



# Parent Handbook

Dear Friends,

We believe that God is inviting a generation of teenagers to live with a radical expression of love and devotion for Jesus. Again and again, I have seen the Lord come and convince teenager's hearts of who He is and what He feels about Him – in the midst of doubt, pain, and chaos. He is able to draw hearts to Himself and set their hearts ablaze with deep love and commitment to Himself. We believe that the Lord is committed to teenagers and He will raise up burning hearts in the midst of this dark and perverse generation. He is not intimidated by the bombardment of media and distraction in our culture; instead, He is deeply committed to raising up friends who would hold firm to His Word. The eyes of the Lord look to and fro throughout the earth searching for hearts who are loyal and committed to Him, and our prayer is that the Lord would find friends in Forerunner Youth – teenagers who love His Word and are hungry to see Him glorified in their own generation (2 Chron. 17:9).

Forerunner Youth exists to empower teenagers to have hearts burning with love for Jesus and to shine as lights in a dark generation. Because of the unique dynamics in which teenagers are living, we must approach them with a relevant Biblical message – with an authentic Christian expression of the gospel. God is releasing the knowledge of His Son across the nations, and we want to immerse ourselves in the purposes of God and see many hearts awoken to what He is doing in their generation. Our greatest weapons are prayer, the Word of God, and the beauty of Jesus.

It is our joy and privilege to minister to teenagers. Let us know how we can serve you further. Please email [youth@forerunnerchurch.com](mailto:youth@forerunnerchurch.com) with any questions.

We are thankful to come alongside your you and your family,

*Caroline Hanson*

High School Youth Pastor, Forerunner Youth

*Daniel Sliker*

Junior High Pastor, Forerunner Youth

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## Meet the Team

*Caroline Hanson,*

High School Youth Pastor

Caroline is a graduate from the Forerunner School of Ministry at IHOPU and served in both Forerunner Youth and Awakening Teen Camps over the past four years as a small group leader and as an Associate Director in 2021. Caroline is the Forerunner Youth High School Pastor and is passionate to see the next generation love Jesus and follow Him wholeheartedly. Caroline loves rock-climbing, being in nature with friends and family, and eating some good ol' Mexican food.

*Daniel Sliker,*

Jr High Pastor

Daniel is currently enrolled at IHOPU studying at the Forerunner School of Ministry and has been in the Forerunner Church community for his whole life. From a young age, he has had an urgency to see his and the next generation touched by the love of Jesus. Daniel is the Junior High Youth Pastor and helps bring leadership at our children's camps by training teenagers to serve as volunteers. He loves playing soccer, watching football, vintage clothing, and high quality Chinese food.

*Chase & Riley Walker*

Worship & Prayer Directors

Chase has lead worship and been a leader in both youth and children's ministry for over seven years. He is the former 4th–5th grade pastor for the Children's Equipping Center and has a passionate heart for the next generation.

Riley is a graduate from the Forerunner School of Worship and has been a part of worship and prayer from 2010–2015. She has lead in the Prayer Room since she was 13.

Chase and Riley got married in October 2021. Together, they have a passion for music and leading young people into the love of God through worship and prayer. Both love taking long drives and exploring new places. Especially if it starts with a C and ends with "hipotle".

*Gabrielle Voorhies,*

Administrator

Gabrielle is a graduate of the Forerunner School of Ministry at IHOPU. Originally from Washington State, she has always had a hunger for the word of God. She has served on the missions base in various ways, including Collective (Forerunner Church Young Adults) and IHOPU student trips. She is eager to see teens grow in love for God, knowledge of God, and confidence in His love for them through discipleship. Gabrielle is always up for boba or tacos and loves the outdoors, a good book, friends and family, and a witty joke.

## **Our Mission**

Forerunner Youth exists to empower teenagers to have hearts burning with love for Jesus and to shine as lights in a dark generation. As a youth group, our desire is for teens to be firmly rooted in their God given identity, to pursue a life of intimacy with Jesus, and to engage in His purposes for the earth. We aim to raise up messengers who walk boldly in the power of the Holy Spirit and hold fast to the word of God.

