



# **SPONSOR HANDBOOK**

**ADOPT - A - TIGER**

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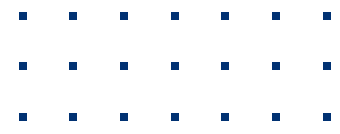
# Bridge Collegiate Ministry

Our mission is to bridge Mizzou students to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body in partnership with local churches. We do this by:



- Discipling them to grow in their relationship with Jesus
- Equipping them with the tools to live with a biblical worldview
- Giving them ownership of their personal ministry
- Help connect them to a local church body

# Program Purpose



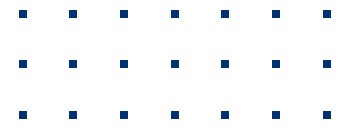
Statistics show that 98% of international students never step foot in an American family's home. Knowing that over 100 countries are represented in our own backyard provides us with a unique opportunity to engage them with the gospel.

The **Adopt-a-Tiger Program** provides a caring "home-away-from-home" experience for MU international students. We are looking for families to “adopt” MU students who are eager to learn about American culture, practice English, and become a part of our community. The Adopt-a-Tiger Program matches families with MU international students from around the globe.



Our goal at The Bridge Collegiate Ministry is to place students in Christian families' homes. We hope that this will be a “bridge” for them to hear the gospel for the first time and be introduced to Jesus. We also pray that this might “bridge” students to your local church.

# Sign Up Today!



## Students



Are you an international student enrolled at Mizzou?  
Are you looking for language partners?  
Are you looking for a home-away-from-home?  
Are you looking to experience American culture?

## Sponsors

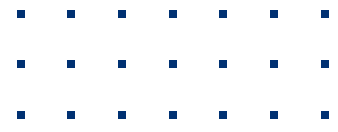


Do you have a heart for international students?  
Are you excited to learn about other cultures?  
Can you provide a “home-away-from-home” experience?  
Can you commit to one academic year (around 8 months)?

## Interest Form



# Sponsor Responsibilities\*



## Start

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After the Student and Sponsor are paired, the Sponsors make first contact and set up a time to get to know each other. Start with a neutral location, such as a coffee shop, restaurant, park, etc. It's a nice gesture to offer to pay for their food/drink at this meeting.

## C

### Contact

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Sponsors should **contact** their student on a **bi-weekly** basis. This could be a text, phone call, email, etc. The priority is in maintaining the connection!

## P

### Pray

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Sponsors should **pray** for their student on a **weekly** basis. The sponsor is encouraged to gather requests, or needs, from their student to guide their prayers. (See the prayer templates in the back for additional help)

## R

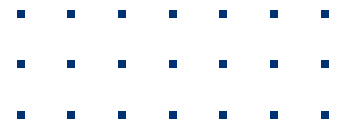
### Relate

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Sponsors should **relate** to their students face-to-face on a **monthly** basis. This could be a meal at the sponsor's home, attending the student's events, going to the park, etc.

\*Beyond these basics, the rest of the relationship is up to what the Student and Sponsor want it to be.

# Code of Conduct



1

**Be a positive “Jesus” model for your student.** We don’t want this relationship to be a bait-and-switch for the Gospel, but as a Christian, you have a great opportunity to love your student as Jesus loves them and to share your life with them. Build a relationship and love them through your relationship with Jesus.

2

**Respect your student.** Do not discriminate against a student because of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religion or sexual identity. Consider the student’s culture and how they might perceive your actions. Refrain from behavior that would be disrespectful, using offensive or abrasive language, dressing inappropriately, or using or promoting violence.

3

**Communicate with your student.** Ask them what they want. Discuss expectations. Address confusion, assumptions, and miscommunications upfront and immediately before they have a chance to grow. Get permission from your student before posting anything on social media.

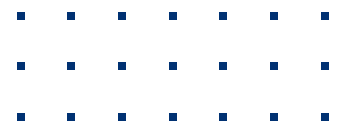
4

**Be cautious with physical touch.** Some students are huggers; some are not. Some may perceive a hand on the shoulder as a friendly gesture, others as a sexual contact. It’s best to let your student initiate physical touch.

5

**Spend time with your students around others.** We ask you not to spend one-on-one time alone with your student unless you are in a public place or a true emergency warrants it. Plan group activities and maintain boundaries.

# Code of Conduct (cont.)



6

**Observe appropriate boundaries.** If you are a married couple participating in the program together, be mindful of how each of you relates to your student. Husbands should take primary initiative with male students. Wives should take primary initiative with female students. Let your student hear from and interact with both of you, but keep wise emotional and physical boundaries in place.

7

**Meet your student where they are and be sensitive to their signals.** Consider how much your student wants to be involved or interact. Some will be more forward, while others will be more shy. Respond to your student's signals. Consider their perspective. Follow the example of Jesus who met people where they were, not where He wanted them to be.

