

OUTREACH CHALLENGE

A Note About This Event: *We feel the need to encourage our students and adults to strive for excellence in Leadership Training for Christ. Perhaps more importantly, we want to encourage them to take the skills learned or refined by LTC involvement to serve those who do not know Christ. When feasible, church coordinators may wish to designate an elder, minister, or other church leader to serve as a local “event coach” for this event. In the end, we pray that this event will train students to be confident and comfortable sharing their faith in Christ with others with the hope that others will come to have faith in Christ.*

PURPOSE: To encourage Christian young people to reflect upon their own faith and to share “the hope that we have” with others. It is to promote the need of talk about faith and to help others begin a journey toward Jesus.

PROCESS:

Each participant will:

- Complete outreach projects and submit a **completely filled out Outreach Challenge Certification Form** no later than the Challenge Event Deadline. (See “Submitting Material” guidelines.)

The Church Coordinator (or local coach) will:

- Work with the participant to verify each project as to the level of participation for that individual.
- Mail the verified Certification Form and the report to the Event Coordinator on or before the Challenge Event Deadline. (See guidelines on “Submitting Documentation”)

The Event Coordinator will:

- Assume responsibility for the Mid-West LTC Outreach Challenge.
 - Receive and log Outreach Challenge Certification Forms and attached questions.
 - Send email confirmation of receipt of the Certification Forms **if** requested in writing by Church Coordinator.
 - Confirm appropriate awards and report results to the Awards Committee.
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GUIDELINES:

Participant Eligibility

- Participants in grades 7 – 12 are eligible for this event.

Outreach Perspectives:

- Within our contemporary pluralistic culture, people come to faith primarily through relationships with people who have a meaningful personal faith relationship with God. The journey often consists of two friends experiencing the ups and downs of life and talking about them through the lens of faith or their life perspectives. These conversations may result in commitments to pray for others, carry burdens, sacrifice time and resources, etc. In addition, as the relationships continue, there may be opportunities to begin reading the Bible together. Reading the Bible may raise questions which spur topical discussions requiring deeper study on particular issues. Through all of this, we want to encourage students to focus on the importance of being Christ in relationship to their friends, to model the love, compassion, patience, and respect Christ had for people. Outreach is NOT about winning arguments on doctrinal issues, debating this or that, or convincing someone of our understanding of the Scriptures. Outreach is also not focused primarily on getting people baptized. The goal of the Outreach Challenge is to help students reflect upon their own reasons for faith, prepare them to be comfortable talking with others about their faith, and helping them to encourage others to BEGIN a journey of faith through relationships that have a significant faith dimension.

Outreach Project Rules

- *Topical Bible Studies:* When topical Bible studies are conducted, the participant must outline the study and have it approved by the church coordinator (or local coach for outreach challenge designated by church coordinator) before the actual study begins.
- *Bible Reading:* When students spend time reading with their non-Christian friends, they should keep a running journal of what was read as well as the questions that were discussed and their own inner reflections on the readings and discussions.
- *Journal Entries:* For many of the suggested projects, students will keep a journal. The entries in the journal do not have to be long, but they should include: (1) the date/time, (2) a description of the event/topic/reflection, (3) personal reflections and thoughts on the topic, (4) how these events/topics/discussions are affecting their own faith, (5) a brief prayer thought.

- *Prepared Materials:* We encourage students to simply rely upon reading Scripture and personal discussions, but if prepared materials are used those materials must be Bible-based and approved by the local church coordinator/event coach. The objective is to help those who don't know Christ to accept Him Biblically.
- *Documenting Outreach Encounters:* Each participant and the local event coach will keep records in an Outreach Journal of the dates, persons involved, discussions, questions, studies, prayer requests and materials used.
- *Note to those assisting students who undertake this challenge:* This is an advanced leadership event which will benefit students and others most if mature Christians mentor, encourage, and advise students.

Suggested Outreach Projects

IMPORTANT: While the projects suggested below may be repeated up to three times, each project must be explained well on the Outreach Challenge Certification Form.

Reflecting on Faith / Preparing:

- Make a list of several specific times that you were aware of God working in your life. These could be answers to prayer, support in a difficult time, help with a personal struggle, etc. Choose 2-3 of them and write a description of the experience and what it meant for your faith. Share these descriptions with your coordinator.
- Write answers to at least 3 of the following questions and discuss them with your family/church coordinator
 - I trust in God because....
 - I choose to follow Christ because....
 - My faith changes my life in the following ways.....
 - What I think it means to be a Christian....
 - I have seen God working in my life in the following specific events/circumstances/episodes
 - My faith challenges me to.....
- Make a list of your favorite Bible verses. Choose 3 and write them on index cards or in your Bible somewhere. My favorite Bible passages that give me comfort, hope, assurance, challenge, perspective.
- Choose a book of the Bible that you feel would be good to read with those who do not know Christ. Read the book yourself and as you read consider how it would sound to someone who did not know any of the stories of the Bible. Make journal entries about your thoughts and notes about what you are learning from the readings.
- Write a one page personal reflection on the question, "Why do I want to help others come to Christ?" Share your reflection with your church coordinator/event coach AND with another friend.