## **Our Values**

Forerunner Youth is built on four foundations: the “4 I’s” – identity, intimacy, intercession, and impact. These foundations help equip teenagers to live a devoted life of wholehearted love for God and others.

**Identity:** We aim to connect students to their primary identity in God as those who love and are loved by God, having understanding that they are participants in God’s plans and inheritors of His promises, and knowing who they are in God – His beloved sons and daughters.

**Intimacy:** We aim to connect students to the God who loves them and who is interceding on their behalf to bring them into the full measure of righteousness, peace, and joy through grace and the Holy Spirit. There are truths about God that stir the heart to fascination. The truth about His great and glorious love expressed through the cross gives us confidence, even in our weakness. The revelation of the beauty and the tenderness of Jesus will inspire them to press on and not lose heart. We want to invite teenagers to know God and pursue holiness, so each would fight for true life on the inside and maintain a vision for intimacy with God without shame.

**Intercession:** We aim to encourage students in a lifestyle of prayer and fasting<sup>1</sup> that enables them to partner with the heart of God and His purposes for the earth, abide in Jesus by grace (Jn. 15:4), and commune with the Holy Spirit. Engaging in prayer and fasting empowers believers to grow in God, and advance the kingdom of God in their own lives and the lives of others. A life of intercession positions each student to remain connected to the heart of Jesus and His leadership in a way that equips them with understanding and wisdom for the days to come.

**Impact:** We aim to encourage students in a lifestyle of service and impact, knowing that everything they do matters, because Jesus remembers and values every small act of service.

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<sup>1</sup>Visit [ihopkc.org/fasting](http://ihopkc.org/fasting) for helpful information about fasting. Please note that fasting is always voluntary, and that we discourage minors from fasting food.

## **Core Beliefs**

**The Word of God:** We equip teenagers with knowledge of the Bible through teaching, preaching, discussion, and discipleship.

**Prayer:** We believe it is vital that prayer is enjoyable for every believer. We teach principles of prayer, and we desire to assist teenagers in developing dialogue with God and a thirst for friendship with Him.

**Worship:** We desire to create an environment where teenagers have the opportunity and freedom to express their love for God in worship.

**Power, Signs, and Wonders:** We teach teenagers that they can walk with boldness and zeal, ministering to others in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**The Prophetic:** We encourage teenagers to believe the promise given to us in Acts 2:17 – that in these days His Spirit will be poured out on all flesh in an increasing measure—and that prophecy communicates the heart of the Lord to others.

## **Forerunner Youth Weekly Events**

Each week, Forerunner Youth facilitates over hours of services, classes, activities, and friendship groups. All Forerunner Youth programs run in continuity with the values and vision of Forerunner Church. Distinction is made between senior high (ages 14–18) and jr high (ages 12–14) within an established Forerunner Youth department with age-appropriate facilities, along with trained leaders and teaching teams. Times and locations are subject to change.

Please check [forerunnerchurch.com/youth](http://forerunnerchurch.com/youth) for up-to-date information.

### **Wednesday Night Youth**

Ages: 12-18

Time: Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00pm

Location: Camp and Training Center, 11700 Grandview Road, Kansas City, MO 64137

This is our mid-week service for both jr high and high school students. We aim to give teenagers a chance to have a radical expression of worship and an opportunity to go deeper in the Word of God in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. The service consists of worship, teachings, fellowship, small group discussion, and games.

### **Teen Church–Forerunner Church**

Ages: 12-14 (Junior High)

Time: Fridays and Sundays during the Forerunner Church services (5pm on Fridays, and 8:45am and 11am on Sundays)

Location: Forerunner Church gym, 12444 Grandview Road, Grandview, MO 64030

Teen Church meets in the Forerunner Church gym immediately following worship and includes a fellowship time during which donuts and drinks are served, followed by teaching. The teaching focuses on foundational biblical truths and principles of how to understand God’s Word. We also have a time of small groups and/or games.