8

**Protect your family.** Having your child(ren) involved with the program can be an immense blessing for the student and your family. College students love being around kids, and kids love being around college students! Just be wise. Don't leave your kids in a compromising or vulnerable situation. Have conversations with your kids about appropriate boundaries with your student.

9

**Remember: When in doubt, pause and ask.** If you aren't sure if something is appropriate, pause and ask. If you aren't sure it will be well received, pause and ask. If you aren't sure they'll be comfortable with it, pause and ask. Ask your student, and/or ask us for advice.

# Release and Waiver

**Please read carefully. This is a copy of the Release and Waiver that you'll agree to to participate in the program**

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "Release") executed on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_(the "Participant"), releases Bridge Collegiate Ministry (the "Nonprofit"), a nonprofit religious organization organized and existing under the laws of the United States as a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, each of its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents.

## **The Program**

\_\_\_\_I hereby understand and acknowledge that the Nonprofit has established the Adopt-a-Tiger Program (the "Program") in order to provide college students with friendship, encouragement, support, and/or guidance from local community members called Sponsors (the "Volunteer"). I understand that the Program is a Christian program by nature and that discussion of faith and beliefs is an inherent part of the Program. I hereby understand that the Program facilitates a relationship that is completely voluntary, and its participants enter at their sole risk. I affirm that the Nonprofit cannot guarantee a positive Program outcome.

\_\_\_\_I agree to abide by all commitments, expectations, policies, and procedures of the Program, which I acknowledge have been communicated to me, which I understand, and which may be revised without notice to me from time to time. I also agree to abide by all applicable laws.

## **Assumption of Risk**

\_\_\_\_I acknowledge that my participation in the Program means that I will be engaging in a personal friendship with a Volunteer and their family members where applicable, and that this relationship may involve activities including but not limited to going to the Volunteer's home for meals and other activities, participating in the Volunteer's daily life activities, accepting rides to and from activities in the Volunteer's car, and discussing personal and spiritual matters with the Volunteer. I recognize that there are inherent risks involved in personal relationships with others that are outside Nonprofit's control.

\_\_\_\_I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to exercise wise judgment and avoid situations that could be comprising or harmful to myself or others. I acknowledge that the Nonprofit cannot be held responsible for the personal choices, behaviors, and activities of myself, the Volunteer, or their family members.

\_\_\_\_I understand that my voluntary participation in the Program is not administered or overseen by the Nonprofit nor does the Nonprofit endorse or warrant any benefits or results of the Program. I affirm and understand that the Volunteer may not have undergone background checks, criminal or otherwise, and I participate in the Program at my sole risk.

## **Termination**

\_\_\_\_I understand that the Nonprofit staff reserves the right to terminate any Student from the Program at any time for any reason. The Nonprofit staff has final right of acceptance of Students into the Program at their sole discretion.

# Release and Waiver (cont.)

## **Criminal Record**

\_\_\_\_ I hereby certify that I have not been charged with or convicted of any felony or misdemeanor in my lifetime. I am not under current indictment.

OR

\_\_\_\_ I hereby certify that I have notified the Nonprofit of my criminal record or current indictment, and that I have answered truthfully and completely any questions related to my criminal activities, charges, and convictions, past or present.

## **Insurance & Financial Responsibility**

\_\_\_\_ I affirm and understand that I am responsible for my own insurance coverage, medical bills, and other costs arising from personal, bodily or psychological injury or harm or from property loss or damage as a result of my participation in the Program. I affirm and understand that I am responsible for my own insurance coverage, legal counsel, and legal fees arising from lawsuits against me as a result of my participation in the Program.

## **Photographic Release**

\_\_\_\_ I hereby give the Nonprofit the right to use my likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media (the "Photo") in any and all of its publications and advertising, web-based or otherwise, without payment or other consideration. I understand and agree that all photos will become the property of the Nonprofit and will not be returned. I hereby irrevocably authorize the Nonprofit to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute these photos for any lawful purpose. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo.

## **Other**

\_\_\_\_ I hereby waive, release, indemnify, protect, and forever hold harmless the Nonprofit, its officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers and committee members from and against any and all losses, claims, injuries, damages, demands, liabilities, causes of action or responsibilities of any nature or kind whatsoever, caused by, directly and/or indirectly arising out of my involvement and participation in the Program, including claims arising out of negligence. I understand and acknowledge that this Release discharges the Nonprofit from any liability or claim that I may have against the Nonprofit with respect to bodily injury, personal or psychological injury, illness, death, or property loss or damage, defamation, or lawsuit that may result, directly or indirectly, from my involvement in the Program. I expressly agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Missouri and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri. I agree that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release is deemed invalid, the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Release shall not be affected.

# Sponsor Agreement

We want the Adopt-a-Tiger Program to be a blessing to all parties involved. To promote a positive experience and a context through which the love of Christ can shine, we ask that you carefully read and thoughtfully commit to the following.

