

GIDEON RESCUE COMPANY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM HANDBOOK

GIDEON RESCUE COMPANY (GRC) HISTORY & VISION

History

Amid the Haiti earthquake of 2010, a plea for help reached a few believers in Jesus. This group of nobodies dared to trust God for the impossible, the power necessary to answer that call. No money, no connections, no organization, no translator, no official anything, no plan, no backing of any sort other than Words on paper, to enter the death zone of hope on one-way tickets. God's promises alone, there was nothing else. Would it be enough? In their extremity serving the crisis, true education happened. God proved mighty to save all who call on Him. God fed the 5000 and provided medical clinics from nothing.

Upon returning home, more Words on paper. The experience of twelve sent out (Mat:10, Luke 10, Mark:6) to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers and preach the gospel was now in the rear view of real life. Upon review, the nobodies realized they too had "lacked nothing" (Deut 8:9, Luke 22:35). The next several years were occupied in training youth for disasters in schools already established.

Then God moved to focus on response. Hurricane Harvey (17'), Florence and Michael (18') developed further understanding that service projects such as distribution of emergency supplies, debris removal, and shelter assistance, provide valuable personal connection. Technical rescue ability helped open the door, yet there

was lower hanging fruit for effective platforms to demonstrate and communicate salvation.

Now that God had educated that He is the power, and not institutional might, it was safe to organize. Slowly over the years, one here, one there, joined the nobodies. Victories with the humblest of means: an old, borrowed chainsaw for a tornado, carried by an old vehicle with 260,000 mi., sleeping in it after a sweaty day with the trees. Yet the smiles of hope restored were no less real. The old message of a Peasant in a well-worn robe brought hope to those with barely the shirt on their backs remaining.

God continued to deliver the goods to make it all work, an entire fleet of planes full of supplies became the conduit for the Three Angel's Messages in a Louisiana Hurricane, Blackhawks delivered nobodies to another response to Haiti, private jets delivered nobodies to assist in evacuation of the Bahamas after hurricane Dorian. Sherps, Creature Crafts, knuckle boom arborist cranes, skid steers, search K9's, truckloads of supplies to give out, all entered God's service. By what strategy did nobodies enlist these resources? They didn't, God did. See Zech 4:6 "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Steps to Christ pg. 94 "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse."

Compelled to share what God has done. Gideon Rescue Co. believes God would have the lessons learned and the knowledge of God made plain to others. It's time the lepers outside the walls of Jerusalem invite the city to come to the feast (2King 7), for "the harvest truly is great, yet the laborers are few." (Luke 10:2). It's time all learn how to rely on the power of God, instead of the wisdom of men, that the next generation may rise to what the former has left undone, and make the final call to come out of Babylon, in the kingdom of "His marvelous light." (1Ptr 2:9)

Vision

Reach humanity with the best and only comprehensive solution: God's redeeming gospel, as given in the Three Angel's Messages of Revelation 14.

GRC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (LP) PURPOSE

Build leaders who create replica teams independently capable in disaster response, these leaders:

Support the mission and purpose of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Activate more leaders to rise up and build more teams for the same purpose

Are masters, not slaves to circumstances

Know God and His purposes for His followers today

Know, live and are capable to share the Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14

Able to personally share Christ and win minds to decide for Christ.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

Signed Agreement, Letter of Intent: To attend the LP, the attendee will make a contractual agreement with GRC to continue implementation efforts after attending the program.

Shepherd Boy: A purpose of this element is both to develop commitment and discover commitment. Not all will have the necessary commitment, and that is ok. It is best to discover that early. Disaster zones are difficult environments; normal accommodation such as food, water, beds, shelter, security, communication home and in person, may be sparse, and unknown. Stress can weigh on team dynamics. Characters are forged in challenges and struggles. A crucible experience is part of the process of character building and perseverance. The following elements create space for growth.

MULTI-DAY wilderness backpacking style experience

Outdoor team leadership training

Intentionally severely challenging experiences

Challenge by choice - students may opt out at any time, that may mean the end of their part on the program

Program Staff: Learning is expedited by going with those who have gone before. God has worked in many wonderful ways in previous responses, that valuable experience is best passed on to newcomers while in practical service. There are ways to cooperate with Christ, He encourages us to trust Him to provide wisdom to move forward. GRC staff have a wide breadth of experience across many types of crises. The full host of experienced GRC leaders will be involved in discipleship.

Team Building from the Start: Because solo work is difficult and often less effective, from the start, the goal is for participants to pair up and go out together for local team creation. Emphasis is on commitment to see the team through to a point where stability is established. There is no reason why team creation cannot happen early, for time is short. Students will begin organization of their new teams early in the program. At program completion, the core of a functional team is the goal.

