

PARENT
**HAND
BOOK**



**MONTCLAIR
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**



HEY THERE!

So, you're the parent of a teenager! Congrats! You've been given one of the most important and sometimes most challenging jobs on the planet.

We know parenting teens isn't always easy, and we want you to know that you're not in this alone. We're here to support you however we can. Sure, we're a youth ministry, but we care about more than just teenagers—we care about you too.

Whether you're deeply connected with our church or a new friend, this Parent Handbook shows some of the ways we're walking alongside your teen while also serving you.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in your teen's life. Your trust and partnership mean so much, and we can't wait to see what God has in store this year!



OUR VISION

Sometimes it's hard to tell if you're really making a difference with teenagers. We catch ourselves asking questions like, "Is anything we're teaching actually sinking in?" or "Are these teens really growing in their faith?"

That's why we decided to define a clear vision for our ministry. It's the one thing we, as a team, want to accomplish. It's the guiding goal we want to keep front and center in everything we do.

Montclair Community Church's Student Ministry vision is to be a...

CHRIST CENTERED **COMMUNITY OF** **YOUTH.**

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

Being a Christian in middle or high school can feel really lonely sometimes. That's why we believe being part of a Christ-Centered Community is so important. It reminds us that we aren't alone, and it also:

- Challenges us to grow more like Jesus (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Encourages and supports one another (Galatians 6:2)
- Helps us discover and use our God-given gifts (Romans 12:4-8)
- Builds up our faith (James 5:13-16, 19-20)
- Is fun! (Psalm 133:1)
- Fosters love and forgiveness (Colossians 3:13-14)
- Helps us grow together spiritually (1 Corinthians 14:26)
- And so much more



WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Every Wednesday, our middle and high school students (grades 6-12) come together for games, a message, small group time, and opportunities to connect with friends and grow in their faith.

ELEMENTS OF OUR MEETING

Each Wednesday night has four purpose-driven elements. Every part is designed to intentionally help teens grow closer to their friends, their leaders, and most importantly, Jesus. And each component is created with every teen in mind—from the one who's grown up in church to the first-time visitor.

GAMES

It might look like we're just having a good time, but our games are way more than that. They have two main purposes:

1. Build connections – Games help students break down walls and get to know each other.
2. Build trust – Having fun together creates relationships where teens feel safe to ask questions and explore faith.

And yes—games are just plain fun too!



LESSON

Each week, we dive into a 10–15 minute lesson that's relevant, creative, and completely rooted in the Bible. Our goal is to meet every student where they are and share Biblical truths that actually transform lives.

LIFE GROUPS

Our life groups are all about doing life together. This isn't just a small group where we recap the lesson and ask a few questions. Instead, these groups are a place to encourage one another, pray, listen, point each other back to God, wrestle with tough topics, and navigate whatever life throws our way. Life groups shift the focus from simply answering questions to building a Christ-centered community.

CONNECTION TIMES

Some of the best conversations happen when you're just hanging out—sitting on a couch, playing Uno, a video game, or grabbing a snack. That's why each week we set aside connection time, a kind of "free time" where students can play games, relax on the couches, or enjoy a card game. This time helps students build friendships with one another, and it gives our leaders a chance to connect personally with each teen and have meaningful conversations.

Sample Schedule

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Hangout/Connection Time

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm: Games

8:00 pm – 8:15 pm: Lesson

8:15 pm – 8:45 pm: Life Groups

8:45 pm: Pickup



THE GAME PLAN

TEACHING

COLEADER

Over the years, we've used many different curriculums, and we've found that most either excel at teaching the Bible or being relevant, but very few do both well. That's why this year, we're taking a new approach with CoLeader, a flexible subscription that gives us the best of both worlds.

CoLeader allows us to create a custom scope and sequence tailored specifically for our unique group. This means we can dig deep into God's Word while also staying relevant to the lives of our students. No two student ministries are the same, and our group has its own needs, desires, and areas for growth. With CoLeader, we can pick and choose teaching series that fit our students and our ministry, helping teens discover life-changing Biblical truths in ways that connect with them personally.



OUR EVENTS

Schedule



montclair.church/youth/schedule/

Calendar



montclair.church/youth/calendar/



THE FINE PRINT

SAFETYGUIDELINES

Your teenager's safety is a top priority for our ministry, and we want to keep you informed about how we care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before serving with us, every volunteer completes a thorough application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

WE TRAIN VOLUNTEERS

We train our volunteers to make sure they have everything they need to serve students well. Leaders participate in regular training throughout the year and are required to complete our online training, which can be found here: montclair.church/course/youth-ministry-training/

WE SET BOUNDARIES

Our youth ministry staff and volunteers follow clear guidelines to keep your teen safe. You can help by supporting these boundaries:

- No leader will meet one-on-one with a teen without your knowledge and consent.
- No leader will transport a teen alone; another adult or teen will always accompany them.
- All staff and volunteers maintain appropriate physical boundaries with teens at all times.



WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter. This means we are legally required to immediately report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations, including:

- If a student is being harmed, neglected, or abused
- If a student is harming or abusing someone else
- If a student is harming or at risk of harming themselves

WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

If you ever have a concern about your teen's care or safety, please reach out. We're always just a phone call or email away!



CONTACT US

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

This year, we want to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we hope to keep the lines of communication open...

EMAIL

We send a weekly email just for parents. It includes details about our lessons, upcoming events, and other helpful information to keep you in the loop throughout the year.

PASTOR ERIC'S CONTACT INFORMATION

- Email: Eric@montclair.church
- Cell: (862) 251-8747