



2023-24

RUSH SMALL GROUP LEADER

**HANDBOOK**



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# ABOUT RUSH

## FOCUS

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students and their parents

## MISSION

At RUSH, our mission is to partner with parents as they aim to Biblically lead their student(s), by helping connect their student(s) with God and others at the crossroads of life.

## VISION

Our vision is to see parents boldly leading their students to know Jesus, resulting in students having a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and in turn influencing the world around them.

## CORE VALUES

Outlined below are a few guiding principles and key values that define our approach to youth ministry.

**Relational Discipleship.** We love students and desire to see them grow spiritually. Jesus spent time and built relationships with those He ministered to. We believe that discipling students is best done in an environment where a small group leader and a student build a relationship of trust SO THAT the small group leader can speak Biblical truth into the student's life. *Ephesians 4:15.*

**Parent Partnership.** The Bible is clear that parents are commanded to take the lead in raising their student(s) to know Jesus. Our role in youth ministry is not to parent, but to partner with parents as they aim to Biblically lead their student(s), by helping connect their student(s) with God and others at the crossroads of life. *Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:1-9.*

**Prayer.** To effectively partner with parents and disciple students, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to be at work in their lives. We commit to consistently pray for those impacted by our ministry knowing that it is Jesus, not us, who changes lives. *John 15:5, Luke 11:1-13, Colossians 4:2.*

**Student Impact.** The Bible is full of examples of young people who God used in powerful ways. We believe that God can and is using students to have significant impact on His Kingdom. The same Holy Spirit who lives in adult believers also lives in students, not a watered-down version of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we wholeheartedly believe in and need to be willing to listen to and learn from our students. *2 Chronicles 34, 1 Timothy 4:12.*

# RUSH FORMAT

*RUSH Wednesday nights are specifically designed to create an environment that best encourages & fosters relational discipleship.*

## SMALL GROUP

- Small groups are the backbone of our youth ministry.
- Small groups are comprised of approximately 10-12 students and 2-3 adult small group leaders.
- Small groups provide an environment for a more intimate discussion to study of God's word, pray, and do life together.

### **Clusters**

- In order to allow for more individualized attention and greater youth participation in discussions, we strongly encourage leaders to split into clusters on a frequent & consistent basis.
- Clusters are comprised of 1 adult small group leader and the 3-4 students that the leader has identified as the 3-4 students that he/she will intentionally connect with on a 1:1 basis and build into.

### **1:1's**

- 1:1 connection is absolutely critical for relational discipleship to be effective, and prioritizing 1:1 connections is a ministry expectation of all small group leaders.
  - Small group leaders are expected to be intentional with meeting a minimum of 3 times throughout the school year, on a 1:1 basis, with the consistently attending students who are in their cluster.
- Small group leaders work with their co-leaders in assigning every student in their small group to one of the small group leaders.
- 1:1 conversation are where leaders are able to really get to know their student(s) and build the relationship and trust needed to shepherd effectively.
  - How to track 1:1's...see page 8
  - Check out *Additional Resources* on the Leader tab of the RUSH App for 1:1 Tip ideas.

## LARGE GROUP

- Large group takes place in the Worship Center when either all middle school students and/or all high school students come together for a large group lesson, followed by discussion time in their small groups and/or clusters.
- Large group is typically every other week for middle school & high school, with an evening entirely devoted to small group time on the opposite weeks.

## COACHES

- Every small group leading team will have a RUSH coach assigned to them.
- RUSH coaches are seasoned RUSH small group leaders, whose role is to provide support to small group leaders.
  - Coaches can help leaders with group dynamics-specifically how to manage difficult situations, disrespectful students and so forth.
  - Coaches can help leaders identify possibly resources for helping a student work thru various issues.
  - Coaches can provide direction on how to navigate communication and conversations with parents.
  - Coaches desire to support leaders in a way that they feel cared for and encouraged.

# LEADER EXPECTATIONS

## IS A SAVED FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST

- Commit to a growing and maturing relationship with Jesus through spiritual disciplines including time in the Bible and in prayer, active attendance at Crossroads, and accountability relationships.
- Small group leaders are encouraged to be faithful in giving of their time, treasure (financially – tithing), and talent to serve the body of Christ at Crossroads.

## LEADS BY EXAMPLE

- These are the most critical years for youth, who are wanting to feel loved and accepted, and are making decisions every day that impact the rest of their lives. Students are constantly shaping their worldview from observing their circumstances and will undoubtedly be influenced by those around them. Therefore, it is critical that we remain a positive spiritual influence in their lives, and model for them what living a life surrendered to Jesus looks like.

