

Guidelines for Samuel School Selection (for Elders)

Philosophy

We want to preserve the potential of Samuel School I as a leadership retreat by acquiring a certain type of student. Samuel School is not a retreat for any interested junior higher, although we are able to allow more than one delegate from each church if there are qualified students. If your church does not seem to have this type of student this year, please do not select someone just to fill a quota.

Number of Delegates

Churches are encouraged to send up to four delegates. Often times we are also able to take most alternates who are listed. Please list any alternates that meet the selection guidelines. We will notify you if space is available for the alternates.

Selecting Delegates

Our desire is that you as the Committee of Elders, in consultation with your youthworker, prayerfully consider who you will send to Samuel School, using this selection process as an opportunity to build relationships with junior highs in your church. In this way you can emphasize that you are elders to the entire church body, not just to the adults. You may find that it will be helpful to invite a junior higher to an interview to determine his/her readiness for this retreat. Some possible questions are included below. Once you have selected your Samuel(s), please contact the parent or guardian to gain permission. In addition, send the student a letter officially stating his/her selection to attend Samuel School. It is also important to schedule a follow-up interview with the student(s) following Samuel School to allow an opportunity to share stories and to do further thinking about the experience.

Qualifications

Qualities to look for include the following:

- grade range of seventh or eighth grade
- spiritual maturity
- a sensitivity to Christ's Spirit
- a sensitivity to the needs of others
- an openness to learning
- a readiness for a more serious retreat
- marks of leadership potential

Interview Suggestions (optional)

As you engage in the evaluation and interview process with your Jr. high students, we recognize that it is difficult to ask questions that analyze their young spiritual journeys without intimidating them. One aspect of the Samuel School program that can be very positive is the chance for the youth to sense the interest the leaders of their church have in them. To help facilitate that process we've come up with some questions that will hopefully get the necessary information from your youth in a way that puts them at ease. Feel free to use as many or as few of the questions as you like in each interview. We have included them only as a guideline.

1. What is one way you've experienced God in your life?

2. Give an example of how you've seen God at work in someone else's life.
3. How could this church better reach you personally?
4. In what ways has this church been helpful to you?
5. Is there an area in your life about which God has begun to speak to you?
6. Can you describe a time when you felt that God worked through you to fill a leadership position?
7. Is there an adult in the church that you'd like to know better? Why?

Selecting Elis

One adult willing to have prior and follow-up contact with the student for a six-month period should be named for each delegate. (The Eli does not attend Samuel School.) He/she should enjoy working with youth and have an interest in nurturing him/her through prayer, be willing to pray during Samuel School and periodically encourage his/her Samuel in Christian living and Christian leadership after Samuel School. A monthly flyer will be sent to Elis as an encouragement in their discipleship role.