



Youth Group '24/'25

Overview of Program:

Our Mission: Growing with God among friends.

Our Vision: Everyone with a friend, everyone with a place.

Our Verse: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9


Your Ridge 6:12 Leaders

- Stacey Weessies 269-760-8559
- Elizabeth Terpstra 269-377-7591
- Food - Terri Scholz and Gena Heminover
- Worship Leader - Marley Messamore
- Games and Ridge Riders - Dave Backer and Craig Terpstra
- Fundraising - Andrew Slager
- Tech - Zack Hummel

Weekly Schedule:

- 5:00 - Music and food set up
- 5:30 - Doors open for student informal fellowship (in Oasis)
- 5:45 - Leader / volunteer meeting
- 6:00 - Games
- 6:30 - Prayer & Dinner
- 7:00 - Dinner clean up and music prep
- 7:10 - Music
- 7:15 - Devotion
- 7:30 - Small group discussion
- 7:50 - Announcements & Closing Prayer
- 8:00 - Dismissal

Communication:

- Whats App  WhatsApp - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/EjDENodoCaFC6t2m1yJWgD>
- Weekly Newsletter
- Sign up Genius for volunteers
- WalMart Registry for wants / needs
- Call us anytime with any questions, concerns or with ideas for improvement

Calendar of Events (tentative):

October - Fallapalooza (October 27)
November - Operation Christmas child
December - Bell ringing & Christmas Party
January - Ice Camp & Profession of Faith
February - TBD
March - TBD
April - TBD
May - Profession of Faith
June - Vacation Bible School and Local Activities
July - Costa Rica Mission trip

Fundraising activities:

- Youth participating will receive funds based on time spent toward / at event
- Fundraising monies can be used toward ice camp, mission trips or swag

Opportunities for Engagement:

- Profession of Faith
- Ice Camp
- Mission Trip
- Off Site activities (joining other youth groups, community worship events)
- Lock-Ins
- Can Drive - food pantry
- Bell Ringing

Incentives (sticker chart):

- Stickers - one drawing a month (must be present to win). Leaders will be given stickers each week to hand out during the night.
 - Bringing a friend - 2 & 2 for the friend!
 - Parent brings dinner - 5
 - Bring an item from the wish list - 3
 - Observed Random Acts of Kindness - 1

Weekly Student Responsibilities

Students will randomly pick chores on a weekly basis. (Students leading worship music will be excluded from these student responsibilities as they will be excused to set up worship.)

- Wipe off tables, chairs, counters - 3
- Move chairs from around tables - 2
- Sweep - 3
- Dust Pan - 1
- Garbage Duty - 2
- Put chairs out in the oasis for worship and devotion time - 3



Ridge Riders - Fall Mountain Bike Riding - Dave Backer and Craig Terpstra

Required items:

- Bike
- Helmet
- Water Bottle

Practices - September 8, 15, 22

4:00 - Arrive at Southridge

4:15 - Bike Al Sabo

5:45 - Return to Southridge for Ridge 6:12

Final Ride - If 2 or more practices are completed by the biker, a final ride will be in Three Rivers on September 29 (details to follow), departure at noon from Southridge.

What is it? Introduction to trail riding (Mountain Biking) for Ridge 6:12 kids and their friends. All rides will be a no drop ride. That means we all start together, and all finish together, though we may get split up at times on the trail. Faster riders will stop with their chaperone(s) occasionally to allow for the others to catch up. We'll start the September 8th session with some skills training in the parking lot. It'd be great for all to make this riding date.

Where is it? We'll ride three Sunday afternoon's from Southridge to the 6 mile loop at Al Sabo Land preserve. If you've ridden 2 of the 3 sessions, the fourth Sunday we'll depart Southridge in vehicles to ride the 8.5 mile mountain biking specific trail at Meyer Broadway Park in Three Rivers. Rain dates will possibly provided on an as needed basis.

How do I get ready? Ride your bike! There's nothing like regular saddle time to get you ready for the trails, even just cruising the neighborhood.