## SHOWS UP

- Be present every RUSH Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30pm.
  - NOTE: There are also several 6pm Leader Meetings scheduled throughout the year that are important for leaders to prioritize and attend.
- Interact with students on RUSH Wednesdays.
  - Focus on your students rather than talking with other adults; discussions with other adults should *not* occupy your time and take you away from interacting with students.
- Meet 1:1 with the students that you in your Cluster.
  - We desire to have every student who consistently attends RUSH met with on a 1:1 basis, a minimum of 3 times throughout the school year, with their Cluster small group leader.
- Be aware of isolated students.
  - It's the expectation of EVERY LEADER to connect with a student who removes himself/herself from the group or seems like they may be struggling with something

## FOLLOWS UP

- Reach out to missing students.
  - It is imperative that students receive a text or phone call within 48 hours of missing RUSH.
    - These texts remind students that they were missed, that they are important and that we care about them.
    - Many times, phone calls to parents (if a student isn't responding to your calls/texts) result in finding out information that is helpful for leaders to know, and in helping the missing student get plugged back into RUSH. Parent phone calls go a very long way with parents!

## TEACHES

- Be willing to teach the small group lessons that are provided (or willing to learn HOW to teach) and be willing to lead small group/cluster discussions on large group nights.
  - Be prepared. Students know when leaders have not prepared. Do the prep ahead of time so that you are fully prepared to lead a small group lesson or are prepared for leading a discussion following a large group lesson.

## DISCIPLES STUDENTS

- Know where students are at spiritually, and be able to identify and recommend next steps, as well as holding them accountable to taking those steps.

# LEADER COVENANT (SAMPLE)

*Below is a copy of the form that is signed electronically by each small group leader, each year that he/she leads in RUSH.*

1. I have placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ to save me from my sins and lead my life.
2. I consider Crossroads Community Church to be my church home and consistently attend Sunday morning services in person.
3. I fully understand and support the mission, vision, and values of both Crossroads Community Church and RUSH Youth Group.
4. I understand that RUSH for small group leaders begins on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 (Fall Kickoff Dinner Meeting) and ends on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 (Legacy Night).
  - a. I will attend all regularly scheduled RUSH Wednesday nights, all scheduled leader meetings, RUSH's Recharge Winter Youth Retreat (Jan. 19-21, 2024), and Legacy Night.
    - i. In the event of a conflict or emergency, I will personally notify my co-leader(s), my RUSH coach as well as one of the RUSH Youth Group staff, with ample notice.
5. I understand that as a small group leader, my role is to come alongside parents in a partnership to spiritually shepherd their student(s). I will respect the boundaries of my role and the role of parents as the primary spiritual and authoritative leaders of their student(s).
6. I desire to lead students to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by teaching them biblical truths and by being an example to students by living my life in a way that honors God.
  - a. If married, I will be a godly example by taking care of my own family first, honoring my spouse and meeting the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of my family.
  - b. If single, I will honor God in my relationships and remain sexually pure and encourage students to do the same.
  - c. As a small group leader, I will *not* drive alone or meet alone with any unrelated student of the opposite gender.
  - d. I understand the expectation for believers to be individuals who display godly character and integrity while utilizing social media. I understand that WHAT I post and HOW I interact on my personal social media account(s) matters.
  - e. I will not make inappropriate comments to or about students and I will guard myself against any actions that may be perceived as inappropriate.
    - i. I will refrain from gossiping about students, leaders and/or RUSH Youth Group staff.
  - f. (For females) I will dress modestly whether I am serving at RUSH or elsewhere.
    - i. Please, no leggings worn on RUSH nights and/or at RUSH-related events.
    - ii. What is modest at the beach is *not* necessarily modest at the grocery store. If in doubt, don't wear it!
7. I will make my personal relationship with God a top priority and will strive to grow spiritually and missionally while encouraging students to do the same.
  - a. I am/will commit to being connected to Biblical community (ex: consistently attending a CCC LifeGroup, or being in an accountability/discipleship group, or attending 4:12 or some other avenue to live out Biblical community) so that I have the opportunity to be in an "iron sharpens iron" environment (Proverbs 27:17) and so that I do not "lone ranger" my walk with God.
8. I am willing to teach the small group lessons that are provided (or willing to learn HOW to teach), and I am willing to lead small group/cluster discussions on large group nights.
  - a. I will commit to plan ahead so that I am fully prepared to lead a small group lesson or are prepared for leading a discussion following a large group lesson. Students know when leaders have not prepared.
9. I understand the expectations outlined for this discipleship role that were communicated to me through onboarding conversations and/or reading through the RUSH Leader Handbook.

