

hope students

**Small Group
Leader
Guide**

Whether you have decided to be a small group leader or you are still praying about it, we are so humbled and delighted that you would consider being a part of HOPE Students. Having the opportunity to come alongside middle and high schoolers is such a gift we do not take for granted. Our prayer is that you might experience more of Christ for yourself as you lead and love students. There is so much joy and community waiting for you here. You will find being a part of this team is both challenging and beautiful, wild and wonderful, silly and holy.

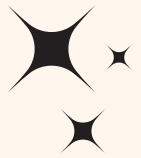
Welcome to being a part of the Kingdom work of Jesus, where we rest in his love for us and we pour it back out so that a student might know him too.

In Him,

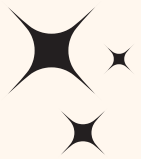
Tracey Kelly

HOPE Students Small Group Coordinator

Who is HOPE Students?



Hope Students works to create safe places and spaces for middle and high school students to experience Christ, live in community, and be themselves.



Our hope is that every student would feel seen, known, and loved, just as they are, by a trusted adult in their life, who is living out a real faith with them.

SEEN
KNOWN
LOVED



The Students Team



KATIE NIELSEN
HOPE Students Lead Pastor

Focus of Ministry:
Middle School



EVAN CAMPBELL
High School Lead

Focus of Ministry:
High School



ANSLEY TYRE
Ministry Resident

Focus of Ministry:
Middle School



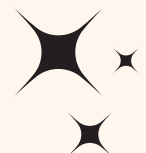
JENNIFER KOTZE
Students Administrator

Focus of Ministry:
Details & Parents



TRACEY KELLY
Students Small Group Coordinator

Focus of Ministry:
Volunteers



What does it mean to be a small group leader?

LEAD AUTHENTICALLY

Offering a real faith
from a real person
living a real life.

LEAD INTENTIONALLY

Paying attention
and planing ahead
in order to show
your personal care
for students in their
daily lives.

"Being a small group leader has been incredibly rewarding. At first I thought, 'I'm not trained for this. How is this going to go?' Slowly but surely I kept showing up and realized moment after moment where I was making a difference."

-Dave Baker (Small Group Leader)



What does it mean to be a small group leader?

BUILD COMMUNITY

Fostering relationships in a safe space as a cohesive group.

HAVE FUN

Creating experiences for laughter, joy, silliness, and play as a pivotal part of the Kingdom of God.

“Working with middle and high school students means encountering a wide range of perspectives and challenges. Ultimately, students just want to be heard. Hope gives them a place to speak freely about their life and their faith. Listening to students has helped me become more patient and open-minded, allowing me to connect with them on a deeper level.”

-Savannah Wynne (Small Group Leader)





What does it mean to *LEAD SMALL*?

LEAD SMALL is a principle and method of ministry that we use as a helpful guideline for discipleship.

BE PRESENT

to connect their faith to a community

CREATE A SAFE PLACE

to clarify their faith as they grow

PARTNER WITH PARENTS

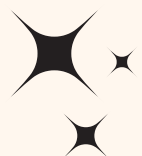
to nurture an everyday faith

MAKE IT PERSONAL

to inspire their faith by your example

MOVE THEM OUT

to engage their faith in a bigger story





What should our small group feel like?

THIS SMALL GROUP IS

a safe space

THIS SMALL GROUP IS

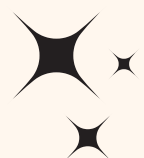
*a space where we respect
one another*

THIS SMALL GROUP IS

a space where we have fun

THIS SMALL GROUP IS

*a space where we practice our
faith together*





What is a Student Leader?

FRESHMEN

can start leading 5th graders in HOPE Kids

SOPHOMORES

can help lead 6th graders

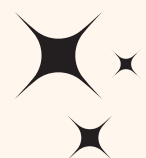
JUNIORS

can help lead 7th graders

SENIORS

can help lead 8th graders

High school students have the opportunity to apply and follow the same small group of 5th to 8th graders during their four years of high school. They are an incredible supplement to your group as a middle school leader. You end up building relationships with both middle and high schoolers, which creates such beautiful, collateral ministry!



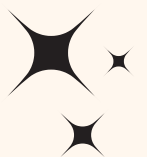


Special Needs Inclusion Model

At HOPE Church, across all of our ministries, we use the inclusion model for those in our community with special needs. We have a robust special needs ministry from age 0 to adulthood. We work to integrate anyone with special needs into our ministries so that they can be equally a part of it, accommodated for, and seen.

BUDDIES

We have volunteers who serve as buddies for students with special needs on Sunday nights and small groups. You may have a student in your group who has a buddy. This person is there to support and assist the student they are assigned to. A buddy may ask for your partnership in creating a safe space for students with special needs. We have both adults and high schoolers who serve as buddies for HOPE Students. Any age high schooler is eligible to serve as a buddy.





Onboarding Process

STEP 1: APPLICATION

Fill out our Students Leader application and submit it.

STEP 2: BACKGROUND CHECK

We run a background check on every adult volunteer.