### **Worship and Prayer**

Ages 12-18

Time: Weekday late afternoons and evenings (the time commitment to participate is about six hours per week)

Cost: \$75 per semester

The purpose of Forerunner Youth Worship and Prayer Teams is to help equip teens ages 12–18 to be prophetic singers, musicians, and intercessors who will proclaim the gospel with power across the nations of the earth. Worship and Prayer is a hands-on training program that takes place during the spring and fall semesters.

Worship sets are student-led, with Forerunner Youth staff present to coach and train the teams in musicianship and the harp and bowl prayer model. Worship and prayer sets are held throughout the week, either in the afternoon or the evening, during the spring and fall semesters.

Teens who are interested in joining a team can attend worship team placements in January and August each year. Please email [youth@forerunnerchurch.com](mailto:youth@forerunnerchurch.com) for more information about placement dates, cost, and general information.

Parents and families are encouraged to join us for the student-led prayer meetings. For a complete schedule, email [youth@forerunnerchurch.com](mailto:youth@forerunnerchurch.com).

Whether you are on a Worship and Prayer team, or simply attend Forerunner Youth, we encourage you to join us in our weekly prayer meetings. Join your friends and others your age as we cry out in intercession for God to move and sing His word. (Or something like that)

## **Friendship Groups**

Time: Throughout the week

Ages 12–18

Intentional discipleship is available through the year through friendship groups, bible studies, and different classes on biblical topics.

## **Monthly and Fall Activities**

Ages 12-18

Subscribe to our weekly email (sign up at [forerunnerchurch.com/youth](http://forerunnerchurch.com/youth)), look on the Forerunner Church Events page, or pick up our weekly Forerunner Youth bulletin at any of our weekly services for details.

Forerunner Youth holds various monthly and seasonal activities throughout the year. Activities may include sporting events, sports, ice-skating, paintball, bowling, mini golf, guy's events, girl's socials, game nights, movie nights, and more.

### **Fall Launch**

Wednesday Evening in beginning of September

Forerunner Church

We encourage teens to invite their friends as we kickoff the school year with games, worship, a message, and fun raffle prizes throughout the night.

### **Paint Wars**

Wednesday Evening at the end of September

Camp Building

This is an up and coming Forerunner Youth tradition where face off in a fun, messy game that combines Capture the Flag, Tag, and other fun activities all the while getting colorful with paint.

### **Annual Fall Retreat**

Ages 12-18

Date: Mid-fall (dates vary year to year)

Our annual Fall Retreat is a great way for teens to get away, pursue fresh encounter with God, build friendships, and have tons of fun! A typical schedule includes activities, small group discussions, extended worship and ministry times, and guest speakers. Retreat activities are seasonal and location dependent but may include sports, team-building



games, worship, bonfires, float trips, zip lines, paintball, horseback riding, and skeet shooting. Forerunner Youth provides transportation to and from the retreat.

### **Awakening Teen Camps**

Awakening Teen Camp (ATC) runs through the months of June and July and aims to equip teens to live a lifestyle of prayer, worship, and wholehearted love for Jesus. Teens are equipped to grow in the knowledge of God and be awakened to the joy of impacting their generation with His power and love.

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Forerunner Youth Teen Rules**

1. Honor one another with your speech and actions.
2. No cussing, crude humor, or bullying.
3. No physical violence.
4. Be respectful towards leaders, parent volunteers, other teens and Forerunner Church property.
5. Once a teen arrives at Youth, he or she must stay for the entire duration of the service. If a teen needs to leave early, a parent must communicate with the Forerunner Youth leadership team.
6. Abide by the dress code.
7. No public displays of affection.
8. No drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, vapes, weapons, or illicit material.

### **Forerunner Youth Phone Use**

Our heart is that teens would be engaged in our services and not be a distraction to other teens at Forerunner Youth events. We ask and encourage teens to keep phone use to a minimum. If phone use is distracting and disruptive to others, then we will ask teens to put away their device and/or collect their phone and return it at the end of service.

