

Thank you for your interest in serving the children and youth at Evergreen SGV. We believe that ministry to the next generation is a high calling from God. God places a higher level of responsibility on those who lead, and even more, on those who lead children and youth. We have been called to speak into their lives, teaching them, through word and action, what it means to be a true disciple of Christ. This mandate and call is an outpouring of our mission to Love God and Love Others. The Children & Youth Staff is available to meet with individuals interested in serving with children & youth.

Step 1: Interest & Visitation

After meeting with the Children & Youth Staff, individuals may visit a ministry as an observer of the ministry prior to completing this packet. A maximum of 2 visits is allowed. As an observer, we ask the individual to refrain from prominent participation and involvement in the program and among the minors. A current ministry leader will be assigned to guide the individual through the ministry.

Step 2: Application and Affirmation of Calling

Following the visitation, the individual may formally apply as a Children & Youth Leader. The application process consists of a Ministry Application, A Call of Leaders Commitment Form, three Reference Forms and a Background Check.

Only complete application packets will be received and reviewed. Once the application has been submitted to the Children & Youth Staff, review of the application will begin, background check will be processed and references will be checked. After a timely review by the Children & Youth Staff, the applicant will be contacted and ministry placement/commitment will be discussed. An evaluation period may also be discussed. Acceptance as a Children & Youth Leader will be based upon mutual agreement of the Children & Youth Staff and the applicant on whether the applicant is suited to the ministry.

Please include the following forms in your application:

- Application Form
 - General Information
 - Foundations of Faith
 - List of References
 - Personal History
 - Statement of Release
- Call to Leadership Commitment Form
- Reference Forms (3)
- Background Check Release Form



Evergreen SGV

APPLICATION FORM Ministry 2 Children & Youth

This application is to be completed by any applicant for a ministry position within/involving an Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley ministry with minors. Your file will be confidentially maintained, although there may be circumstances where information may be provided on a “need to know” basis to individuals working with our ministry and to other individuals in order to evaluate your application and/or to comply with applicable legal requirements.

Please print clearly. Complete in black or blue ink only. Responses requiring an additional paper are to be typed.

General Information:

Name: Male Female

Address: City: Zip:

Home Phone: () Cell Phone: ()

Email: DOB: / / Text Msgs OK? Yes No

Do you regularly attend Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley? Yes No

Are you a member of Evergreen SGV? Yes No

Have you been baptized? Yes No If yes, describe where and when:

If confirmed, when will you be able to begin serving? (Date)

Applying for: Church School Kids' Church Sports Ministries Youth Ministries MOPS

Foundations of Faith

(Attach answers to the application. Must fill-out all three sections.)

1. Write a one page personal testimony of your conversion experience. You may also include areas of current spiritual growth, future hopes, etc.
2. How would you articulate the Gospel message to a non-believer? Please include scripture references
3. Why do you desire to serve as a leader to children and youth?

References

Submit 3 references - 1 from each category: One Evergreen SGV pastoral reference, one personal reference (non-relative) and one lay leadership reference (i.e. branch shepherd, small group leader, etc.). Please list your references.

You are responsible to distribute, collect and submit the completed reference forms with your application.

Name	Phone	Email	Relationship
1.			
2.			
3.			



APPLICATION FORM Ministry 2 Children & Youth

Personal History

(Please check yes or no. If yes, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet of paper. Note: A "yes" answer is not an automatic disqualification.)

1. Have you ever been accused of, arrested for, convicted of or pled guilty to a sexual, physical or criminal offense? Yes No
2. Have you ever been reported to a social services agency, law enforcement authority, child abuse registry or similar organization regarding abuse or misconduct involving a minor? Yes No
3. Have you ever been ticketed for reckless driving or driving under the influence? Yes No
4. Have you or are you using illegal drugs? Yes No
5. Have you ever been treated or hospitalized for alcohol or substance abuse? Yes No
6. Do you smoke cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chew tobacco, etc? Yes No
7. Do you have any concerns about circumstances or patterns in your life which may make it inappropriate for you to serve with children & youth? Yes No

Statement of Release

(applies to all personnel files, including application, background check & references)

The responses provided in this application packet are complete, truthful and accurate. I hereby authorize Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley (hereunto referred too as "the Church") to make inquiries concerning my background in connection with evaluating the information I have provided on this form and in the application process, including a criminal records check. I hereby authorize all persons associated with me, including churches, employers, law enforcement agencies, licensing and social services agencies, to release any information contained in their files or records concerning me to the Church and its representatives.

In consideration of the receipt and evaluation of this application by the Church, I hereby release the Church and their directors, employees, agents, representatives and any other person or organization, including record custodians, that may release information concerning me, both collectively and individually, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind or nature which may at any time result to me, my heirs or family on account of inquiries concerning my background and any disclosures of information concerning me to the Church.

I waive any right that I may have to inspect any information provided about me by any person or organization identified by me in this application. I affirm that I will strictly comply with all policies and procedures of the church.

I have carefully read the foregoing release and know the contents of it, and I sign this release of my own free and voluntary will.

Signature

Date

Name (please print)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Processed By: _____

Status: Approved Not Approved



Dear Children and Youth Ministry Leader,

Thank you for responding to God's call to serve the children and youth of our church family. Your commitment to love the kids of Evergreen SGV through your time, talents and treasures blesses every parent, grandparent, church member and especially me. It has been my observation over the years that children and youth leaders can have a profound impact on young lives that are in the midst of forming life-long values. They will listen to us, but more importantly, they will watch us. Faith is caught, not just taught.

Our example of Christ-likeness will be a blessing to those in our charge. We don't have to be perfect, just perfecting. One of the key ingredients of our servanthood is what we will be willing to lay down in order to serve. In Philippians 2:6-7, it says although Jesus, *"...existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men"*. Jesus was willing to lay down that which He could rightfully claim or do in order to serve.