ELIGIBILITY TO ENROLL:

Age: 18 years old or an equivalent adult status

Male and Female

Obtain Health Insurance

Obtain Passport

Application process:

Step1: In item #5, use the link on the page to apply, button labeled “apply here” : <https://www.gideonrescue.org/lead-collection>

Tip- The button appears on phones better than on computers, currently.

Step 2: Schedule an appointment for an in person or zoom interview via email to this same email address.

Step 3: Complete the “Shepherd Boy” portion of the program. Begin by arriving on GRC Leadership Program Campus in Ardmore OK, ready to begin the morning of July 1. At this time,

the contractual agreement (to continue the purpose of the program after completion) is signed.

Once all 3 steps are completed successfully, admittance is gained into the full Leadership Program.

EQUIPMENT:

Required Equipment:

Driver's license is strongly recommended.

A personal vehicle is highly recommended.

Mountain or road bike recommended for transportation to and from campus Backpacking style backpack, for response, and outdoor experiences, size should be large enough for multi day experiences.

Tennis shoes and Hiking boots for hot and cold climates

Hot and cold climate clothes for the outdoors and work, with various work and thermal gloves, hat, wool socks.

Closed toed shoes for water rescue training - NOT water slippers, flip flops or crocks Church appropriate clothes

Bible, with carry case, and room for notes

Curriculum textbooks- GRC will stock for purchase

Outdoor gear: leatherman style multitool, sleeping bag, rainproof shell, tent or hammock, backpacking mess kit/ food prep gear, water purification, head lamp, 550 paracord, fire starter, compass

Team uniform: GRC will stock for purchase

Notebook and journal

Copies of important documents for travel

Personal Bedding, while GRC provides a bed, blankets and sheets, pillows, etc are not provided.

Optional suggested equipment:

Mountain bike recommended for recreation: helmet, water bottle holder, bike lock If convenient: wetsuit for water rescue training

Smartphone, or camera

Laptop computer

Portable battery bank - small for phone recharge

Large portable battery/ solar generator - to power fans or etc in tent,
on hot days

SPIRITUAL LIFE

“Several times each day precious, golden moments should be consecrated to prayer and the study of the Scriptures, if it is only to commit a text to memory, that spiritual life may exist in the soul. The varied interests of the cause furnish us with food for reflection and inspiration for our prayers. Communion with God is highly essential for spiritual health, and here only may be obtained that wisdom and correct judgement so necessary in the performance of every duty.” 4T 459.1

It is encouraged for each student to establish or continue to grow in Christ through a personal, one on one, relationship with God and spending time in the Bible. Participation and engagement in church fellowship is also integral to the Christian growth experience.

Local Church Involvement - The base unit of the worldwide church is the local church, involvement in local church ministry is key, with elements in:

Personal witness: local outreach service projects and Bible studies

Religious Services Expectations:

The Ardmore SDA Church, the local church of GRC, meets on Sabbath morning. Sabbath school begins at 9:30 am and Church service begins at 11:00 am. Wednesday evenings prayer meeting starts at 6:30pm. Attendance is expected.

STUDENT LIFE

Disaster Response Student involvement:

Actual disaster response provides real-world hands-on training. The progressive plan begins with domestic response and works up to international response, with a mind towards unreached areas and closed countries. The students' progress from learning

alongside staff to responding without direct supervision. As the program's goal is to create leaders of independently capable teams, that unsupervised aspect yields opportunity to practice true leadership. Small teams of 2-4 students will respond without GRC staff. As disasters occur without notice, the program will be flexible so that the students cease most other program elements when responding. The program is designed with time to leave the other elements for responses.

Progression of Responses

With staff - ideally domestic, and smaller disaster

Without staff - must be domestic, ideally a smaller disaster

With staff to domestic or friendly country, to large scale, such as hurricane

Without staff to domestic or friendly country, large scale, such as hurricane

With staff to international disaster, dependent upon current disasters, possibly after the conclusion of on campus operations

Student Involvement in LP Program Governance and Peer Review

Student Governance Council (SGC)– committee members made of students. Will nominate a committee chair (to organize meetings and maintain order, treasurer (keep track of allocated money), and clerk (to keep track of minutes, and decisions made).

Minutes from Shared Governance Council is submitted to Team Lead Instructor?

Food Budget and Meal Plan – money is distributed to student governance and decide on meal plan and purchasing. And involve everyone equally.

If a need arises that the SGC feels needs to be escalated to the GRC LP Board for review and discussion, a request may be submitted to the Team Lead Instructor.