Awareness of Others:

- Make a list of 5 people who you know that don't have a relationship with God.....pray for them daily for one month...journal about your prayers and conversations.
- Pay attention to people in your classes, lunchroom, school settings that don't seem to have many friends. Introduce yourself to them and then pray for them daily. Write a journal entry about your prayers, any conversations you have with the person and any ways you see God working in the situation.
- Make a list of the birthdays of at least 10 people in your age group that do not attend church. On their birthday, pray for them and send them a card.
- Participate in a mission trip. Write a journal entry about your experience, what you learned, what surprised you, etc. Talk about the people and how you saw God at work.

Journeying with Others in Faith:

- Invite a friend to meet with you to read a book of the Bible together. This can be one long session or a weekly event where you read a portion of the book each session. Simply read the book together and share anything you find interesting in the passages.
- Take something that is valuable to you and give it to someone as a gift....just because you want to bless their life.
- Ask someone a question about their faith or their beliefs and just listen. Don't debate, argue, correct, or try to change their minds. Just listen. Write a journal entry about the conversation: What did you learn? What are you curious about? What surprised you? What questions do you have? What do you have in common? In what ways are you different? Pray about the conversation asking that God will give you understanding.
- Invite at least 4 people, or the same person at least 4 times to join you at church or on a youth event.
- Contact at least 4 people to invite them to participate in the Outreach challenge this year. With each person describe what is involved with Outreach Challenge and why you are interested in it.
- Conduct a Bible study with a non-Christian or a group of non-Christians.

- p. Conduct a Bible study or being meeting with someone(s) recently baptized to read the Bible, pray, and encourage each other in the Christian life.
- q. Bring at least 4 non-Christians with you to worship.
- r. Organize and/or conduct a regular Bible study for your peers (including a non-Christian – not necessarily the same person) for a total of four meetings.
- s. Be a part of an organized outreach team that works for one day to invite people to worship, a gospel meeting, VBS, or to participate in a Bible study.
- t. Invite a friend to a Bible study activity. Whether or not your friend attends, explain the circumstances and especially the friend's response. Include thoughts for self-improvement.
- u. Organize or work on a youth rally designed to reach youth in your area.
- v. Make four contacts with those who visit your bible class inviting them to return and study. (e.g.: visit, phone call or card)
- w. Be part of a teaching team that works with a VBS reaching out to area youth.
- x. Extend an LTC event to an audience in your community with the intent to reach people who do not know Jesus. The following events are eligible to be used in this manner:
 - Radio Minute Message
 - Alternative Art
 - Traditional Art
 - Bible Reading
 - Group Singing
 - Live Modern Drama
 - Puppets
 - Signing & Interpreting for the Deaf
 - Speech
- y. Assist the local outreach minister/leader in teaching the gospel to people who have not accepted Christ. This can be a project designed by the participant, outreach minister/leader and approved by the church coordinator (or designee such as the local event coach).
- z. Create other Outreach Challenge projects. Must be approved by the Church Coordinator. Projects should be consistent in time and effort required with that of other projects listed.

Submitting Material (Certification & Other Material)

The following material must be sent to the Event Coordinator, no later than the Challenge Event Deadline:

- **REQUIRED:** Outreach Challenge Certification Form (2 pages) that vouches for each participant's outreach projects must be submitted in order for awards to be given. These must be typed or legibly printed.
 - The church coordinator must sign the Certification Form after the participant has completed the outreach projects. The local event coach may confirm these projects.
- **OPTIONAL:** Include written request for confirmation of receipt of Certification Forms when submitting documentation for this event (including current email address). Confirmations will only be sent via email.

The Outreach Challenge forms may be submitted via the postal service or email. If emailed, the **church coordinator** MUST send the documents to the event coordinator and vouch for their authenticity. (A Microsoft Word version of the forms is available on the website.)

AWARDS (assuming clear documentation is properly submitted):

Gold: 8 projects Silver: 5 projects Bronze: 3 projects Participant: 1 to 2 projects

OUTREACH CHALLENGE CERTIFICATION FORM

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This Section to be filled out by Student

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____

City/State _____ Phone (_____) _____

Signature of student: _____ Grade: _____

Outreach Projects You Completed:

Instructions:

Using the list of suggested projects in the Outreach Challenge Guidelines, indicate the Project Letter. The church coordinator (or local event coach) must initial each project, certifying that the information is accurate. The student must provide a brief description of the project.

	Project Letter	Description of Project
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

OUTREACH CHALLENGE CERTIFICATION FORM

(PAGE 2 OF 2)

Answer Below (or on a separate sheet of paper)

(Since this is an advanced leadership event, thoughtful and specific reporting is expected.)

Which outreach project did you learn the most from? Why?

Which outreach project was the most frustrating? Why?

Which was the most rewarding? Why?

Which project do you think most fits the current year's LTC theme? Why?

This Section to be filled out by Church Coordinator

This is to certify that the participant named above has successfully completed the requirements of the Outreach Challenge. This participant has met the requirements for a _____ award by completing the above listed outreach projects. (Refer to the Guidelines for the award based on the number of outreach projects completed.)

The student has also completed *Outreach Challenge Report Section* above.

Signature of adult certifying completion _____

Student [is ____ // is not ____] attending convention. (Check one)