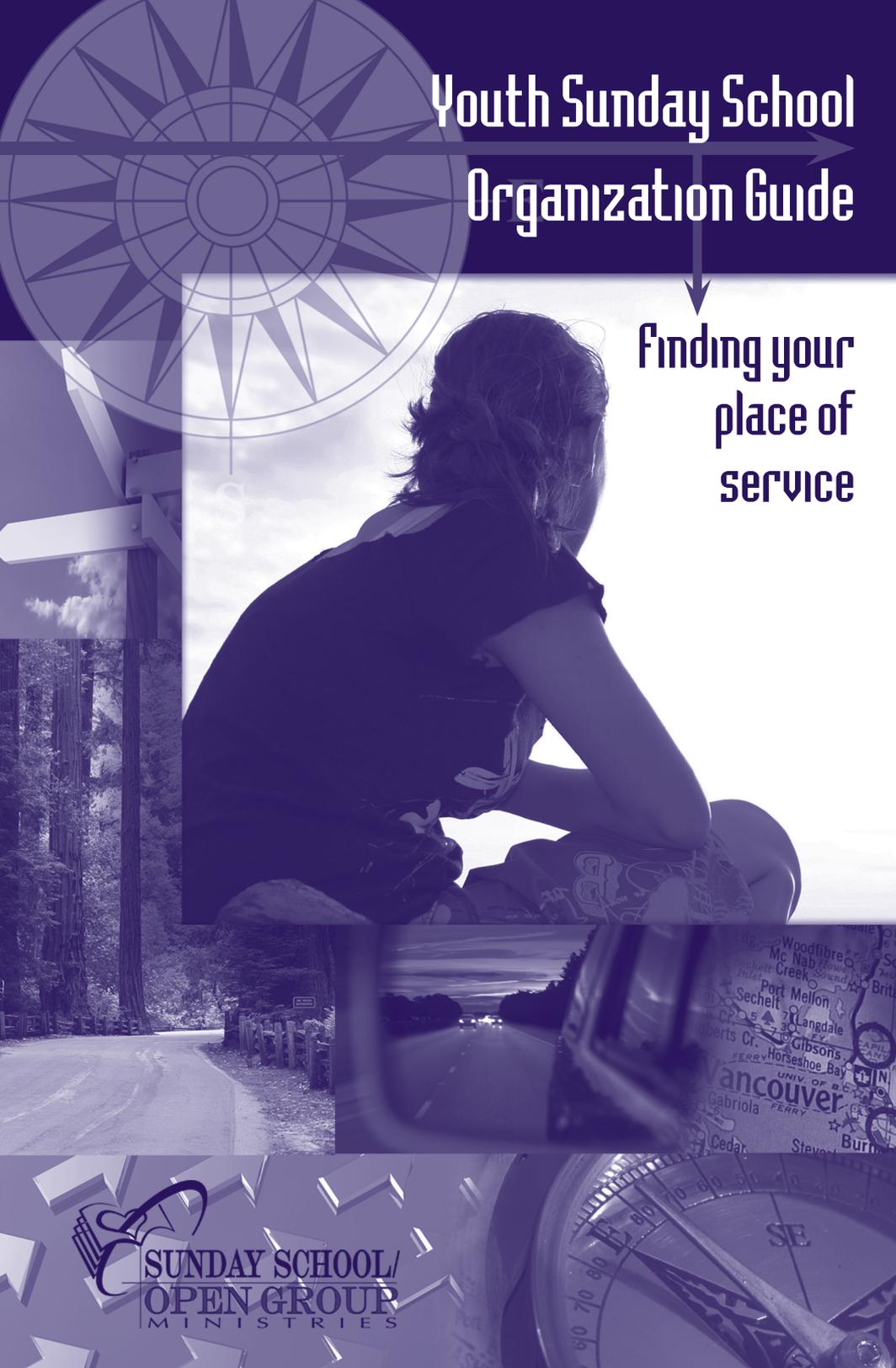
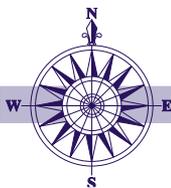


Youth Sunday School Organization Guide

Finding your
place of
service



**SUNDAY SCHOOL/
OPEN GROUP
MINISTRIES**



An Open Group Youth Sunday School Class is...

Foundational—the fundamental beginning place for involving youth in doing the work of the Great Commission. It is an entry point for unbelievers and new believers and is foundational for believers to mature as they study God’s Word and learn to serve.

Ongoing—meets regularly for Bible study and builds ongoing relationships with class members and prospects. There is a plan for ongoing ministry, outreach, and fellowship.

Evangelistic—has as its primary objective to win the lost. The climate encourages believers to invite, engage, and share Christ with the lost.