Student Advocacy – Student has the opportunity to discuss with instructor? concerns and receive counsel on how to proceed in a situation

General Assembly and Peer Review Board – student/staff led. Meet on matters pertaining to student life. Meets as needed to discuss situations that arise needing attention regarding disciplinary violations.

Campus and Housing

Housing is provided at two locations. On Dr. George Carlson's property male students will be housed in single room tents. On John Wilkes property a camper is provided for the female students. Students are not to visit other gender housing unless directed by staff. Ardmore Adventist Academy (AAA) is the location where the students will spend the majority of their time. Bathing, kitchen and laundry at AAA; minimal personal belongings at communal areas. Orderliness, cleanliness of living spaces required. Bedding not provided.

Sabbath Preparations – opportunity is given to have Sabbath prep for meals and cleaning. If living areas are kept clean and neat all week, Friday Sabbath preparation should not take much time.

Housing inspections will occur

Chores: Students have responsibility for chores such as mowing and weed eating, and other things to keep the campus well kept. As well as maintaining kitchen and bathroom cleanliness.

Home Leave, Weekend Leaves, and Extracurricular Activities – As adults, and at appropriate times, the student does not need permission to go places. Yet a written message informing of location plans is required for overnight leaves. Appropriate times for overnight leaves include weekends that don't have Sunday training or LP scheduled home leave break between phases of the program. Single (unmarried), mixed gender overnight leaves are not permitted. Mixed gender is defined as male and female leaving together and or meeting up at any location for overnight leave.

Relationships – for single people

Forming a new relationship with a significant other that is romantic or designating as a couple is prohibited. The LP program is short, 6 months, and all time and attention should be given to the growth and development of the individual. Pre-existing LP couple relationships should be kept above reproach and be honorable in conduct.

COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS

Ask the instructor for a preferred method of communication. If you are sick or have an emergency, communicate as early as possible with your instructor.

ACADEMIC, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Class attendance is required. If you are unable to attend class or will be late for class, please let the instructor know immediately. All assignments are due by the due date. If an assignment is late, please talk to your instructor.

Curriculum:

Bible class - The Bible

Lessons on Faith by Jones and Waggoner,

Ministry of Healing, Christs Object Lessons, The Great Controversy

Biographies on Missions: Brother Andrew, George Mueller, Hudson

Taylor, Brushko Swiftwater - NPS Water Rescue, NOLS Water Rescue Guide

Rope Rescue - Technical Rescue Riggers Guide 4th Ed. by Rick Lipke

NPS Technical Rope Rescue from MRA.org (Free) EMT-B - Instructor

Greg Simpson to specify

Leadership - Principles for Christian Leaders EGW, Bible studies on leaders in the Bible.

Secular - Crucial Conversations, 5 dysfunctions of a team,

Culture Map,

EMT Certification

Certification is ultimately through National Registry - not through the class. Upon completion of the class, students must schedule their written testing through the National Registry. There is usually a Practical "hands on" test as well, to also be scheduled, that will be determined in the future. Clinical experience outside of class is a required component, and is part of the student's responsibility.

Rescue Skills training:

Hands on technical skills training with experienced instructors

Swift-water, flood, and boat rescue operations.

Technical rope rescue in low to high angle environments
Emergency Medical Technician Basic Level class for National Registry
Certification K9 Search Operations

Physical Exercise training:

Running, calisthenics, weight training exercises occur 5 days a week,
Monday through Friday.

GRC Speaking and Training Engagements:

GRC is invited to train and speak at various events. Students practice public speaking and hands on training, to assist with those events as appropriate. Freely You Have Received, Freely Give - It is expected for the student to give presentations, sharing a testimony of a service project or disaster response, and instruct in technical trainings.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

GRC is a Christian disaster response organization. A branch of this organization includes the GRC Leadership Program. Students enrolled in the program are held to a high standard of behavior based on biblical principles. It is expected for students to be highly motivated, disciplined, timely, respectful of themselves and of others. Maintain the spiritual and physical principles of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. The desire is to grow the student under the direction of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the fruits of the spirit described in Galatians 5:22, 23. Partaking of the missionary spirit does not begin in the disaster zone, but in the daily self-governance of the life of the individual. A willingness to serve, practicing self-denial and self-sacrificing habitually, repetitively, will become a part of the character. Violation of moral and common ethical standards may result in disciplinary action. All Christian behavior standards still apply, no matter where they are, while attending Leadership Program.

Integrity – it is expected that the student maintains strict integrity.

Dress and Appearance – “The children of God should be pure within and without.” CG 531.2

The dress is to be modest, convenient, clean, and promotes health by wearing appropriate attire based on the weather. Avoid extremes, dress appropriately for the type of activity taking place, including appropriate footwear.