As you consider signing the **Call to Leaders**, you will be doing as Jesus did... laying down some rights and privileges in order to pursue a calling to serve.

This document is not a statement of judgment, but a declaration of servanthood. Paul wrote that "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable" I Corinthians 6:23. It is not a matter of pointing out what is right or wrong behavior or making judgments about people.

Paul went on to say in 1 Corinthians 8:9, *"But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak."* We have freedom to do a lot of different things, but they may not be profitable if they cause someone to stumble.

One final thought that is found in the document. The Lord informs us to be careful that we do not cause "little ones" to stumble. He explicitly stated in Matthew 18:6, *"...but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea"*. Not the kind of jewelry any one of us would want to wear.

Allow me to give you one quick example from my life as your pastor. I know people observe me at wedding banquets during the time of toasting the bride and groom. People are curious as to what is in my glass. I choose not to drink alcohol for some of the reasons stated in this letter. It may be lawful, but I don't believe that it is profitable and may cause someone to stumble.

So thank you once again for your desire to serve and your willingness to take this **Call to Leaders** commitment wholeheartedly.

It blesses my heart to have church family members who love the Lord and the young people of our church so deeply that they are willing to "empty themselves" of certain rights and privileges in order to more fully serve Him.

Blessings,

Cory Ishida
Senior Pastor

At Evergreen SGV, we believe that ministering to children and youth is a high and admirable calling of God. We believe this for the following two reasons:

- 1) Children and youth are in a stage of life when they are most impressionable. They are in the process of forming foundational values and beliefs about themselves, their world, and especially God;
- 2) The most influential people in their lives (other than their parents) are the authority figures with whom they are in regular contact. As a teacher, helper, caregiver, youth advisor or coach, your consistent, regular contact with the children and teens of our church results in you having a MAJOR impact upon their lives. It is because of this influence that the Lord Jesus, Himself, condemned anyone who would block or even hinder a child's faith in God (Matthew 18:6). It is in light of these two truths that the following Call to Leaders has been written for those serving children and youth within the context of an Evergreen SGV ministry.

My Commitment to God's call to leadership

As a leader to children and youth, I affirm my confession of faith and have undergone (or will undergo on (date)_____) the waters of baptism. My commitment to continually growing deeper in my personal relationship with God will be reflected in my consistent commitment to:

- Spend personal time with God through prayer and reading of God's Word
- Participate in weekly worship services and small group Bible study
- Seek and remain in authentic Christian community

Knowing that certain activities and behaviors may cause some children and youth to make decisions to compromise their own faith (e.g. seeing a church school teacher smoking a cigarette may likely give a junior high the justification to smoke), I affirm my commitment to refrain from the following as a tangible expression of my love for them:

- Drinking alcoholic beverages or smoking in ministry or social occasions where youth and children are present, drinking alcohol or using drugs recreationally; gambling on a regular basis
- Wearing clothes that are immodest and revealing (i.e. showing too much skin); acquiring tattoos, acquiring piercings in the tongue, nose, eyebrow, belly, etc.;
- Sleeping over at the home of or vacationing alone with a boyfriend or girlfriend;
- Dating or romantic involvement with someone who is not a believer;
- Using foul or questionable language; telling inappropriate jokes of a sexual nature; engaging in inappropriate entertainment, literature, TV shows, or movies;
- Uncontrolled negative displays of anger or frustration.

I, _____ , accept and affirm this Call to Leaders.
(print name)

(signature)

(date)



REFERENCE FORM Ministry 2 Children & Youth

Completed by Applicant

This reference completes the requirement for a:

Pastoral Reference Personal Reference (non-related) Lay Leadership Reference

I willingly waive my right of access to view this recommendation knowing that this waiver is not required as a condition for application.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Completed by the Reference

Your responses will remain confidential. Please print clearly in blue or black ink only.

Name:

Daytime Phone Number: ()

Email:

How well do you know the applicant? Very Well Well Casually Little Knowledge

Describe your relationship to the applicant?

How long have you known the applicant?

Is the applicant a committed, growing Christian? Yes I would assume Uncertain No

Do you have first hand knowledge of the applicant's involvement with children & youth? Yes No

If yes, please explain/share any observations.

Share areas of strength and weakness that pertain to serving with children and youth.

How would you rate the applicant's abilities in the following areas?

	Low	Below Average	Average	Very Good	Excellent	Don't Know
Ability to relate to children and youth						
Submission to leadership						
Compatibility with others/Team player						
Emotional maturity						
Responsible/Completes commitments						
Leadership Skills						

Do you have any information that would preclude the applicant from serving with children & youth? Yes No

If yes, please explain.

Would you recommend this person for ministry with children & youth? Yes No Uncertain

***Please return your completed reference to the applicant in a sealed envelope
with your signature written across the seal.***

We at Evergreen SGV believe...

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life. (1 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. There is one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 2:9)
3. Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 John 2:1; Luke 1:35)
4. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to regenerate the sinner, convict men of sin, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service. (John 15:26; John 16:7-14)
5. Man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; John 3:3)
6. The shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, and so become believers. (Hebrews 9:22; Romans 5:1; John 3:16)
7. The Lord's Supper and Water Baptism by immersion are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation. (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
8. The personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ is our "blessed hope" and has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer. (1 Thessalonians 4:14-16; Acts 1:11; 1 John 3:1-3)
9. The true Church is composed of all such persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the head. (Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13).
10. Only those who are thus members of the true and invisible church shall be eligible for membership in the local church. (Acts 2:47)
11. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and every local church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs. (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18)
12. The bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:15; 2; Thessalonians 1:7-9)