Focused on Bible Study—the study of God’s Word. This is accomplished through ongoing small-group study as well as personal Bible study with the purpose of guiding students toward conversion, maturity, and ministry.

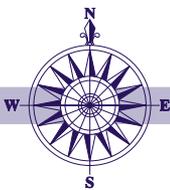
Multipling—open groups challenge students to discover their place of service as class leaders. The overarching goal is to start another unit or class. Open groups prepare to start a new unit or class every two years.

Intentional—planning and evaluation takes place to ensure the class functions as an open group.

Youth Teacher

A Teacher’s responsibility is...

- to live by the principle that the leader is the lesson and Sunday School is a seven-day-a week strategy.
- to administer the growth of a Youth Sunday School class by planning weekly for effective Bible study, and to participate in training opportunities.
- to evangelize youth and the adults who influence them through regular contacts, participation in personal visitation, and class outreach events.
- to disciple teenagers in their relationship with God and to enlist and train youth to serve as class leaders.
- to guide youth to fellowship with each other as well as with the entire church.
- to minister to teens and their families and to lead youth to care for one another.
- to lead youth to worship by helping them develop a lifestyle that includes personal quiet times and participation in corporate worship.
- to teach youth the Bible using a variety of teaching-learning approaches and prayerfully guiding youth toward spiritual transformation.



Youth Department Director

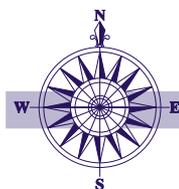
In addition to the Teacher's responsibilities, a Department Director...

- participates in the growth of Youth Sunday School in the church through annual planning, communication, organization, and evaluation of the work of the department; leads weekly leadership meetings.
- works with the Department Outreach–Evangelism Director and/or Division Director to plan department outreach events for youth and leaders.
- guides the department (large group) time during Sunday School. The Department Director also relates the department's training needs to the Youth Division Director.
- plans evangelism training opportunities for department members and leads all members of the department to become involved in witnessing to the unsaved.
- promotes fellowship among youth class members and others on the leadership team by planning quarterly fellowship opportunities.
- encourages youth and leaders to develop personal quiet times and participate in corporate worship, including leading department worship experiences.

Youth Department (or class) Outreach–Evangelism Leader

The Department Outreach–Evangelism Leader's job responsibilities include...

- administering the planning and conducting of department outreach and evangelism activities through annual planning events, communication, and weekly leadership meetings.
- evangelizing youth through participation in personal visitation and group outreach events and equipping all other youth Sunday School members and leaders in developing their evangelism skills.
- functioning as a leader in Student FAITH, if the church is a FAITH church;
- ministering to leaders, members, and nonmembers, and leading youth and leaders to care for members and nonmembers and their families.



Youth Department Secretary

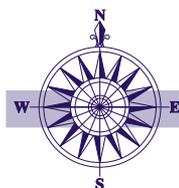
The responsibilities of the Department Secretary include...

- to process and maintain department records and to compile reports for department leaders.
- to reach and witness to youth and their families through participation in personal visitation and group outreach events, to process and maintain visitation records, and to maintain an up-to-date prospect file.
- to participate in scheduled leadership meetings to providing record information.
- to maintain all department supplies, including ordering and distributing periodicals.

Youth Division Director

(The Youth Minister may, in some cases, serve as Division Director.) The responsibilities of the Division Director include...

- to coordinate the work of multiple departments, guiding them to set goals and evaluate progress.
- to coordinate annual planning, communication, training opportunities, and generally coordinate the work of Youth Department Directors and any youth Division–Level Leaders.
- to lead the Youth division to develop and maintain an effective evangelism strategy, to promote fellowship among youth and the leadership team, and among the adult members of the leadership team.
- to plan and participate in ministry to youth leaders, youth, and the families of youth.
- to lead all or part of the scheduled leadership meetings.
- to teach as a substitute when needed, to stay in touch with the needs of youth, to serve as a model for other Youth Sunday School leaders, and to plan special youth Bible study groups and projects (Youth Vacation Bible School, Youth January Bible Study, and so forth).
- to communicate regularly with the Minister of Youth to plan, organize, evaluate, and conduct the work of Youth Sunday School.
- to lead youth to worship by coordinating the planning, training, and implementation of emphases that encourage personal quiet times and participation in corporate worship.



Youth Minister

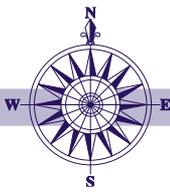
Sunday School responsibilities of the Youth Minister include...

- providing administrative support and resources, including budget, for Youth Sunday School leaders.
- participating in personal visitation and group outreach events; equipping youth and leaders to become involved in evangelizing the unsaved.
- modeling sound Youth Sunday School methods and principles in all training opportunities for members of the Youth Sunday School leadership team.
- promoting fellowship among the youth and the youth leadership team.
- ministering to leaders, members, nonmembers, and their families, and leading youth and leaders to minister to members, nonmembers, and their families.
- discipling youth by helping them develop personal quiet times and participation in corporate worship; involving youth and Youth Sunday School leaders in planning and conducting special youth worship opportunities.