## Forerunner Youth Dress Code

### *Male Dress Code*

- No stomachs, backsides, or underwear showing
- No crude, suggestive or inappropriate clothing
- No deep v-neck/low t-shirts
- No speedo-style swimwear
- No side-cut muscle tanks

### *Female Dress Code*

- No deep v-neck/low-cut shirts
- No shirts that show *excessive* amount of stomach, backside, or midriff.
- No crude, suggestive, or inappropriate clothing
- Swimsuits: must be a one-piece or a two-piece with dark t-shirt to cover stomach

## Teen Registration

Teens involved in Forerunner Youth are asked to fill out a registration form. The contact information provided assists us in managing the security and safety of the teens and helps us effectively communicate with all our families.

## Check in Procedure

Teens may be dropped off twenty minutes prior to each service (except Friday or Sunday Teen Church). We ask that teens who arrive at a service or event remain for the full duration of that event, unless excused by a parent or guardian. We may ask the teen for text or verbal consent from the parent should he or she leave early. If a teen leaves without communicating with a leader, we may contact the parent. We are not able to physically restrain any teen from leaving our services or events, nor can we govern who they are allowed to leave with. We recommend that parents communicate clear expectations to their teen(s) regarding permissions and plans.

Parents are always welcome to attend our services.

## Pick up Procedure

Please be on time to pick up your teen. Forerunner Youth leadership is required to remain at all official Forerunner Youth events until all teens have been picked up. Please be there promptly at the end of the event or arrange a ride for your teen(s) in advance.

## **Health Policies**

If a teen has special needs, including severe allergies or physical challenges, these needs should be communicated on the registration sheet and given to the Forerunner Youth administrator. We are not able to monitor health concerns, nor do we have medical professionals on hand at our routine services or events. Sick teens (e.g. fever, vomiting, congested cough, pinkeye, lice) are asked to stay home until no longer contagious.

## **Medical Emergencies**

In the case of a medical emergency, parents and guardians will be contacted using the information given on the registration form. If the emergency may be life-threatening we will call 911 before contacting the parents. Under no circumstance are staff allowed to administer medication to a teen without prior consent.

## **Fire and Building Evacuation/ Weather Cancellation**

In case of a building evacuation or fire, teens will be directed to the appropriate exits. If there is severe weather, including visible lightning that appears to be close, teens will be brought indoors. During tornado warnings in which sirens can be heard at our service or event location, students will be directed to the closest available tornado shelter. During winter months, services may be canceled for severe winter weather. Cancellations for pre-planned events and services will be announced via our newsletter email. Please make sure you are signed up to receive these notices. You may also check our Instagram feed for updates regarding service or event cancellations.

## **Discipline Policy**

In the event that the Forerunner Youth leadership is unable to handle a situation that arises at a service or event, the parents will be contacted. In the event of an emergency situation, IHOPKC security and/or 911 may be notified.

## **Teen Counseling**

Our staff does not include any professional or clinical therapists or psychologists. If you or your teen would like to meet with one of our staff members, please schedule an appointment by emailing us at [youth@forerunnerchurch.com](mailto:youth@forerunnerchurch.com)

More resources available to the Forerunner Church family can be found at [ihopkc.org/pastoralsupport](http://ihopkc.org/pastoralsupport)

## **Water Baptism**

We believe that water baptism is an ordinance of the Church to be observed until the time of Christ's return. It is not a means of salvation, but a channel of God's sanctifying grace and blessing to the faithful in Christ Jesus (Mt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-11; 1 Pet. 3:21).

We encourage teens to communicate with their families about all aspects of their faith, including baptism. If your teen desires to be baptized, email [office@forerunnerchurch.com](mailto:office@forerunnerchurch.com). Water baptisms are a public declaration of our personal faith; therefore, family and friends are welcome to attend.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q.** My child just turned 12, when is a good time for them to move from CEC into Forerunner Youth?

