownyouthgroup.org). So if you forgot or misplaced something, that is a great spot to check. e