



THE PATHFINDER COUNSELOR RELATIONSHIP (PSYO 124)

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**WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE
PATHFINDER MINISTRY?**



OVERVIEW

Understand Your Pathfinders


Fostering Positive Relationships

Create an Engaging Program

Handling Difficult Situations

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

	Pre-teen	Teen
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing of rules and limits increases • Ideals develop, including selection of role models • Short term relationships may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of love and passion intensify • More serious relationships develop • Capacity for affection and sensual love increases
Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioning of moral rights and privileges increase • Interests expand and gain importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in moral reasoning increases • Interest in social, cultural and family traditions expand • Emphasis on personal dignity & self-esteem increases
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of puberty • Hormonal changes are visible • Brain development • Feeling of awkwardness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls usually reach full physical development • Boys reach close to full physical development, growth continues • Eating habits change (boys & girls)
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest focus on present, thoughts of the future are limited • Ability to do work expands • Capacity for abstract thinking increases • Risk-taking behaviors emerge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest focus on near-future and future • More importance is placed on goals, ambitions, role in life • Capacity for setting goals and following through increases • Risk-taking behaviors may emerge
Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of identity develops • Focus on self increases • Close friendships gain importance • Peer pressure influences interests • Start to pull away from parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent functioning increases • Firmer and more cohesive sense of personal identity develops • Ability to think ideas through increases • Peer relationships remain important • Emotion steadiness increases • Concern for others increases • Social networks expand



“Positive youth development is the understanding, based on research, that healthy development is best promoted by creating opportunities to develop a set of core assets, dubbed as the 5 C’s: competence, confidence, connections, character and caring.”

The Teen Years Explained: A Guide to Health Adolescent Development by Clea McNeely, MA, DrPH and Jayne Blanchard

THE 5 C'S OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Asset	Definition	How to Foster It
COMPETENCE	Perception that one has abilities and skills	Provide training and practice in specific skills, either academic or hands-on
CONFIDENCE	Internal sense of self efficacy and positive self-worth	Provide opportunities for your people to experience success when trying something new
CONNECTIONS	Positive bonds with people and institutions	Build relationships between youth and peers, teachers and parents
CHARACTER	A sense of right and wrong (morality), integrity and respect for standards of correct behavior	Provide opportunities to practice increasing self-control and development of spirituality
CARING	A sense of sympathy and empathy for others	Care for young people

FOSTERING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

MENTORING





FOSTERING A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BEGINS WITH YOU

A lot of Christians think they aren't cut out for youth ministry. But if you love Jesus and you care about kids, everything else falls into place.

- Ryan Nelson, 10 Ways to Be a Better Youth Leader, July 13, 2014.

Successful counselors are not successful because of their spunky personalities and teaching skills – kids gravitate to adults who love Jesus and genuinely love kids.

FOSTERING A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BEGINS WITH YOU

Put your relationship with Jesus first!

- Have you heard the cliché “You can only lead someone as far as you’ve gone?”
- The more we put Jesus first in our lives, the more we love those around us.
- With Jesus first, the purpose and significance of what we do and say is amplified, not reduced.



EFFECTIVE COUNSELING

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 - Show the kids that Jesus meets them right where they are



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- Do everything with love



FOSTERING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- Studies have shown that what matters most to students is finding a welcoming environment where they can be themselves and build quality friendships.
- Create an environment
 - where they feel wanted, accepted and connected,
 - where they feel safe
 - where each child is allowed to shine in their own way
- Seek out the kids in the corner - get them involved, listen and love them.

FOSTERING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- Listen
 - Challenge yourself to a listening campaign.
 - Keep to the 80/20 rule (instructor speaks 20% and listens 80%)
 - Make eye contact
- Show them that you care through your words AND actions.
- GET TO KNOW YOUR KIDS!
 - Take the time and effort to really get to know your kids.
 - Know how they will react to different situations.

**PIZZA AND VIDEO GAMES DO NOT
TRANSFORM LIVES!**



CREATE AN ENGAGING PROGRAM

Have a purpose for everything!

- Each component within your program should have a purpose. For instance the purpose of organizing a goofy game is to get the kids to work together or provide an outlet for those who are usually quiet to participate and be cheered.
- If we understand the *why* behind each aspect of youth group, it becomes a lot less about us and a lot more about the kids, Jesus, and the ways we let God use us.



CREATE AN ENGAGING PROGRAM

- Youth are transformed by truth clearly presented
- Do not merely try to out “fun” the world. Be purposeful in the type of entertainment you use.
- Reinforce the Christian principles and lessons with activities and outreach that are purposeful and fun.
- Remember, have a purpose for everything

CREATE AN ENGAGING PROGRAM

Engage the Pathfinders by:

- Designing a program to reach them where they are
- Ask open ended questions
- Create a safe environment where opinions and feelings can be expressed without criticism
- Find something positive from every response
- Create an environment free from distractions
- Do not lecture or dominate the discussion

HANDLING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

- Be compassionate and listen carefully FIRST.
- Listen at their level – literally (physically sit or kneel for a level eye contact)
- Keep confidentiality (unless laws or ethics require otherwise)
- Keep your emotions in check – No gasps! No shocked expressions!
- Identify the underlying issue (could be completely unrelated to incident)
- Don't be afraid to say that you don't know the answer. Say "lets study together for the answer."
- Don't be afraid to admit your weaknesses. Doing so shows that you are not perfect and makes you more easily relatable.

DISCUSSION

Is anger ever appropriate for a Pathfinder?

Is anger ever appropriate for a Counselor?

Explain.

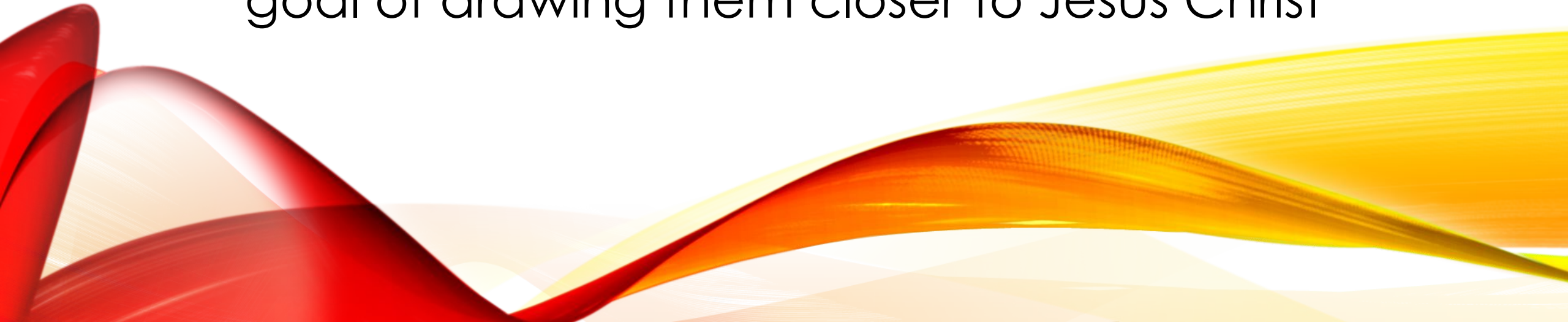


As a Counselor, you WILL have an effect on a Pathfinder. The question is whether it will be a positive or negative effect?



WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PATHFINDER MINISTRY?

Creating opportunities for mentoring relationships with a Pathfinder with the goal of drawing them closer to Jesus Christ



QUESTIONS?

