

RECRUITING AND TRAINING ADULT AND TEEN CORE MEMBERS

One of the greatest perks of being involved with youth ministry at a parish is the community of the Core Team. Being able to journey with, pray with, and work with a group of people who are all striving to bring youth closer to Christ is a true blessing. That being said, recruiting the right people to be a part of this community can be one of the hardest jobs for a youth minister.

When it comes to recruiting both adult's and high school teens to be a part of your Core Team here are a few steps to follow.

1. Begin in prayer and ask God to lead you to the people who will be best for your youth and your Edge program.
2. Talk to your people around your parish, the priest, the DRE, the deacon, about people who would be well suited to be on an Edge Core Team.
3. Meet with any potential Core Member face to face.
4. Make sure that you have a clear idea of the direction and vision for your Edge Program so that when you meet with potential Core Members you can share this vision with them and see if they would fit in.
5. Share with the potential Core Members the basic information about Edge and the expectations for Core Members (See **Edge Nights: Welcoming, Engaging, Structured, and Dynamic** and **Core Member Expectations and Responsibilities**).
6. Spend time in prayer to discern if this specific person is called to be a part of your Edge Core Team.

When it comes to recruiting high school youth to be a part of your Edge Core Team there are a few extra things to look out for in addition to walking through the above process. Here are a few tips when it comes to recruiting high school teens:

1. Be aware of any of their other extra curricular activities, they may have good intentions but not enough time.
2. Make sure that they are active in the Life Teen program; they need to be fed spiritually before they can minister to the middle school youth.
3. Pick teens that are leaders and do not just want to be on Core only because their friends are doing it.

Once you have your Core Team assembled that is not the end of your job. If you want to be effective in reaching out to your youth, you have to equip your Core Team. Here are a few steps that can get you started in your training process:

1. Make sure that all of your Core Members are up to date with any of your diocesan Safe Environment regulations and training.
2. Before your Edge semester starts have a Core Training day and walk your Core Team through an Edge Night and explain their potential roles (See **Small Group Facilitation** and the **Edge Core Handbook** available at store.lifeteen.com).
3. Make sure that your Core Team understands the basics and importance of relational ministry (See **Edge Core Handbook**).
4. Go and visit other parishes that have been doing Edge for a while for the Core Team to get an idea of what a well run Edge Night looks like.
5. Continually pray as individuals and as a Core Team for your ministry and all the youth that you will serve.

Having a good Core Team that you can trust to do their jobs well will be a huge blessing to your Edge program. It is a difficult job to recruit and train, but if you stick with it you will bear much fruit in your ministry. If you have any further questions about Core Team recruiting and training contact your regions Parish Support Team Member.

