

# Laurel Ridge Church

## Ridge Kidz Ministry Qualifications and Ministry Opportunities

Working in children's ministry is a great privilege and a great responsibility. While it is important to have enough volunteers to maintain the safety of the children, it is also important that volunteers meet certain minimum characteristics in order to serve in children's ministry. The basic requirements which apply to all children's workers are as follows:

### The Non-Negotiable Requirements

These are requirements for all volunteers. These requirements are fundamental to having a safe and effective children's ministry.

- 1. You must be a professing believer in Christ and strive to live your life as such:** Being a Christian is a key to working in children's ministry. The spiritual nourishment of God's children is at stake, and it would be negligent to allow people who do not know Christ to fill that role.
- 2. You must have a clean criminal record and good references:** The safety of our children is a primary concern. Everyone who works in children's ministry should have a clean background check and good references. Screening, background check and a personal interview are possible on all applications
- 3. You must continue to attend services and tend to your own spiritual growth:** In any ministry, and particularly in children's ministry, we minister out of our own overflow. Regularly attending service and or being part of a Community Group is key to continuing your own spiritual growth. In order to minister to kids you have to make sure that you are being filled regularly and consistently.
- 4. You ought to like kids:** Kids know when people are uncomfortable around them or don't like them. If you are one of those people, we appreciate that you are trying to step out of your comfort zone and we will work with you, but in the end a love for kids is critical to continuing to work in children's ministry. As Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, love is key to ministering to children, and to work in children's ministry you must have a love for God's kids.

### The Beneficial Characteristics(but not essential)

These are a number of additional characteristics which are beneficial in working with kids.

- 1. Teaching and Other Experience with Kids:** If you have ever been a teacher (of God's Word or otherwise), that will help in working with God's kids. Knowing how children listen and learn, different ways to approach teaching, and how to keep a child's attention will put you a step up in working with kids.
- 2. Other Experience With Kids:** If you are a parent or in a position where you are frequently around kids, you will be more in tune with how they act and think which will benefit you greatly in working in children's ministry.
- 3. Biblical Training :** Whether you attended seminary or are just a student of God's Word, having a good Biblical background will be extremely useful in children's ministry. You will be amazed by the depth of knowledge and questions that kids will ask at young ages. Sufficient knowledge of God's Word and doctrine will help you in responding to those questions.

### The funny but true qualifications helpful in children's ministry

1. Sense of humor is not mandatory, but you won't survive without it
2. Should be quick to recover when you forget a kid's name: a staple of generic names such as 'Buckaroo' or 'Fella' is a must
3. Even though you would watch them anyways, Cartoons and Kids Movies are now considered research.
4. Having the ability to always tell a joke or fill in time is a major plus
5. No sense of embarrassment is a plus – especially when doing action songs, or playing games
6. Must have the immune system of a robot (flu shots are a wise choice)
7. Must be able to use random junk as props.
8. Must be able to rig contests so the girls don't always win. (sad but too often true)
9. Willingness to pray for all sick pets by name
10. Must be able to "Hold it" for entire service rotation
11. Ability to distinguish where "That smell is coming from"

12. Must remember that 'knucks' are 75% more healthy than high fives. (refer to number 6)
13. Able to turn all your mistakes into a funny story
14. Breath mints ... really, kids will call you out for dog breath

## Children's Ministry Opportunities:

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### **Sunday events commitment 1 service per month or more if desired.**

1. **Sunday Worship Host or Co-Host** – Works with host on stage during worship service. Skit is used to introduce Main Point, Memory Verse, play games, and lead in singing songs and doing motions.
2. **Sunday worship – Registration desk** – Sign kids in and record their attendance, if they brought Bible, listen if they can recite memory verse, make name tags for visitors, give kids their points balance for store. Also is responsible for checking in adult visitors that are not workers and escorting them as required until they leave the area.
3. **Sunday worship – Store Attendant** – Help kids shop in Turbo-Mart Store, registering what they buy and the number of points they spend.
4. **Sunday worship – Computer Tech** – Run computer for worship service, some training needed, and basic computer skills is helpful.
5. **Sunday worship – Light and Sound** – Run lights and sound during worship service. Some training will be required.
6. **Sunday worship – Small Group Leader and/or Helper** – Lead 8 - 12 children in activities and lessons to enhance the Bible Story from the large group session. Groups are aged based, and all material and supplies will be provided. Training is provided and all lessons include instructions and are also scripted for what you are to say to the kids for each activity making personal preparation time minimal. The Helper assists Leader making sure kids are paying attention, or helping with craft, activity or game.