*A. Each child is different! We encourage you to assess your child's maturity and discuss with him or her when would be appropriate to transition into Forerunner Youth. Some teens can't wait to transition but need to wait a little longer before they are ready to receive the new level of independence while others are hesitant but able to navigate the new responsibility. Remember that there is much more independence in Forerunner Youth so it is vital parents are involved during the transition.*

**Q.** We just moved here and my teen is struggling to make friends. What can I do?

*A. We understand! Moving can exaggerate teen emotions, making it difficult to fit in and find friends. Reassure your teen that this is a normal experience and that building friendships takes time. It takes about a year for families to begin to feel settled and connected in meaningful ways. During this time, pray a lot for and with your teen! Ask the Lord to send friends who have a heart to pursue the Lord. We know a year feels like an eternity to a teen but this time can be a unique season of them encountering Jesus as a friend! Also continue to encourage your teen to attend weekly services, or better yet, join a Friendship Group. Consistently attending will help them feel connected faster. As your teen begins to form friendships, they will get to know these teens, and their families. Just because a teen is attending youth or a part of the IHOPKC community does not mean they will be a positive influence.*

**Q.** Can teens involved in Forerunner Youth date?

*A. We believe this decision is for each family to make before the Lord. We do have a "no public displays of affection" policy and will ask that all teens abide by it.*

**Q.** We don't want our teen hanging out with certain families, what should we do?

*A. We encourage parents to communicate directly with others on issues that involve their teenagers. We find that direct communication, in love and tenderness, is the most effective way to foster healthy relationships.*

## **Parent Resources**

### **Focus on the Family**

[focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com)

Focus on the Family provides many resources for every stage of parenting. A great place to start is signing up for their e-mail newsletter. Each newsletter includes parenting advice and encouragement, practical relationship advice, movie reviews, and more.

### **Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk**

[drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org)

Dr. James Dobson, the founder of Focus on the Family, started a new ministry with his son after retiring from Focus on the Family. They offer many online resources and an app so you can listen to the daily broadcast. Broadcast topics are focused on issues relevant to families in our current culture.

### **Fight the New Drug**

[fightthenewdrug.org](http://fightthenewdrug.org)

Fight the New Drug exists to provide individuals the opportunity to make an informed decision regarding pornography by raising awareness on its harmful effects using only science, facts, and personal accounts.

(Please note: this is not a Christian non-profit organization)

### **Joshua Straub Ph.D.**

[joshuastraub.com](http://joshuastraub.com)

Joshua Straub, PhD, is an author, speaker, family advocate and expert in child psychology. He has trained thousands of professionals in Critical Incident Stress Management. He currently speaks and writes on emotionally safe parents and spouses and the influence of technology on today's family. When speaking on marriage, he helps spouses have the relationship they'd wish on their kids.

### **Meg Meeker M.D.**

[megmeekermd.com](http://megmeekermd.com)

Dr. Meg writes with the know-how of a pediatrician and the big heart of a mother because she has spent the last 30 years practicing pediatric and adolescent medicine. Her work with countless families over the years served as the inspiration behind her best-selling books: Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters; Strong Mothers, Strong Sons; The Ten Habits of Happy Mothers and Boys Should be Boys.

### **Recommended Books**

Bringing up Boys – Dr. James Dobson  
Bringing up Girls – Dr. James Dobson  
Preparing for Adolescence – Dr. James Dobson  
Raising Burning Hearts – Patricia Bootsma  
Your Legacy – Dr. James Dobson

### **Public School Specific Resources**

Public schools vary in their response to Christian beliefs. Some schools are open to students praying openly, bringing their Bible, and sharing their beliefs, others are much more restrictive. It is helpful to educate yourself and your teen on what your rights are. Focus on the Family has created a great online resource, [dayofdialogue.com](http://dayofdialogue.com), that offers information about student rights, a parent Day of Dialogue kit, and upcoming events students can participate in.

### **Yearly Events**

See You at the Pole (end of September)  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (throughout school year)

### **Contact**

The Forerunner Youth Office is located at the Camp and Training Center  
Address: 11700 Grandview Road, Kansas City, MO 64137  
Email: [youth@forerunnerchurch.com](mailto:youth@forerunnerchurch.com)  
Instagram: @forerunner.youth

### **How to Stay Connected**

- Sign up for our monthly newsletter at [forerunnerchurch.com/youth](http://forerunnerchurch.com/youth)
- Pick up a weekly bulletin at any of our services
- Look at the Forerunner Church Events page
- Keep an eye on our social media for events and announcements