- a. I understand the reason that RUSH emphasizes 1:1 connection between leaders and students; as a result, I will commit to prioritizing 1:1's with the goal of having each consistently attending student in my small group will have a minimum of three 1:1's with me during the course of the school year.
  - b. I understand the reason that RUSH emphasizes following up with students who miss a night at RUSH; as a result, I will commit to following up via text or phone call within 48 hours to any student (or parent if student doesn't have a phone and/or does not respond) in my "cluster" who misses a night of RUSH.
10. I understand and support the reasoning behind why RUSH serving team members are required to wear his/her RUSH serving team shirt on Wednesday nights; as a result, I agree to wear my gray RUSH serving team shirt every Wednesday RUSH night.
11. I will assume the best of each individual I come in contact with at RUSH and commit to resolving conflict in a biblical manner as outlined in Matthew chapter 18 by...
- a. Assuming the best and praying for understanding and resolution
  - b. Speaking directly and in person to the individual with whom the conflict exists before discussing it with others
    - i. I will listen to fellow leaders and strive to see their perspectives on issues.
  - c. Offering apologies and extending forgiveness
  - d. If I am not able to reach a resolution one on one, I will elevate the conflict to my RUSH coach and/or a member of the RUSH Youth Group staff for help and I will keep the situation private.
12. I will keep all conversations with fellow leaders, students, and parents confidential.
- a. Conversations are kept confidential with the possible exception of when/if someone has communicated to you that he/she is hurting themselves, hurting someone else or is being hurt by someone, and/or that he/she is doing something that is illegal.
13. I understand that if at any time I am unable to uphold any part of this covenant I may be asked to lessen my involvement in this ministry, step back and take a probationary period while I work through things or be asked to step down from the ministry all together.



# LEADERS RESOURCES

## WI-FI PASSWORD:

- Crossroads guest Wi-Fi password is "CCC\_guest"
  - Please DO NOT share the CCC guest Wi-Fi password with students

## RUSH CHILDCARE

- RUSH Childcare is staffed by volunteers and is available weekly for RUSH small group leaders who would otherwise be paying for babysitters to serve in RUSH.
- If you would like to utilize the services of RUSH Childcare, please reach out to TJ TenPas at 920-694-1552 or email her at [tj.tenpas@crossroadssheboygan.org](mailto:tj.tenpas@crossroadssheboygan.org).

## CAFÉ RUSH

- Café RUSH will be open weekly from 5:30-7pm
  - On 1:1 nights, Café RUSH will be serving food in the lower level commons area, as well as out of the coffee bar on the main floor lobby.
  - Café RUSH offers food & beverages *at no cost* to leaders/students when leaders are meeting 1:1 with students.

## BE IN THE KNOW

- RUSH APP
  - "2023/24 Resources" page password is Rushleader1
  - Resources available:
    - Sharing the Gospel Resources
    - RUSH Teaching Calendar
    - Small Group lessons & resources
    - Tons & tons more!
- Crossroadsrush.org
  - Crossroadsrush.org "I'm A Leader" page password is Rushleader1
  - Resources available:
    - Sharing the Gospel Resources
    - RUSH Teaching Calendar
    - Small Group lessons & resources
    - Tons & tons more!
- Follow RUSH on Instagram @crossroadsrush
- Follow RUSH on Tik Tok @crossroadsrush
- Join us on Facebook...search RUSH Youth Group-Sheboygan Campus

## BIBLE BINS

- Along with having bins of Bibles in every classroom, extra Bibles can be found in the bin in the back of the Worship Center on Wednesday nights.
  - Bibles can be lent out to students who forgot to bring one.
  - If you have a student in your group who does not own a Bible, they are welcome to have one of these Bibles for free.
    - Have them put their name in it!

# HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR LARGE GROUP LESSONS

- Large group discussion questions can be found on the RUSH App (under the lessons tab) and the RUSH website (under the "leader" tab) by Monday 12noon, the week of the large group lesson.

## "THE BIN"

- Use the "The Bin" (on the Leader Resource Counter in the lobby) for submitting receipts, dropping off forms or info that you need to get to RUSH staff members.



