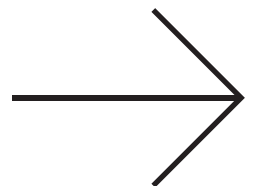




JCTAPESTRY.COM | #TAPSQUAD

UT Small
Group
Leader
Onboarding

So,
you think
you're ready
to be a
small group
leader?



Welcome

We want to see kids develop a BIG, authentic kind of faith. It's a BIG challenge, but we believe it can happen through something SMALL... You! The small group leader! But the only way you can help kids cultivate authentic faith is through leading small.

When we lead small we realize that what we do for a few will always have more potential than what we do for many. When we lead small we simply make a choice to invest strategically in the lives of a few over time so we can help them build an authentic faith. That's what being a small group leader is all about!

So thank you for thinking SMALL enough to take on a BIG challenge.



The Win

As a small group leader, we need you to invest in the lives of a few to encourage authentic faith. You win when kids have meaningful interactions, both inside and outside of small group, that influence their faith in Jesus and deepen their relationships with others.



Job Description

What exactly IS a small group leader? A friend? A parent? A coach? A teacher?

A small group leader (SGL) is anyone who chooses to invest in the lives of a few to encourage authentic faith.

Every SGL should do five things:

1. **Be Present:** Connect their faith to a community by showing up predictably, mentally, and randomly.
2. **Create a Safe Place:** Clarify their faith as they grow by leading the group, respecting the process, and guarding the heart.
3. **Partner with Parents:** Nurture an everyday faith by cueing the parent, honoring the parent, and reinforcing the family.
4. **Make it Personal:** Inspire their faith by your example by living in community, setting priorities, and being real.
5. **Move Them Out:** Engage their faith in a bigger story by moving them to someone else, moving them to be the church, and moving them to what's next.

Qualifications

To be a small group leader, you don't have to be a Bible scholar, pass a theological aptitude test, or display a particular set of special spiritual gifts. You don't even need to be that cool. Here's all you need to do:

- ˆ Love God.
- ˆ Care about kids.
- ˆ Be committed to consistently investing in and caring for your few over a period of time.
- ˆ Complete and pass the application, background check, and interview process.

Expectations

- ˆ Serve weekly.
 - ˆ Show up on time.
 - ˆ Come prepared with the question and materials you need for group.
 - ˆ Connect with your coach monthly and meet with them every six months.
 - ˆ Attend the appropriate training events and meetings whenever possible.
-

Policies & Procedures

STUDENT INTERACTIONS

Guard your words and actions so they are never misunderstood as angry, abusive, or flirtatious. Be mindful of hugging students, a Christian side hug is always a win! Don't put your hands on students, playfully, lovingly, or angrily. Enforce physical boundaries with everyone.

NO DATING STUDENTS

Regardless of how close in age you are, dating a student is never acceptable.

TWO-ADULT POLICY

Meeting with a student in a private place is only permissible when another adult leader with an approved background check is present. Small group overnight events are not permitted. If the student insists on speaking to you privately you do so in a public place; church lobby, auditorium, etc.

ALLERGIES

Be aware of the allergies of your few—especially peanut allergies. During group times when you are giving out food, double check with each student to make sure they aren't allergic to anything you're giving.

DISCIPLINE

If you have a student who is not following the guidelines that have been put in place, try first directing the student's behavior. If that doesn't work have a plan in place to contact your leader so that they can handle the situation apart from small group.

NO BULLYING

Verbal, physical, and cyberbullying is never permitted. If you see it happening from another student please report it to leadership so the issue can be resolved. environments.

CHILD ABUSE POLICY

If you suspect abuse of any kind you must immediately report to your leader who will report it properly.

Continued



Policies & Procedures

continued

VOLUNTEER INTERACTIONS

Don't focus your interaction on other leaders and leave students without appropriate attention.

TEXTING/MESSAGING STUDENTS

As much as possible, SGLs should not be texting students of the opposite sex. Text messages should not be sent after 10pm or during the school day. Guard your words through text and on social media.

TRANSPORTATION

No adult should ever be alone in a car with a student. There should always be at least two adults present.



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest to serve in our family ministry environments!

There are a few things we wanted you to know about our volunteer positions in these environments. First, know that as a volunteer in this ministry, you're in a leadership position, and the children and students here will watch what you say and do closely. We think that's great! You should be a role model for the next generation. And as a role model, your lifestyle is important to us. We want to make sure who you are on Sunday is who you are the rest of the week.

There are several issues that are most important to us, so we'll go into more detail about them in order to ensure that we're all on the same page.

REGARDING SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

We believe that sex was created by God as an expression of intimacy within the content of marriage. Volunteers who embrace a lifestyle that contradicts this teaching will find themselves having to pretend to be something they're not and believe something they don't. To prevent you from a potentially awkward situation, we may ask you not to serve for the following reasons:

- ˆ If you are involved in a sexual relationship and not married.
- ˆ If you are currently living with someone of the opposite sex and not married.
- ˆ If you are married and are currently involved in a sexual relationship outside of your marriage.

REGARDING SUBSTANCE BEHAVIOR

If you have a history of alcohol or drug abuse, this might be something God uses in a positive way to impact the future of the next generation. We'd love to talk with you further about your story and how it can impact the children and students in our ministry. We have a few guidelines that will determine your volunteer placement, and a few reasons we may ask you not to serve at this time:

- ˆ If you have been arrested for or convicted of an alcohol or drug-related offense in the past twelve months.
- ˆ If you are currently being treated for alcohol or drug abuse.
- ˆ If you have used any illegal substance in the past twelve months.
- ˆ If consuming alcohol to the point of being unable to drive legally is a regular part of your lifestyle.



Family Ministry Covenant

continued

REGARDING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

The kids (and/or the parents of the kids) in your group will definitely visit your Facebook page. If you blog, tweet, Periscope, Vine, Instagram or Snapchat, your few will probably follow you through those platforms. We think social media can be a great way to connect with your few outside of Sunday! However, they'll also be able to see everything you post publically. Please leverage your social media with your group in a positive way. Please be mindful of these guidelines, and we may ask you not to serve for the following reasons:

- ˆ If you use inappropriate language on a regular basis.
- ˆ If you post pictures of yourself in revealing clothes.

I agree to the terms above as long as I am a volunteer of family ministry. If I am unable to uphold this covenant I understand that I will need to resign from my volunteer position or that I may be asked by the leadership to resign.

Volunteer Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
(if under 18 years of age)