Cell Phone Use

Phone use in class, religious services, i.e. church service, prayer meeting, and team worship is prohibited. In special circumstances, like family emergencies, phone use is allowed. Please let the staff know.

Substance Abuse Policy

No illicit substance use will be tolerated and will subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Drugs, alcohol, smoking/vaping are not permissible.

Unacceptable Behavior

Students will be subject to disciplinary action if the following misconduct is committed: dishonesty, poor attendance, gross misconduct, negligence

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

Discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Behavior Intervention

If unacceptable behavior as misconduct occurs, steps will be taken to resolve the situation. A conversation with the staff will take place. If the situation warrants escalation to resolve, the grievance will be sent to the Peer Review Board. Depending on the situation, the privacy of the situation will be maintained.

Appeal process

Once a decision has been made, the student may appeal to the Peer Review Board in person.

Grievance Process

If a student finds that they have a grievance with a staff member, the program, or any other concern they may talk with one staff member, if the situation warrants additional review it may be escalated to the Peer Review Board for review or LP Board as appropriate.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

If a life-threatening emergency occurs, please call 911.

The two closest emergency medical facilities in Ardmore, Oklahoma are Mercy Hospital and Exceptional Community Hospital.

Mercy Hospital – 1641 Woerz Way, Ardmore

Exceptional Community Hospital – 111 14th NEW, Ardmore

Poison Control – 1-800-222-1222

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Cost: \$7800/Program, length 5.5 months

Financial Breakdown:

\$1,420 per month program fee includes: lodging, instruction, team equipment, team ground transportation to domestic responses, food budget of \$100 per month per attendee. Payment - Payment for the month is to be paid at the beginning of each month.

Food plan and budget of a certain amount per month per student, that money is given to students to use according to food plan that the students develop as a group. The meal plan embraces the opportunity for students to develop teamwork and meal planning skills. Students are responsible for managing the food plan and utilizing teamwork for: budget, purchase, preparation, and clean up. Real life skills. A healthy vegetarian and stimulant free meal plan is the goal. No caffeine or flesh meat food, plant-based encouraged, vegetarian is the guideline.

The Shepherd Boy (SB) portion at the start will be billed on a pro-rated basis, therefore it's not an additional charge. The SB charge only applies to those who do NOT continue in the program afterwards. 5 workdays/week, X 4 weeks/month = 20 workdays per month. $\$1,420/20 = \71 per day. Therefore, the SB is \$71 a day. Example: a 5-day shepherd boy program ($5 \times \$65$) = \$355.

Cost does not include:

Personal international response expenses, such as airfare, lodging, and associated travel expenses. Many times, travel expenses are provided outside of Gideon Rescue's ability: such as a community member provides their house, or a church provides their facilities for lodging. Expenses most likely to be incurred that would not be included are flights and hotels. The same food budget allowance will be issued. The team rarely stays in hotels on responses.

Optional event expenses are not covered; examples may include state park entry fees, extra food, etc.

Team Uniform: Shirts and Pants 2 of each is required. Navy Blue Shirt and tactical Pants: recommended hot and cold weather, with an emphasis on hot weather.

Curriculum books: EMT-B, Rescue Manuals, Leadership Books, Textbooks.

EMT-B specific expenses - National Registry Test Expense (around \$100), Book is around \$200 and includes online resources

Tuition Reimbursement or Refund:

If tuition is paid in full prior to the start of the program and then it is decided at some time the student will no longer attend the program, a reimbursement will be refunded to the student based any month(s) beyond the month the student exits the

program and costs already utilized for the instruction of the student.

If tuition is being paid month by month and then it is decided at some time the student will no longer attend the program, the cost of the current month in attendance will not be refunded. Future payment for the rest of the program is not required or necessary.

CALENDAR AND DISASTER EVENTS

Daily Schedule - Hands on and academic elements balanced so that brain and body are used on a typical day. Seasonal changes will direct the program schedule.

Example of a typical day in the Leadership Program. Monday - Friday

5:40- 6:25 – Personal worship/devotions

6:30- 7:05 - Breakfast

7:15- 7:50 - Worship

8:10- 8:45 - Workout

9:00- 10:00 - Class Period 1 = 1 hour

10:00-12:00 - Class Period 2 = 2 hours

12:00 – 12:45 - Lunch

12:45- 2:45 -Class Period 3 = 2 hours

3:00- 5:00 - Class Period 4 = 2 hours

5:00 – 5:30 Supper

*Friday's Schedule will vary, for Sabbath preparations, especially seasonally.

Refer to Orientation Packet for specific dates during LP.