

“Leadership Development small groups taught me how to rely on others and prepared me for working on a Young Life team. The class offered real-life experience that has helped me a lot now that I have become a Young Life leader. I’ve looked to things I learned in leadership development countless times to help me as I lead in the ‘real world.’”

— Jenna Ronnquist

“Leadership Development was one of the biggest blessings of my freshman year of college. The incredible friends I met, the deeper knowledge I gained from the biblical teaching, and the comfortable learning atmosphere were only some of the great aspects of this class. Junior-high and high-school kids need Jesus more than ever. So it was an amazing opportunity to have a class teaching us how to reach them better.”

— Kelsey Fowler

“Leadership Development is more than a class; it’s a group of peers learning together in fellowship. I got to know so many of the great Young Life leaders from around Spokane whom I continue to hang out with on a regular basis. It was an experience that I will take with me to use in all kinds of youth ministry.”

— Kari Haugen

“Leadership Development has blessed me with an inside look into what Young Life is all about – from club to contact work to tons of fellowship. The relaxed structure of the class provides an easy learning environment that such ministry needs. I have been totally blessed by this class and am very grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it.”

— Russell Kimura

“Student Staff has allowed me to grow spiritually. It’s different than being a volunteer leader: We have the opportunity to gather and discuss certain topics, such as listening to God or learning to pray, that might be missed at an all-area function. Student Staff has had a major impact on how I do ministry.”

— Anecia Grigsby

“Student Staff has challenged me to be intentional with kids and my ministry, so that I am striving toward excellence in both. I also feel that I have been challenged spiritually. The result has affected how I minister to the lives of others and also has affected my own life, as my heart is continually being molded and shaped by God through my involvement in Young Life. My experience has been tremendously rewarding.”

— Stefanie Johnson

“Young Life Student Staff has meant fellowship, spiritual depth, a heightened understanding of youth culture, accountability, and fun. It has meant, in a word, growth. Through Student Staff I have formed deep friendships that will last a lifetime, and a foundation of spiritual discipline has been laid in my life that will continually challenge me to grow in Christ.”

— Joe Hewa



WHITWORTH
AN EDUCATION OF MIND AND HEART

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A Partnership in Ministry



Young Life
at Whitworth

“Whitworth students in Young Life programs are receiving ministry tools that will stay with them the rest of their lives. It’s a privilege for me to see God using college students to change the lives of kids all over the world.”

— Kent McDonald
Young Life Staff Director



The Partnership

Young Life and Whitworth College share a long and rich history. As a Christian liberal arts college, Whitworth provides a dynamic learning environment where service to Christ and humanity is central to the mission of the institution.

Within this environment, Young Life provides Whitworth students with a means to focus their spiritual energy and pursue their goals of Christian service and leadership.

Young Life has worked with Whitworth College for more than 50 years and has maintained a formal partnership with Whitworth since 1991. Young Life now has an office on the Whitworth campus and a full-time staff director, Kent McDonald, who teaches and administers this dynamic program. Kent also serves as Young Life’s Inland Northwest regional trainer and teaches in Whitworth’s Religion Department. His years of youth ministry within both the church and Young Life, coupled with six years as a missionary in Kenya, have provided a rich and vibrant environment for training and learning.

The Program

There are three key programs in the Whitworth/Young Life Partnership:

Leadership Development

This program helps students clarify their calling to youth ministry and equips them to assume a leadership role the following year in a local Young Life club or church youth group. Topics in the program include theology, adolescent development, ministry skills and group dynamics, which are taught in a practical classroom setting by Whitworth faculty and Young Life area staff.

After completing this program, students are evaluated and encouraged to take on leadership duties with teams at local junior and senior high schools while continuing their training and fellowship.



Student Staff

Typically, juniors and seniors who have proven their faithfulness in serving young people are given the opportunity to take this more committed step into Young Life ministry. Student Staff allows college students to live out their sense of calling to full-time youth ministry by raising their financial support. This frees leaders from working at outside jobs so that they may spend 15-20 hours per week with kids. Deeper levels of training and supervision offered to Student Staff allow students to grow personally, professionally and spiritually in this advanced discipleship/training program. Student Staff pushes students in the following ways:

- to deepen their relationship with God;
- to develop leadership skills that will enable them to serve more effectively for the rest of their lives;
- to allow students to be part of one of the most exciting movements of the Spirit in reaching kids for Christ;
- to build a foundation and a proper base from which ministry can grow;
- to develop depth with Christ, excellence in “kid work,” purpose in discipleship, and effectiveness in proclamation.

Certificate in Ministry

Students considering youth ministry as a career may apply to the Certification for Ministry Program. This certificate program provides additional courses in family ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and discipleship, and in other areas that prepare students to fill entry-level positions in church or para-church organizations.

The College

Founded in 1890, Whitworth College is a private, residential liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Whitworth’s mission is to provide its diverse student body an education of both mind and heart – equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity.

Located on a 200-acre wooded campus seven miles north of downtown Spokane, Wash., Whitworth has an enrollment of more than 1,900 undergraduate and 200 graduate students. With more than 50 academic programs to choose from, Whitworth offers bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, master of education, master in teaching, international management and master of arts in education degrees.

The Advisory Board

The Whitworth College Young Life program is given direction by the Young Life Advisory Board, which is made up mostly of Whitworth faculty and administrators.

Board members are:

Tom Johnson, Vice President for Business Affairs, Whitworth College

Doris Liebert, Professor, School of Education, Whitworth College

Kent McDonald, Inland Northwest Regional Trainer, Young Life

Terry McGonigal, Dean of the Chapel, Whitworth College

Ron Pyle, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Whitworth College

