

GMC Great Lakes Annual Conference  
June 12, 2025  
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## Youth Ministries Programming 101:

### Where to begin?

- No system or method is perfect
  - Start with the end in mind
    - Scope and sequence of what you want to teach
    - How many months, weeks, days, and hours are available?
    - What are your requirements from Pastor, Church, Denomination?
    - How will you reach, teach, equip students, Leaders each meeting?
- Prepare more, teach less
  - Allow time for building or reviewing your teaching material or lessons
  - Plan for an hour, teach for 45 Minutes. As an example
  - Props and tools are important, use them appropriately
  - The best teachers are great learners.
  - Plan ¼ to 6 months in advance (Minimum) It allows God to work and develop talks, connection points, etc
    - What is the point?
    - How can you build the point?
    - What tools can you use to drive the point?
    - So What... they got the point now what?
- Communication keys to success: when, where, how.. Consistency is vital
  - Internal
    - Senior Pastor, Office Administration, Children's Ministries, etc
    - Church calendar, bulletin, website, facebook pages
  - External
    - Youth Volunteers, team members
    - Parents, Guardians, etc
    - Community, schools, etc
- Leadership keys to success
  - Develop leaders, depending on your current setup (situation) include Pastor, other key staff.
  - Develop and care for leaders, teachers
  - Develop and equip students to lead
  - Always look for additional staff (leaders, volunteers, support, prayer)

### What tools are available?

- Seedbed (GMC related content) [www.seedbed.com](http://www.seedbed.com)
- Download YouthMinistry (Games, Lessons, Planning, events,etc) <https://www.downloadyouthministry.com/>

- Leadertreks (Missions, Leadership, and teaching material <https://www.leadertreks.org/>)
- Great Lakes Annual Conference Facebook Group... Search us out.
- Dare 2 Share (Evangelism) <https://www.dare2share.org/>
- YouthWorks Mission Trips <https://youthworks.com/>
- Canva (letters, calendars, cards) [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)
- Orange Learning system [www.thinkorange.com](http://www.thinkorange.com)
- Seedbed 4 downloadable Bible study, small group study GMC safe, discount during AC at Seedbed Booth in Exhibit Hall. Speak with Sean, tell him Jon B sent you.

Evaluation is important..

- Schedule time to review, important questions to ask: What is working? What is not working? What changes, tweaks need to be done? What successes need to continue?
  - Calendar
  - Talks
  - Group gatherings, small groups, Sunday School etc.
  - Following up with Students, leaders, (new and current)

Connecting with others

- Facebook groups, and pages
- National Network of YouthMinisters <https://www.youthworkers.net/>
- GLAC Student Ministries Group [Great Lakes GMC Student Ministries](#)
- Community Partners: pizza places, ice cream shops, coffee houses, movies, minigolf etc

Key Learning Opportunities

- Certified Lay Minister School. Offering Youth Ministry Course in Fall.
- Next Gen Ministry:” Looking to host youth and children’s retreat in each state during the next calendar year
- Refuel Youth Leader Retreat with LeaderTreks for those who need a break and some encouragement, empowerment

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**One code/ download per church**

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