After I am paired with my student, I will:

- Commit to my student(s) for one academic year
- Make contact with my student(s) within one week of our pairing and schedule an initial time to meet

I agree to:

- Be a positive Christian model for my student(s)
- Respect and honor my student(s), even if their views are different from my own
- Discuss expectations, address confusions, or any issues with my student(s)
- Act wisely and seek to provide a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment for my student(s)
- Be cautious with any physical touch
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with my student(s)
- Obtain permission from my student(s) before posting or tagging them on social media
- Contact the Bridge Director if there are any issues I need help resolving.

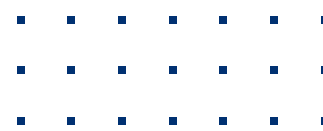
I agree to NOT:

- Discriminate against a student because of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religion, or sexual identity
- Put myself, my family members, and my student(s) in situations that could be compromising or harmful to myself or others
- Consume alcohol, smoke, do drugs, or use offensive language in the company of my student(s).

For the duration of the program, I will:

- Contact my student(s) via phone call, text, email, social media, or other means of communication on a biweekly (every other week) basis
- Pray for my student(s) weekly
- Relate to my student(s) in person monthly

# Prayer Templates



## For your heart toward your student

Father, thank you for \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to invest in his/her life through this program. Lord, I recognize that loving \_\_\_\_\_ may or may not come easily. We may hit it off, or we may not. Either way, I ask that you would fill me with your love so that your love pours out of me and onto him/her. May he/she see Jesus through this imperfect vessel you have chosen to use.

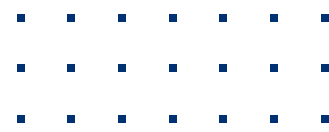
Creator, give me eyes to see \_\_\_\_\_ as you see him/her: as your creation, made in your image, broken by sin, blinded by the enemy, in need of Jesus to be their Savior King, and cleansed by your blood. Show me how you have uniquely created him/her, and give me an appreciation for who he/she is, even if his/her personality, interests, beliefs, and thought processes are different from my own.

Lord, may there be less of me in this relationship and more of you. Give me a greater desire for \_\_\_\_\_'s salvation than for my own comfort. Give me a greater heart for \_\_\_\_\_'s transformation than for my own convenience. Give me greater sensitivity to \_\_\_\_\_'s needs than to my own.

Father, prepare my heart to welcome this student into my life [and my family's] lives. Do whatever you need to do in me to equip me to love \_\_\_\_\_ as you have loved me. I pray that this relationship would be fruitful for us both; that years from now we will both look back and realize with gratitude that we are better off for it than we would have been without it.

Go before me, Spirit. Do through me what only you can do. Your kingdom come, your will be done, in my friendship with \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in heaven.

# Prayer Templates (cont.)



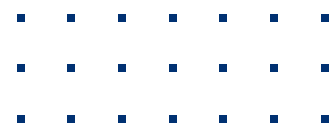
## For an unbelieving student

Father, make \_\_\_\_'s heart receptive to your Word. Open his/her spiritual eyes; break his/her blindness caused by the god of this age so that he/she can see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. Give \_\_\_\_ the faith to believe and the will to respond to you. Set free from spiritual captivity, from slavery to sin, from the deceit of the enemy, and the empty philosophies of the world. Remove \_\_\_\_'s heart of stone and give him/her a heart of flesh that is capable of loving you and trusting in you.

Father, use me [and my family] to show Jesus to \_\_\_\_ through my/our actions, words, and character. Help me to build a caring relationship with \_\_\_\_ becoming whatever kind of Christlike servant he/she can identify with so that by any means possible \_\_\_\_ will be saved. When opportunities arise, give me the courage, wisdom, gentleness, and clarity to explain the reason for the hope that I have and proclaim the mystery of Christ fearlessly.

Lord, I pray that in the not-too-distant future, I will have the joy of calling \_\_\_\_ my [brother/sister] in Christ and that we will be co-heirs sharing in an eternal inheritance with Christ.

# Prayer Templates (cont.)



## For a believing student

God, thank you for the privilege of calling \_\_\_\_ my brother/sister in Christ because of your grace given to him/her in Christ Jesus.

I pray that you would give \_\_\_\_ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that he/she may better know the hope to which you have called him/her, the riches of your glorious inheritance, and the immeasurable greatness of your power toward him/her. In the tumultuous and worldly context of college, may \_\_\_\_ be like a tree planted deeply by streams of water, bearing fruit, prospering in all that he/she does, and displaying the beauty of Christ to his/her friends, coworkers, and classmates.

Father, use me in \_\_\_\_'s life to help him/her grow in his/her relationship with you so that he/she can be rooted and established in your love and equipped for every good work. Together may we grow in Christlikeness.

Lord, give me opportunities to encourage and exhort \_\_\_\_ using whatever life and faith experience you have given me to humbly walk him/her through the things he/she is experiencing now.