## LEADER MEETINGS (6PM IN THE LOWER LEVEL)

- We have 4 Leader Meetings (1 additional meeting for first-year leaders) scheduled for the 2023-24 ministry year:
  - *Pizza will be available from 5:30-5:55pm for those who arrive prior to the start of the meeting.*
    - **Wednesday, October 25**
    - **Wednesday, November 29**
    - **Wednesday, January 10 – First-year small group leaders only**
    - **Wednesday, January 17**
    - **Wednesday, February 7**
- We expect all small group leaders to attend all scheduled Leader Meetings...these are NOT optional.
- For families who regularly utilize RUSH childcare on a weekly basis, childcare will be provided on Leader Meeting nights, beginning at 5:30pm.

## LOG SMALL GROUP ATTENDANCE

- Each night at 8:30pm you will receive an automated text with a link and asking you to log your small group attendance in Elvanto (the church database).
  - You may also leave notes for your co-leader(s) or RUSH Staff to see

## TRACK 1:1'S

- Using the RUSH App
  - Under the RUSH Leaders tab, select 2023/24 Resources (password: Rushleader1)
- Using the RUSH Website
  - Click on the Leader tab (password: Rushleader1) where you will see the link to track your 1:1

## ACCESS YOUR SMALL GROUP ROSTER

- RUSH App
  - Under the Leader tab (password: Rushleader1), click on *My Small Group Roster*
    - Your username is your first name.last name (ex: john.doe)
    - Your password for access your small group's roster is 'Rushleader1'
    - You will be able to see student and parent contact information.
      - Please update any contact info that is missing or incorrect...that will be VERY appreciated!
- RUSH Website

- Under the Leader tab (password: Rushleader1), scroll down to Quick Links.
- Click on *Small Group Contact Information- Elvanto*
  - Your username is your first name.last name (ex: john.doe)
  - Your password for access your small group's roster is 'Rushleader1'
  - You will be able to see student and parent contact information.
    - Please update any contact info that is missing or incorrect...that will be VERY appreciated!

## **RECEIPTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

- RUSH will reimburse small group leaders for 1:1 expenses and small group expenses.
  - Please be budget friendly and keep 1:1 expenses to approximately \$8/person or less, and approximately \$5/person or less on scatter nights.
    - For receipts from 1:1 meetings with a student, write you name on the receipt as well as the name(s) of the student you met with.
    - For receipts for small group expenses, write your name on the receipt as well as "small group expense".
  - Please place all receipts in the container labeled "The Bin" which is located on the Leader Resource Counter in the lobby, on Wednesday nights.

## **T-SHIRTS FOR RUSH SMALL GROUP LEADERS**

- RUSH small group leaders are required to wear their gray RUSH serving team shirt on RUSH Wednesday nights
- Orders are being taken for gray long-sleeve RUSH shirts and/or sweatshirts for small group leaders who wish to purchase them.
  - Order forms can be found on the Leader Resource Counter in the lobby, on Wednesday nights.
  - Payment must accompany order forms.
  - Order forms & payment can be placed in the "Bin".

## **CLEAN-UP OF SMALL GROUP ROOMS**

- Small group rooms need to be picked up and chairs/tables put back in place.
  - Each classroom has a picture on the wall of what your room should look like at the end of the night.
- There is no need to empty your garbage UNLESS you have had snacks/treats or something that has meant an accumulation of more garbage than normal.
- Vacuum cleaners, garbage bags, paper towels, Lysol wipes and so forth are kept in the closet that is located just outside Room #3.

# SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

## LEADER EXPECTATIONS REGARDING SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

- New this year, we are excited to be providing all small groups with curriculum based on the Book of John, to be use during small group nights.
  - We are expecting EVERY small group to use the curriculum that we are providing.
    - Having EVERY small group using the same small group curriculum enables us to clearly communicate to parents what is being taught, and therefore better equip parents in the shepherding of their student(s).

## HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

- Introduction
  - Common Struggles
    - Each lesson will include a hot-button topic(s) that are common issues that students struggle with (identity, fear of the future, relationship issues, doubt, anxiety and so forth), and which the verses in the lesson relate to.
  - Ice Breaker Questions
    - Begin your time together with the Ice Breaker questions that are provided and facilitate group discussion and conversation around the subject that will be covered in the lesson. These questions are designed to help tee up the lesson.
  - Rehearsing The Gospel
    - To set a solid foundation for studying the Bible, we need to make sure that students fully understand what the word “gospel” is. This section will also tie in common struggles and how the gospel relates to those particular struggles.
  - Pray
    - Open your time together in prayer.
- Book of John Review
  - The weekly review questions should be touched before each small group lesson and are related to the overview of the Book of John. Reviewing these questions is helpful in laying the foundation for the lesson, as a reminder to students about the context that the Gospel of John was written.
- Background Info
  - READ THIS SECTION OUT LOUD, WORD-FOR-WORD.
  - This section will provide you with a brief overview of details that will be helpful to know to set the stage for the lesson, and it was written specifically for leaders to read out loud, word-for-word, to your group.
- Read
  - Have everyone silently read though the verses 1-2 times and then ask a student to read the passage out loud.
- Discussion Questions
  - Observation-WHAT does the Bible say?
    - Observation questions help make sure students understand what literally happened...what are the facts (who, what, when, where, how, and why); what was said, what is the context in which this was written, and the basic meaning of the words and events before we move on to interpretation and application questions. Observation is the step where readers can plant themselves into the story and visualize, smell, feel and hear what it being described.
  - Interpretation-What does the text MEAN?
    - Interpretation questions, “Why does any of this matter? Why is this included in Scripture? What does it mean?” Interpretation is the process of discovering the original meaning of a passage and its key concept (truth nugget) or principle.
  - Application-How does this apply to me?

- Application questions require the group to take the information learned from the text and consider how it applies to their lives. This section asks students to consider questions like “How does this apply to my life” and “How do I live in the light of this truth?” or “What needs to change in my life in order to start living this out?”
- **Closing Prayer**
  - The point of prayer is NOT to get what we want; the point of prayer is to get more of God.
  - We will provide you with different ideas each lesson on new ways to incorporate prayer into your small group time.

# SCATTER NIGHT GUIDELINES

## PREPARATION

- Parents **MUST** be notified **AT LEAST** one week in advance of a night when their student(s) will be transported off-site.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Even though we collect “off-site permission” waivers from parents, it is still critically important that leaders **make sure that you have received an email or text reply from each parent** so that there is a record that we know that every parent is fully aware that their student is being transported off-site.
- Please shoot TJ TenPas an email by Monday @ 12noon, the week of your Scatter Night letting her know where your group is going. We need to keep track of where groups will be so that we can contact you if a parent needs to reach their student, etc.
  - We will need to know where each small group is going on Scatter Nights.
- Retail stores are no longer an option for scatter nights.
  - After hearing back from numerous retailers that small groups can be loud, disruptive, and difficult to keep an eye on, we are asking that small groups no longer do scatter night activities that require going to a retail store.

## TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

- Parents should drop their student(s) off at CCC on Scatter Nights, just like they would any other night.
  - This helps make it less confusing for parents and more family friendly, especially for families who have multiple students in this ministry.
  - Students and leaders **MUST** check in to RUSH on Scatter Nights just like they do every Wednesday night.
- You may need/want to ask one or more of your parents to help transport students to wherever you are going on your Scatter Night. Each student will need to ride in a car where they have appropriate number of seat belts.
- No student drivers!!! We are asking that all drivers be adult small group leaders and/or parents.
- All groups must return back to CCC by 8:30pm on Scatter Nights so that parents can pick up their students like usual.

## BUDGET

- RUSH will pick up \$5/student for Scatter Nights.
  - Feel free to ask students/parents to chip in a few dollars to help cover the costs.
- Turn receipts in to “the Bin” for reimbursement (put your name on it and write “Scatter Night”)

# MANDATORY REPORTING

## WE ELEVATE THE SITUATION WHEN...

1. If we have reason to believe a student is in danger of harming themselves.
2. If we have reason to believe a student is in danger of harming someone else.
3. If we have reason to believe a student is being harmed by someone else.
4. If a student is doing something illegal or we suspect something illegal is being done to them.

## ELEVATE THE SITUATION TO...

- RUSH small group leaders are NOT mandatory reporters when serving in their role as small group leaders, however, there may be some exceptions depending on their profession (teachers or licensed counselors/physicians ARE mandatory reporters). **Regardless, we want small group leaders to elevate any concerns they have to RUSH leadership who will work with them to develop the best course of action.**
- When possible, students should be informed that depending upon what information they share with you, you MAY need to elevate and notify someone on the RUSH Leadership Staff, and that parents and/or authorities MAY also possibly need to be notified.

# BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

- Leaders should always spread out and sit strategically amongst students to help eliminate side conversations, distractions, etc.
- DO NOT let a disrespectful student take you (the small group leader) out of the group for the night or allow him/her to hijack your small group lesson or discussion time.
- Disrespectful Students
  - If they are disrespectful verbally, ask them to resay what they said using a nicer manner; this gives students a chance to fix what they said prior to needing to pull them aside.
  - Give them a goal for your next small group (encourage them when you see something positive and communicate with them when you see something negative).
  - Give them a role in your group. Redirect their energy by giving them a positive role in the group. Identify their potential and where they might be a great leader in your group.
- If you have a student who is being disrespectful to the leaders and it has been addressed but has continued, please reach out to someone on the Safety Team (the team wearing bright yellow shirts) and ask them to get the Youth Pastor, Youth Director, or Administrative Coordinator. Someone from the RUSH leadership team, along with the small group leader, will talk with the student to try to resolve the situation and/or call the student's parent, if deemed necessary.
- Over-participating Students
  - Pull the student aside privately and let them know that you appreciate their desire to participate, but that their zealous approach to participating is making it hard for others to do so.
  - Invite the student to come alongside you in encouraging others to participate, by asking the over-participator to dial it back.
  - Sometimes it is helpful for the leader and the over-participator to have a private signal that they agree on so that the leader can signal to the over-participator when they need to stop talking and let others share.

# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

*\*\*All applications and forms are available on the RUSH App (under RUSH Students-student opportunities) and RUSH Website [www.crossroadsrush.org](http://www.crossroadsrush.org) (under Students tab)*

## **SERVE ON A SUNDAY**

- There are always spots open for more individuals to get involved on a Sunday morning.

## **RUSH SOCIAL MEDIA CREATIVE TEAM**

- This team leads the promotion of RUSH and creates content for different social media platforms.

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

- Have a student that is looking to use their instrument and vocal gifts to serve God and others? If so, then we would love to have them join our team!

## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

- Do you know a student that wants to be challenged and stretched in their walk with God? Student leadership might be the right spot for them to see what leading like Jesus looks like.

## **RUSH INTERNSHIP**

- Do you know a student interested in going into ministry? Our RUSH interns get a behind-the-scenes peak at what a career in youth ministry looks like.



# NEXT STEPS FOR STUDENTS WHEN THEY ACCEPT CHRIST

## COMMUNICATE WITH PARENTS

- In our partnership with parents, we want to make sure that they are in the know when their student places his/her trust in Jesus to save them from their sins and lead their life, so that parents can celebrate this with their student.

