



# Outdoor Ministry

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## Vision & Purpose

The experience of God in the outdoors has long been an important aspect in the lives of young people, that is, until recent years. Outdoor Ministry, a new ministry presented by the Fellowship Students, offers time for renewal and learning for students in the nature and peace of God's creation.

Outdoor ministry provides a unique and essential context for faith development, spiritual exploration, and personal growth. Outdoor ministry programs provide varied opportunities for students in junior high and high school to encounter the sacred by connecting with both the natural world and a community of people. By creating spaces that interrupt the routines of daily life and invite people to experience a balance of rest, play, learning, reflection, connection, and solitude, outdoor ministry programs can be transformative and life-giving experiences for individuals and families. These programs have the potential to strengthen the ministry of the Church by developing, nurturing, and sustaining leaders and creating a strong web of relationships throughout the wider Church.

## Activities

We strive to provide activities that will give students a chance to experience God's creation, learn new skills, overcome challenges, instill biblical principles, and create excitement about the outdoors. Some of the activities that students will participate in are:

- Outdoor Survival Skills
- Shooting Safety
- Skeet Shooting
- Range Shooting
- Fishing
- Camping
- Hiking
- Service Projects

All of our activities are supervised by adults who are skilled and trained in these areas.

## General Guidelines

We desire to provide a fun, encouraging, and safe environment for our students. All adults who are responsible for any firearms are thoroughly trained in firearm safety and range safety. Each student who wishes to participate in any shooting activities must complete a safety and instruction course given by our leadership team. Each participant must also have a signed event waiver, transportation waiver, and medical document on file.

# Leadership Team

Our leadership team exists to bring glory to God as we minister to youth through experiencing His gift of the outdoors. We want to have a fun, challenging, safety, and spiritually fulfilling ministry.

## Max Simnitt

### *Fellowship Students Outdoor Ministry Director*

I am one of the Student LIFE Group leaders and a camp director for our annual Winter Retreat. I have been a Student Ministry volunteer at The Fellowship for the last five years and have been mentoring and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with students since 1989. As a leader of the Student Outdoor Ministry, I will be laser focused on safety. Having done all kinds of hunting with a variety of people (some of them complete strangers), I have learned to respect the firearm, be aware of my surroundings, and never let my guard down. These are core tenants of firearm safety. I have instructed hundreds of youth and adults in the safe handling of shotguns, rifles, and hand guns. I look forward to sharing my love of hunting, fishing, camping, and grilling with our students.

## Drew Parrish

### *Fellowship Students Outdoor Ministry Assistant Director*

In a nutshell, I love God, freedom, family, firearms, and BBQ. I have been serving in The Fellowship's student ministry for four years in various ways including Sunday morning set-up, Sunday morning service, UNITE, and Student LIFE Groups. Prior to Covid, I was also a host home for adult LIFE group. As the years have progressed, I have taken on more leadership type roles in our student ministry as God has called me to do so. It has been challenging, frustrating and fulfilling, while many times being all three of these things at once. However, in a world that is increasingly hostile towards God and Christianity, it is worth it. My hope is and has always been that God will use me in ways to bring glory to Him, while leading children to Christ.

As a Student Outdoor Ministry leader, my goal is to use the outdoors to unplug from society and plug in to God. I would like to use the experiences of fishing, shooting, camping and other cooking to build relationships with peers, parents, and most importantly, our Heavenly Father. The Outdoor Ministry has the same goal of being a whole people, bringing the whole Gospel, to the whole world.

# Getting Involved

Individuals can become involved in this through volunteering for outings, sponsorship of events, financial support, and through providing access to property, ranges, fishing ponds, and other outdoor venues.

# Next Steps

Students and volunteers, contact our leadership team to start your adventure with us! You can reach out to us at [students@thefellowship.org](mailto:students@thefellowship.org).

The Fellowship  
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281-395-3950 [www.thefellowship.org](http://www.thefellowship.org)

