

# Getting Started Checklist

## Getting Started Checklist for Head Sponsors/Uniteen Leaders/Teen Ministry Directors to Start a New Group

Action	Directions
<b>1. Explore facets of teen ministry to see if it is right for you.</b>	
Go into prayer and hold the space for the vision of teen ministry.	Let Spirit's guidance direct the process.
Examine current beliefs.	What are my beliefs about teens? What are the ministry's cultural beliefs about teens? What are society's beliefs about teens? What do I believe about the leader or sponsor's role? What are my beliefs about Unity principles?
Meet with the Youth & Family Ministry Director (YFMD) and minister to share your current beliefs, objectives, goals and dreams for teen ministry as well as learning the policies and expectations of the ministry.  Set up regular monthly or quarterly meetings to report updates.	What ministry requirements must be met for adults wishing to work with the youth? Whom will the program serve? Is there enough support to start a group? What is the current mission and vision for the program? What training is available for leaders and sponsors? What curriculum is used? What is the working relationship with the Youth and Family Ministry Director? What role do teens play in leadership? What Sacred Safety procedures are in place? What kind of budget/resources does the teen ministry have? What is the process for creating a budget? What strategies do we have to recruit new teen leaders and sponsors? What are the time requirements for teen ministry? How will we promote the group?
<b>2. Create the foundation for support</b>	
Review each section of the <i>Teen Ministry Manual</i>	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/our-products/youth-family-education">www.unityworldwideministries.org/our-products/youth-family-education</a>
Take the YFM Assessment and discuss results along with any necessary follow up actions with the YFMD.	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/youth-and-family-ministry-assessment">www.unityworldwideministries.org/youth-and-family-ministry-assessment</a>

Contact your regional education consultant to find out about regional support.	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/regional-education-consultants-overview">www.unityworldwideministries.org/regional-education-consultants-overview</a>
In collaboration with the YFMD, prepare a budget including personal expenses.	See <a href="#">Section Eight: Finances</a> . Discuss with YFMD ways expenses can be met.
Sign up for The Path e-newsletter and <i>Unity Leaders Journal</i> .	<a href="http://www.unity.org/enews">www.unity.org/enews</a> <a href="http://www.unityleaders.org">www.unityleaders.org</a>
Visit the UWM Website and Facebook pages.	<a href="http://www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org">www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/YouthofUnity">www.facebook.com/YouthofUnity</a> <a href="http://www.unity.org/iyouevent">www.unity.org/iyouevent</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/UnityWorldwideMinistries">www.facebook.com/UnityWorldwideMinistries</a>
Purchase teen curriculum based on the Living Curriculum	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/curriculum">www.unityworldwideministries.org/curriculum</a>
Promote the program and continue holding the space for the teen program to be established.	In collaboration with the YFMD, announce the forming of the group from platform, bulletin, website, Facebook page, newsletter, etc.
<b>3. Begin meeting</b>	
Begin meeting weekly with your teens—with adult sponsors or leaders	In order to protect insurance liability, UWM highly recommends having background checks for all adults working with youth and using the “two adult” rule. <a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/sacred-safety-background-checks-and-resources">www.unityworldwideministries.org/sacred-safety-background-checks-and-resources</a>
With the teens, create a mission/vision statement if there is not already one in place, or update current statement if needed.	See <a href="#">Section Ten: Creating a Vision and Mission Statement</a> .
After teen group has been established, explore possible social events, service projects, regional events, IYOU event, youth training.	See <a href="#">Section Seven: Events</a> .
<b>4. On going Training</b>	
Attend regional training opportunities	Contact your regional education consultant or consult your <a href="#">region’s website</a> for details
Attend Unity Worldwide Ministries’ training <i>Unity National Youth Ministry Training</i>	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/unity-national-youth-ministry-training">www.unityworldwideministries.org/unity-national-youth-ministry-training</a>
Above all, have fun!	

## Joining an Existing Teen Group to Assist?

### Getting Started Checklist for Assisting Adult Sponsors and Leaders

Action	Directions
<b>1. Explore facets of teen ministry to see if it is right for you.</b>	
Go into prayer and hold the space for the vision of teen ministry.	Let Spirit's guidance direct the process. Trust!
Examine current beliefs.	<p>What are my beliefs about teens?</p> <p>What are the ministry's cultural beliefs about teens?</p> <p>What are society's beliefs about teens?</p> <p>What do I believe about the leader or sponsor's role?</p> <p>What are my beliefs about Unity principles?</p>
Meet with the Teen Ministry Director (TMD) or Head Sponsor (HS) to share your current beliefs, objectives, goals and dreams for teen ministry as well as learning the policies and expectations of the ministry.	<p>What ministry requirements must be met for adults wishing to work with the youth?</p> <p>Whom does the program serve?</p> <p>What is the current mission and vision for the program?</p> <p>What training is available?</p> <p>What role do teens play in leadership?</p> <p>What Sacred Safety procedures are in place?</p> <p>What kind of budget/resources does the teen ministry have?</p> <p>What are the time requirements for teen ministry?</p>
Following Sacred Safety procedures, attend a weekly teen group to see if it is a fit.	<p>In order to protect insurance liability, UWM highly recommends having background checks for all adults working with youth and using the "two adult" rule.</p> <p><a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/sacred-safety-background-checks-and-resources">www.unityworldwideministries.org/sacred-safety-background-checks-and-resources</a></p>
Have a follow up meeting with the YFMD or HS to share your experience.	
<b>2. If you and the TMD or HS decide it is a good fit:</b>	
Review each section of the <i>Teen Ministry Manual</i> .	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/our-products/youth-family-education">www.unityworldwideministries.org/our-products/youth-family-education</a>
Sign up for <i>The Path</i> e-newsletter.	<a href="http://www.unity.org/enews">www.unity.org/enews</a>

Visit the UWM website and Facebook pages.	<a href="http://www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org">www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/YouthofUnity">www.facebook.com/YouthofUnity</a> <a href="http://www.unity.org/iyouevent">www.unity.org/iyouevent</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UnityWorldwideMinistries">www.facebook.com/UnityWorldwideMinistries</a>
Following Sacred Safety procedures, begin attending the meetings with your teens, adult sponsors or leaders.	In order to protect insurance liability, UWM highly recommends having background checks for all adults working with youth and using the “two adult” rule. <a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/sacred-safety-background-checks-and-resources">www.unityworldwideministries.org/sacred-safety-background-checks-and-resources</a>
After regular attendance has been established, explore possible social events, service projects, regional events, IYOU event, youth training.	See <a href="#">Section Seven: Events</a> .
<b>3. On-Going Training</b>	
Regularly attend YFM or Teen Ministry meetings and/or training opportunities at your center	
Attend regional training opportunities.	Contact your regional education consultant or consult your <a href="#">region’s website</a> for details.
Attend Unity Worldwide Ministries’ training, <i>Unity National Youth Ministry Training</i> .	<a href="http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/unity-national-youth-ministry-training">www.unityworldwideministries.org/unity-national-youth-ministry-training</a>
Have fun!	