Student Leaders

Youth who serve as Student Leaders should...

- be disciples and conduct themselves in a way that honors God.
- witness to peers, lead peers to faith in Jesus Christ, and encourage church membership.
- help plan, promote, and participate in fellowship opportunities; encourage group members to participate in building fellowship.
- assist the Teacher in reaching youth through personal and group visitation and encourage the involvement of class members in personal visitation and group outreach events.
- be personally involved in the Bible studies, encourage peers to be personally involved, and enlist class members to accept assignments in the Bible studies.
- maintain a personal quiet time, participate in corporate worship, and encourage other youth to do the same.
- assist the Teacher in leading the class, and serve as a link between the Teacher and class members. (Occasionally, the Student Leader should participate in scheduled leadership meetings.) The Student Leader should be a member of a Student FAITH team, if in a FAITH church.



Participants

Youth who attend Sunday School classes and Bible study groups are not merely the intended recipients of Sunday School's Great Commission ministry. They are the grass roots ministers. Youth Sunday School is all about building Great Commission Christians. All Class Leaders, Teachers, Directors, and Pastoral Leaders needed now or in the future may be found on the membership or prospect lists of Sunday School classes today. Every Participant should receive the opportunity to serve according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We can offer those opportunities through Youth Sunday School.

Major responsibilities include...

- participate in personal and group Bible study regularly, giving attention to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in one's life.
- be receptive to God's efforts to draw people to faith in Christ through His Work, His Spirit, and His people.
- actively participate in efforts to lead others toward faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- participate individually and with the class to serve Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship.
- follow God's leadership in responding to opportunities to grow spiritually and to serve God's people in leadership roles.

Apprentice Teacher

A Youth Apprentice Teacher is enlisted from an adult class to assist a teacher in his or her major responsibilities and/or to prepare to start a new Bible study unit within two years. An Apprentice Teacher serves as a substitute when the Teacher is absent.

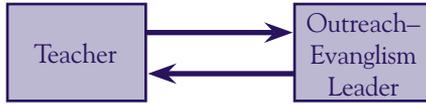
The primary responsibilities are to...

- teach a minimum of once every six weeks and more often as the class prepares to start a new class.
- work with the Teacher to lead the class to function as an open group.
- assist the Teacher in encouraging the spiritual and service growth of class members.
- plan, encourage, and participate with members in discipleship studies beyond Sunday School.

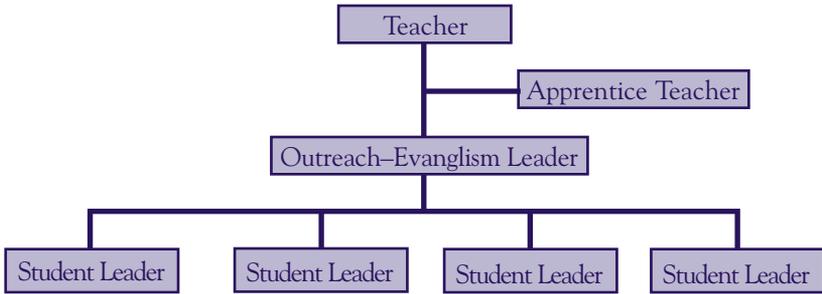


Class Organization

BASIC



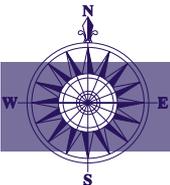
EXPANDED



Age
7-12th grade

Max. Enrolled
24

Leader: Learner Ratio
(based on attendance)
1:8



Find your place of service!

The **PURPOSE** of Sunday School/Open Group Ministries of the Georgia Baptist Convention is to partner with churches, associations, and regions to build healthy ministries in the local church that fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

The **VISION** of Sunday School/Open Group Ministries is that every Georgia Baptist church would have a healthy and growing Sunday School and/or Open Group ministry.

The **GOALS** of Sunday School/Open Group Ministries, that define a healthy/growing Sunday School, are to see the following results in Georgia:

- An increasing Sunday School **ENROLLMENT**
- An increasing Sunday School **ATTENDANCE**
- An increasing number of **SUNDAY SCHOOLS**
- An increasing number of **TEACHING UNITS** (Classes)
- An increasing number of **BAPTISMS**
- An increasing number of Sunday School **LEADERS TRAINED**
- An increasing number of Sunday Schools that report an increased **ENROLLMENT** and **ATTENDANCE**

*Text taken and adapted from:
LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN
Used with permission*

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of Georgia Baptists through the
Cooperative Program.*