What kind of bike do I need? A trail bike that fits you is best, think 2" or wider knobby tires, but other bikes can work.

How do I know if my bike fits well and operates safely? Pedal Bicycle in Portage and Kalamazoo is aware of our program and will inspect any bike that is brought to them at no charge. They'll provide the feedback you need.

What if I have questions? Contact Dave Backer at 269-270-2092.

Program Expectations:

Expectations of Leaders

- Consistent Presence
- Positive, God honoring attitude
- Come prepared to lead & engage with youth
- Participate in leader meetings
- Actively pray for parents and students

Expectations of Parents

- Complete and **sign the waiver** in this week's newsletter
- Volunteer in **one capacity once per semester as a floater**
 - Floater tasks include food prep, serving, cleaning up, game support
- Provide **one requested food item** (drink, snack, etc.) once per semester
- **Help lead** a major event (Fallapalooza, Fundraising support, can drives, etc.) once per semester
- Ensure your child knows the expectations and abides
- Participate in Parent Meetings
- Actively pray for youth and leaders
- Respect, understand and support all leadership and policies of Ridge 6:12 youth group.
- Recognize and understand that youth leaders and personnel must enforce the rules and policies to ensure a safe environment for all.
- Emphasize the importance of being a model person at home, at church, at school and in the community.

Expectations of Students

- Phones away in phone holder immediately upon entering
 - If phones are seen out they will be taken by an adult leader and placed in the phone holder and can be retrieved by the student at the end of night before leaving.
 - If there is a reason to make a phone call, the student is to get permission from an adult leader to retrieve their phone for that purpose.
 - Adult leaders may have phones out from time to time for photos, communication, etc.
- Be responsible...
 - Clean up after yourself after each activity and after dinner
 - Everyone present at youth group is expected to participate in planned activities
 - Thank the adults for being present and serving you with their gifts, talents and time
- Be respectful...
 - HCRR - Honesty, Caring, Respect, Responsibility
 - Always treat fellow youth members, visitors, leaders and any other guest speakers and musicians with dignity and respect.
 - Be inclusive by encouraging others
 - Actively participate in all activities
 - Take turns speaking; do not interrupt others.
 - All perspectives are to be listened to carefully and responded to in a courteous fashion. At no time should derogatory comments be made about anyone or her/his opinions.
 - Words matter...we follow the Golden Rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

- Be safe...
 - At no time should a youth group member wander off or leave the premises without adult supervision or prior permission.
 - At no time shall a youth group member enter any area of the church without a youth leader present.
 - At no time shall a youth group member be unsupervised in the building - youth are allowed to be in the Oasis or the gym during game time. Youth are not to wander in the halls.
- Youth group members are expected to recognize the authority and responsibility of all youth group leaders by obeying instructions and following proper respect. Youth group members are expected to follow the guidelines set forth and anyone who breaks the guidelines may be dismissed from an activity.

Consequences for Misbehavior

The consequences for misbehavior outlined below aim to exemplify grace and forgiveness. It is our goal that any student who receives any offense learns from it and returns to Ridge 6:12 with a clean slate. We desire to have all students participating in all activities and will not hold prior offenses against students who have already completed the consequences for such (assuming that a pattern does not emerge) – students are held accountable for their behavior, but not condemned.

Consequences for Offenses:

- 1st Offense: The student will receive a verbal warning
- 2nd Offense: The student will be pulled aside by a leader to discuss the offense.
- 3rd Offense: The student will be pulled aside by a leader and will be asked to call his/her parents, explain why they are calling (i.e. what actions got them into trouble), and ask to be picked up immediately. At this time, the student will receive advance warning that the next offense will result in suspension from Ridge 6:12 for 1-2 weeks and an in-person parent and student meeting with the youth leader shall be scheduled.

Ridge 6:12 leaders reserve the right to determine the severity of misbehavior and may choose to skip or modify any of the above stated consequences.

Students who reach 3rd Offense multiple times may lose privileges including, but not limited to, youth group, single day events, and/or attendance at overnight events (i.e. retreats).

Student Signature / Date: _____

Parent Signature / Date: _____