### WEDNESDAY EVENTS – School Year - weekly commitment (28 weeks)

#### Summer – weekly commitment (10-12 weeks)

1. **Wednesday – Rotation Leader** – Lead Bible story, and activities as explained in materials. Rotations involve snacks, crafts, and games. Maximum number of children per rotation is 30.
2. **Wednesday – Small Group Leader** – Lead children to rotations and assist rotation leader as needed. Take attendance and record points for badges each week. Lead small group for 20 minutes at the end of the evening, reviewing Bible Story, asking questions (provided in material), leading children in prayer.
3. **Wednesday – Rotation Helper** – Assist rotation leader as needed in doing activity, games, crafts and snacks. Be a fill in for rotation leader if they are absent.
4. **Wednesday – Small Group Helper** – Assist Small group leader as needed for control, taking attendance, and filling in if small group leader is absent.

### ONE WEEK EVENTS

**Summer Camp** - Commitment is 5 days, 4 nights at Jeness Park. Participate in church group times, and worship services 2 times per day. Also oversee 5 campers seeing that they are where they are supposed to be and monitor spending money (not what they buy but how much they spend each day) helping them make it last for the week at camp

**Turbo-Adventure** (Vacation Bible School) 5 day commitment mornings only. All roles shown for Sundays and Wednesday are needed.

**ONE TIME EVENTS - These range from a couple of hours to overnight.**

**Summer trips** – We need drivers, chaperones as needed depending on number of kids attending.

**Awake-A-Thon** – We need helpers for this all night party. Oversee games, help serving snacks, interact with kids, and help monitor kids behavior.

**Christmas Pageant** - Need help with costumes, rehearsals, staging kids, running lights, computer and CD's.

# Laurel Ridge Community Church

## Application for Volunteer in Nursery, Preschool, Children's and Youth Ministries

### Volunteer Information

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ cell

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle (Required) \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name or Other Names Used \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth\*: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

How Long at Present Address? \_\_\_\_\_

Former Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

How Long at Former Address? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all states and counties of residence since turning age 18:

(Please circle any of the following states in which you have lived: CA, CO, DE, LA, MA, SD, VT, WV, WY)

Driver's License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State of License: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Married  Single

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership: I am a member of this Church and have been since \_\_\_\_\_

[If less than 5 years, please indicate what church(es) you were a member of or attended regularly during that period]:

\_\_\_\_\_ Church in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Church in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

• I am applying for the following volunteer position: \_\_\_Nursery \_\_\_Pre-School \_\_\_Children \_\_\_Youth  
Commit to Sunday's \_\_\_\_\_, Commit to Wednesday's \_\_\_\_\_,  
Serve once per month \_\_\_\_\_, Serve once per week \_\_\_\_\_, Serve in special events \_\_\_\_\_

### Experience

Please list your church and non-church experience within the last 10 years as a volunteer child or youth worker, giving a brief description, dates, and organization (*attach an additional page as necessary*):

### Two References (other than relatives)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ cell

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ cell

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer’s Applicant’s Statement – Read Carefully**

The questions below are part of the process to help provide a safe and secure environment for our children and Youth. Please understand that the information provided in this application may be reviewed by additional members of the Laurel Ridge Church staff. It is our desire to work with you to find a ministry that is fulfilling and suited to your strengths and experiences.

Have you had any experiences that might make it difficult for you to minister to children at Laurel Ridge Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever used illegal drugs? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been hospitalized, treated for, or struggled with alcohol or substance abuse? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you engaged in any conduct that is contrary to the teaching of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any health issues that could place the children at Laurel Ridge Church at risk? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been denied legal custody of your child/children in any legal proceedings including divorce decrees or settlements? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever engaged in or been officially accused of any child abuse, sexual misconduct, molestation, or similar offense? \_\_\_\_\_ If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, please explain briefly:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Laurel Ridge Church Leader’s Covenant**

Having committed to serve in Children’s or Youth and to the habits essential to continue my spiritual journey with Christ I will commit to:

- Read and practice the safety and security policies in place at Laurel Ridge Church
- Prepare for ministry by growing in my personal relationship with Christ
- Support the leadership by praying for the Children’s and Youth staff, leaders, and specifically the children in my class
- Commit to volunteer training sessions and regular team meetings

Should my application be accepted, I agree to follow the policies of Laurel Ridge Church and to refrain from unbiblical conduct in the performance of my services on behalf of the church. I understand that the personal information will be held confidential by the Laurel Ridge Church staff.

I hereby authorize Laurel Ridge Church and/or its agents to make an independent investigation of my background, references, character, adult criminal or police records, and motor vehicle records including those maintained by both public and private organizations and all public records for the purpose of confirming the information contained on my Application and/or obtaining other information which may be material to my qualifications for service now and, if applicable, during the tenure of my service with Laurel Ridge Church.

I release Laurel Ridge Church and its agents and any person or entity, which provides information pursuant to this authorization, from any and all liabilities, claims or law suits in regards to the information obtained from any and all of the above referenced sources used. The following is my true and complete legal name and all information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

I understand that California law requires Laurel Ridge Church to give me a copy of any report that I request in writing by U.S. Mail within seven (7) days of the date the information was obtained (Section 1786.29).

Applicant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_