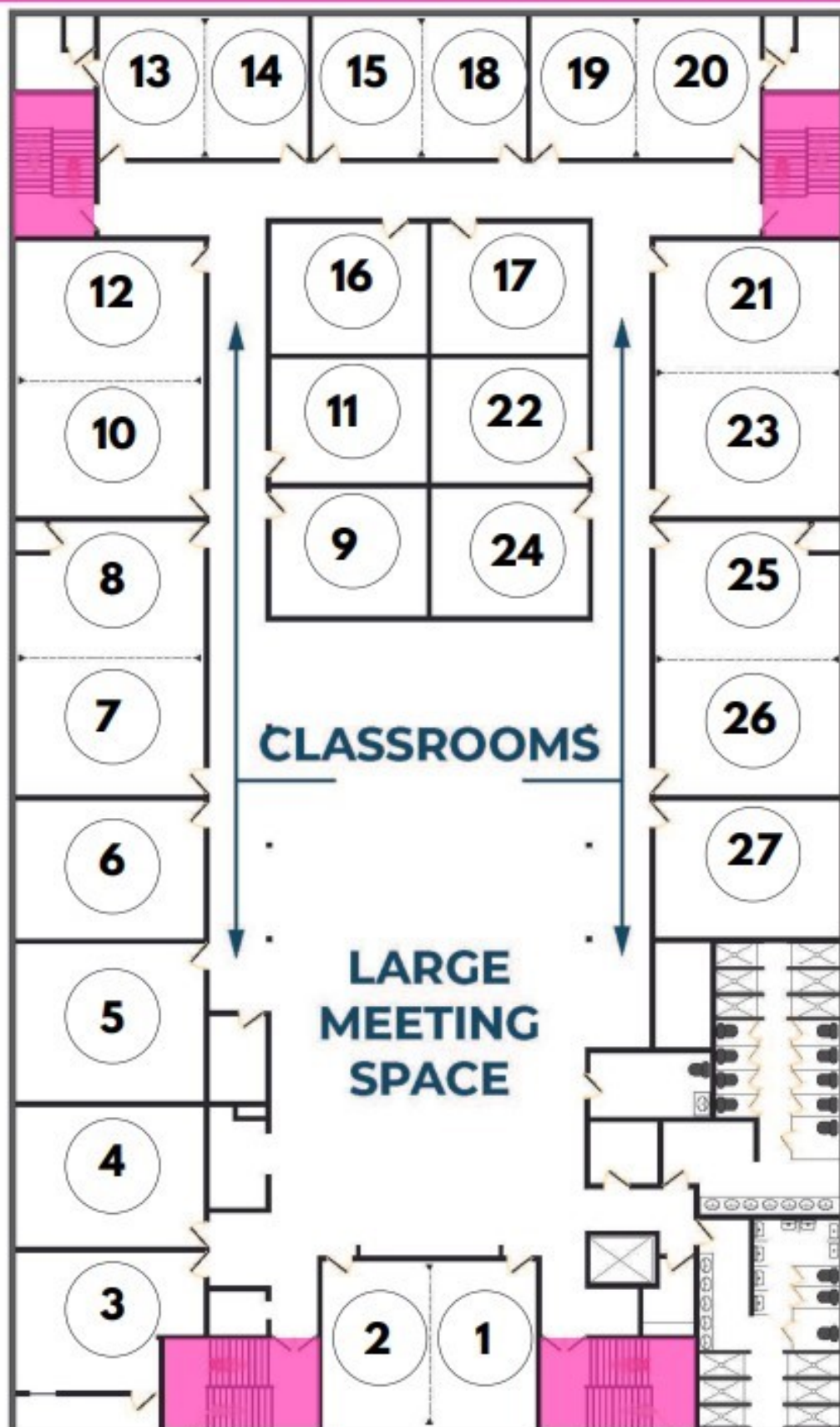
## COMPLETE THE NEXT STEPS STUDY

- The Next Steps Study is designed to walk participants through different aspects of having a relationship with God.
- The study is designed for the student to do it with a leader (preferably their 1:1 leader).
- If you need a copy of the leader version and participant version, please contact TJ TenPas at [tj.tenpas@crossroadssheboygan.org](mailto:tj.tenpas@crossroadssheboygan.org)

## BAPTISM

- Any student who has placed their trust in Jesus Christ to save them from their sins, should be encouraged to be baptized.
- **RUSH Baptism Informational Class- Wednesday, February 14, 2024**
  - 5:30pm in the lower-level commons
    - RSVP for the class by texting the keyword "SPLASH" to (920)717-1715
    - This is an informational class and attendance at the class does NOT obligate anyone to being baptized.
    - Attendance at this class is mandatory for any student who wishes to participate in the RUSH Baptism.
      - Parents are STRONGLY encouraged to attend with their student(s).
      - Small group leaders are also encouraged to attend if they have a student in their small group attending this class.
    - Student (who wish to move forward with being baptized) will complete baptism paperwork at this class.
    - More details will be provided to small group leaders on how to follow-up with students who attended this class and want to move forward with being baptized.
- **RUSH Baptism- Wednesday, April 10, 2024**
  - This is a "do not miss" RUSH night for ALL students and leaders.

## Lower Level Emergency Exits



# RECHARGE (Winter Youth Retreat)

Silver Birch Ranch, White Lake, WI  
January 19-21, 2024

*Recharge is an ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK event for this ministry. We need and expect all leaders to make this retreat weekend a priority. Recharge galvanizes small groups & our entire youth group unlike any other event throughout the year.*

## LEADER REGISTRATION

Registration opens on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will need all leaders registered by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## COST

There is no cost for leaders to attend this retreat.

## RECHARGE LEADER MEETINGS (6PM IN THE LOWER LEVEL)

- Pizza will be available from 5:30-5:55pm for those that arrive prior to the start of the meeting.
  - **Wednesday, January 10 – First-year small group leaders only**
  - **Wednesday, January 17**
- We expect all small group leaders to attend all scheduled Leader Meetings...these are NOT optional.
- For families who regularly utilize RUSH childcare on a weekly basis, childcare will be provided on Leader Meeting nights, beginning at 6pm.

## TRANSPORTATION

- We are transported to/from Silver Birch Ranch via school buses. We have separate trucks for luggage.
- Friday, Jan. 19:
  - **WE NEED LEADERS AT CROSSROADS-SHEBOYGAN AT 3PM TO HELP WITH CHECK-IN!** Honestly, if you are able to come at 2:45pm, that'd be even better. We could really use your help.
    - As we get closer to Recharge, leaders will receive an email communicating designated parking areas for those who plan to leave a vehicle in the CCC parking lot for the weekend.
  - Check-In for students begins at 3:15pm
  - Buses will depart at 4:15pm. We NEED leaders on buses.
  - Please eat dinner before getting on the bus and/or bring a bag lunch to eat on the bus. **PLEASE: No peanut butter or peanut products!**
  - We will NOT be stopping for dinner OR a potty stop on the way up.
  - We will be having a snack to eat once we arrive at Silver Birch Ranch.
- Sunday, Jan. 21:
  - Buses are expected to be back at Crossroads-Sheboygan at approximately 3:30pm.

