



CSM

CROSSROADS STUDENT MOVEMENT

**A SIMPLE GUIDE
FOR FAMILIES**



THE VISION

AN EXPERIMENT TO CHANGE OUR WORLD THROUGH GOD'S LOVE.

EXPERIMENT. This is the attitude we're going in with. Experiments involve unknowns, unexpected outcomes, successes, failures, and most importantly an attitude that is ready and willing to encounter God in whatever way he decides to show up.

CHANGE OUR WORLD. This is what we're going to do. Really. If Jesus is our example...then our reaction to his example should look pretty radical as compared to the norm of the rest of the world. So as we decide what to talk about, read about, pray about, and act on...our biggest question is not going to be, "Will kids think this is cool?"...but instead, "Will this change our world?"

GOD'S LOVE. This is how we're going to do it. God tells us to approach him boldly, ask him to do stuff, and then get ready for him to show up through our words, actions, and attitudes as we interact in the Kingdom. So go ahead and dump this idea of "going to church" & jump into CSM as we experiment with "being the church." It's more fun.

THE BASICS

WHEN DO WE MEET?

Saturday Evenings
Oakley Jr & Sr (7-12): 6:15pm

Sunday Mornings
Oakley Jr High (7-8): 10:00am
Oakley Sr High (9-12): 11:45am
Mason Jr & Sr High (7-12): 11:00am

DURING THE WEEK?

Wednesday Night Leadership Teams
5:30 – 7:00pm every Wednesday.
These teams are by invitation or audition only. Read on for details.

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

There are tons of people that have lead roles within CSM, and most of them are volunteers making it happen. But here's the contact info for the people supporting those amazing leaders:

CSM Director: Paul Owens (x531)
powens@crossroads.net

CSM Jr High: Christine Wilson (x534)
cwilson@crossroads.net

CSM Sr High: Justin Wolfenberg (x564)
jwolfenberg@crossroads.net

CSM Mason: Justin Buckner
jbuckner@crossroads.net

THE FORMAT

PODS

Kind of like small groups, but different. Anywhere from 15 to 30 students, (same sex) with 2 to 4 adult leaders working as a team to create smaller communities within the larger CSM. Every student in CSM will be a part of a pod, because community works better than isolation. Familiar faces are good.

TEACHING

We like experiential, hands-on teaching designed specifically to inspire students to move together in community. And we're really big on sharing stories that meet students where they are. Jesus told stories that were relevant to his audience...so we try to do the same.

EXPERIMENTS

Sometimes we experiment inside the building. Sometimes we hop on a bus to experiment outside of our walls. We are very hands-on, and it's not uncommon to get messy, sweaty, dirty, or even a bit of a sun burn on occasion. Feel free to ask questions, and read stuff we send you. No secrets here.



THE MIDWEEK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEADERSHIP

We know that there are students that want more than just an hour of church every week. So we want them to talk to their pod leaders and ask for more. And if it's a good fit, their leader may recommend them for a Wednesday night team. But start with your pod first.

Every Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30pm, we get together for some dinner and a few different venues for spiritual development for teenagers. We've got something for musicians, techy-types, and even those that just want to take their faith to a new level.

We have very high expectations for the students on these teams. They should be there each week, complete any assignments, and engage regularly with their pod in CSM. Not only do we train and empower them to use their specific gifts and talents, but we also expect them to be growing in their relationship with Jesus through Bible, Prayer, and Community.

Interested? Talk to your pod leader!

THE DIFFERENCES

JUNIOR HIGH vs SENIOR HIGH

No secret...big differences here. So we try to create opportunities that are different for the two age groups. Some stuff may be similar, but here are a few ways that we grow up in CSM.

JUNIOR HIGH

While introducing our experimental mindset, relationships reign when we get together. We are focused on connecting students and leaders as they move where God is moving. And we want students to leave eighth grade in the no-brainer habit of engaging in the Bible, Prayer, & Community (BPC).

SENIOR HIGH

As soon as ninth grade comes around, we drop the intro attitude in CSM. Now BPC are still there. But we turn it up a notch with experiments to engage in the Kingdom as we learn and build relationships...not waiting to figure it all out before we move. We want them leaving high school knowing how to engage in the Kingdom as they pursue growth in exciting new communities outside Crossroads Student Movement.

THE SUMMER

SUMMER TRIPS

Summer is an awesome time of transition for CSM. Students move up from Kids' Club to Jr. High, and Jr. to Sr. High at the beginning of the summer. That means they can go on the trips with the friends they'll be with in the coming year. A perfect time to make friends and get to know new leaders. We will do anything to get a student to join us on a trip, because we know that lives are changed when you get them outside of their normal, everyday environments.

INTERNSHIPS

CSM is really into student leadership. And in the summer time, we have even more opportunities to grow as a leader. Students can apply to be a part of teams that are really making a difference at Crossroads, our city, and our world. But this is not a show-up-when-ever-I-feel-like-it type of internship. We grow as leaders when we're a part of a team. And teams need all their players on the court in practice and game time...in order to win. Winning=growth. We like winning.



THE WORLD WIDE WEB

AKA...THE INTERNET

You probably have opinions on how teenagers should and shouldn't interact on the internet. We hope you do. That just means you're paying attention to where and how your teenager is interacting in our world!

CSM has plenty of our own opinions about how we function on the web. We are always experimenting with new, safe ways to reach teens and parents where they already exist – and the internet is one of those places. So you can find CSM in most of the current popular social networking sites, in the blogosphere, on the Crossroads site, and even text messaging. So check out CSM on www.crossroads.net/csm for current info, stuff to download, and links to all of our other on-line arenas.

Feel free to ask questions, make suggestions, and interact with us wherever you find us on-line. Don't be surprised if your teen wants to interact with CSM on-line. But know that we are committed to respecting and supporting any internet boundaries you've created for your family.

THE DRIVER'S SEAT

YOU'RE IN IT...NOT US.

CSM is never going to try to take the steering wheel. But we would love to hang out in the passenger seat and help with some of the navigation...as long as we can play with the radio and roll our window down to let the wind blow through the car sometimes.

We are not in charge of your kids. But we can be a great support to you as you lead and love your teenagers. CSM believes that every teen needs a trusted adult or two – that aren't their parents – to be in their lives to just help out...to be there when they need to open up to someone other than mom or dad. And we want to point your kids to God using any means we can dream up.

So if you are interested in some support as you navigate the excitement and confusion of parenting a teenager, you have come to the right place. We don't have all of the answers, but we've got a great team of adult leaders committed to your teenagers. And we hope that you will take us along on this crazy road trip as we experiment to change our world through God's love.

THE PARENTS

YOU CAN MOVE WITH US TOO!

You are probably a very busy person. So no, this is not the "big ask" that you might expect after reading all about Crossroads Student Movement. We don't require that parents pay us back for spending time with your kids. We actually love doing it, so no worries.

But if you think it would be pretty sweet to get together with other parents of teenagers occasionally - maybe pray together, share stories, engage in serving opportunities, or even just vent a little about your latest family drama – we can help with that too! (Not the drama, just the venting.) Login to the Crossroads website and check out the parents' section under "Connect". You'll find ways to connect there. Or you can just show up at CSM and speak to us in person.

There are also some more tangible ways to serve in CSM. So if your teen doesn't mind having you around a little, we can use all types of people. Admins to organizers, greeters to grunts, chefs to shrinks...we can fit you and your gifts into this crazy movement.