## MEDICATION

We *do* have several camp nurses. For students, all medication must be turned in prior to loading buses. This does NOT apply to leaders. Our camp nurses will be dispensing medication to students as prescribed/needed throughout the weekend. FYI, students needing inhalers may keep their inhalers with them.

# RECHARGE RULES (applies to leaders as well)

Parents may be asked to come to camp and transport their student back home (at parent's expense) if their student violates any of these rules:

- **NO ELECTRONICS FOR STUDENTS** (i.e. cell phones, ipods, tablets, game systems, etc.) (this does not apply to leaders)
  - This is a weekend intentionally designed to allow participants to unplug and to be fully present so that they are able to engage in fellowship with those on the trip and enjoy God's creation.
  - If a student is worried about being able to contact their parent during the weekend, they can use the leaders phone at a time designated by that leader.
- No possession or use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or vaping products
- No students can drive
- No pranking other cabins (absolutely no Axe spray used for any other purpose except its' intended purpose)
- No throwing of snowballs (due to several past injuries as a result of snowballs)
- No violence, fighting, weapons including knives, fireworks, lighters, or explosives
- No offensive or immodest clothing (see Dress Code)
- No boys in girls' sleeping quarters and no girls in boys' sleeping quarters
- Participation with the group is expected
- Respect property
- Respect one another, staff, and adult leaders
- Respect and comply with event schedules

## DRESS CODE (APPLIES TO LEADERS AS)

During your time with RECHARGE, we want you to have the best experience possible. This dress code has been developed to assure that no one will feel offended or uncomfortable during his or her participation and that we honor God in everything we do. If you choose to dress inappropriately, you will be asked to change, or be required to wear a RUSH issued shirt/pants. By planning ahead and choosing appropriately, you will save yourself the inconvenience of having to change and you will be contributing to a pleasant atmosphere. Please be advised that the following dress code will be enforced for all individuals including leaders and students.

1. Clothing: All clothing shall be neat, clean, and acceptable in repair and appearance and shall be worn within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for this event.
2. Articles of clothing which display profanity, products, or slogans which promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sex or are in any other way distracting, are prohibited.
3. Excessively baggy or tight clothing, and clothing which advertises gang symbols or affiliation is prohibited.

\*NOTE: Leggings are acceptable if a shirt is worn over them that is mid-thigh length or longer

# RECHARGE PACKING LIST

- Please pack *everything that does not fit in luggage* (sleeping bag, pillow, snow pants, boots, etc) in ONE large trash bag and write your name on the bag. This will help us tremendously with sorting luggage. (Extra trash bags will be available at check-in if you should need it.)
- Leaders do not need to turn in medication. Students MUST turn in medication.
- Please keep your bus food (sack dinner, snacks) in your possession. Anything that goes onto luggage trucks will be unavailable until after we arrive at RECHARGE.
- The buses will likely be at capacity therefore, space may be very tight. Anything that you brings onto the bus will need to be held or put directly under your seat.

**NOTE:** *It can get very cold during the winter at Silver Birch Ranch (often with temperatures as low as 20 degrees below 0). Please be sure to pack enough layers and winter clothes to keep dry and warm because we spend a lot of time having fun outside. Loose-fitting layers work well. The best materials to have are non-cotton (i.e. wool, fleece, nylon, etc.). There are no laundry facilities available.*

1. Alarm clock (since students do not have phones, it would be hugely helpful to them if you brought an alarm clock for your cabin)
2. Bible (w/your name in it)
3. Journal
4. Pens
5. Winter jacket
6. Snow pants
7. Long underwear
8. Hat
9. Winter gloves/mittens
10. Winter scarf/neck warmer
11. Winter boots
12. A pair of shoes (for inside)
13. Warm socks (wool or synthetic)
14. Jeans/pants
15. Workout clothes (if you plan to participate in the early morning workout sessions)
16. Pajamas
17. T-shirts
18. A fleece jacket / warm sweater
19. Sleeping bag and pillow
20. Flashlight
21. Toiletries (toothbrush, soap, etc.)
22. Towel and washcloth
23. Money for camp store/coffee shop (optional)
24. Water bottle w/name on it