STEP 3: REFERENCES

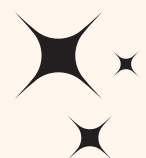
List a reference on your application for the team to reach out to.

STEP 4: MINISTRY FOCUS

Once it is decided that it is a good fit, you will be assigned your small group grade level.

STEP 4: CCB SET UP

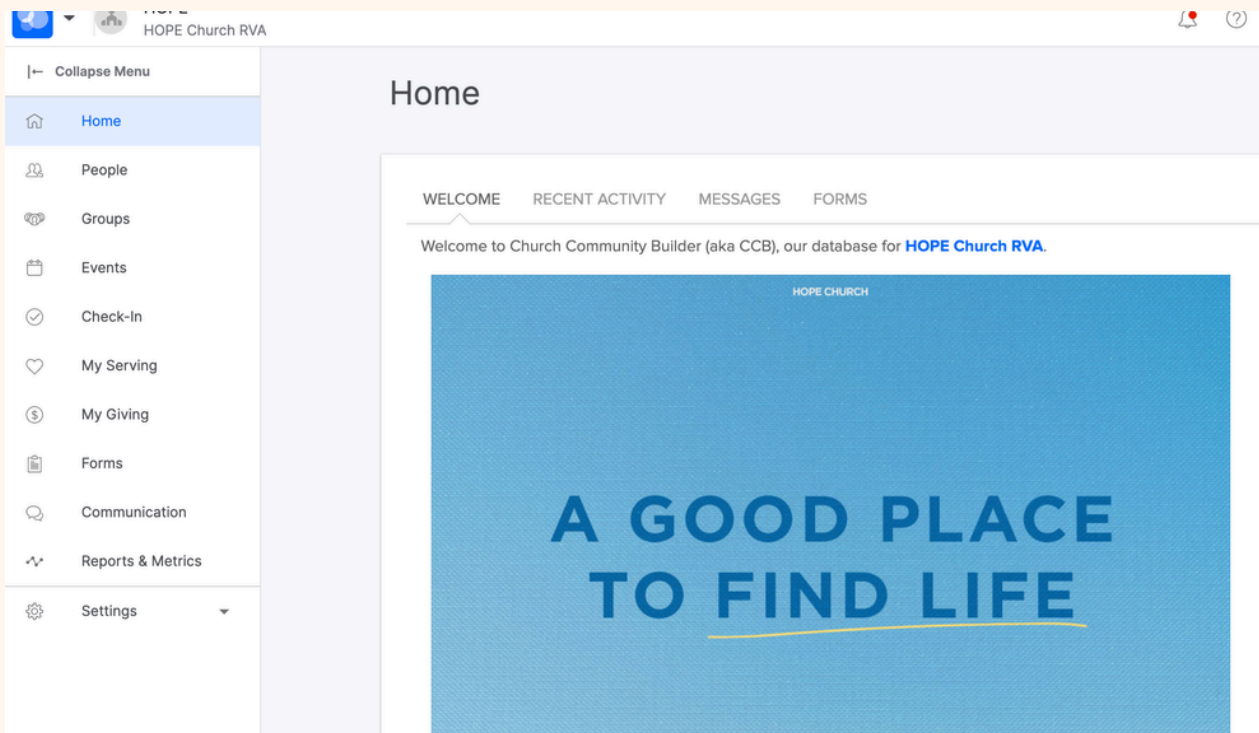
Receive email instructions on how to get set up in our database.





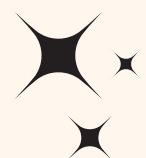
Community Church Builder

CCB is a database and software platform we use at HOPE Church and is a helpful resource for all of our small group leaders.

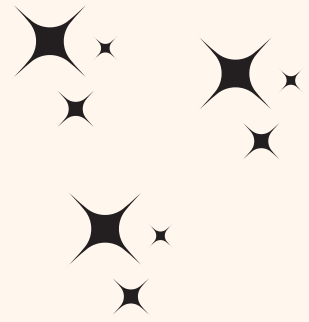


This is how leaders are able to communicate via email and text to their entire group as well as parents.

hopecentral.ccbchurch.com



The Commitment



Sundays (2 hours/week)

- **Middle School** leader huddle at 4:30pm with large group running from 5–6:30pm
- **High School** leader huddle at 6:30pm with large group running from 7–8:30pm

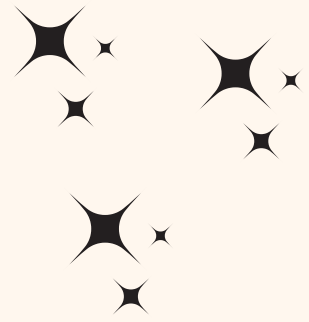
Small Group (2 hours/week)

You will choose your 1.5 hour timeframe and day of the week *plus 30 minutes of prep time* among the leaders

Contact Work (1 hour/week)

Spending time or supporting students outside of HOPE Church (soccer games, grabbing coffee, etc)

The Commitment



Leader Dinners (2 hours/month)

Each month on Monday nights from 6:30–8:30pm (October–May) leaders will meet at host homes for dinner, encouragement, and training

Winter Weekend (February/year)

Every Presidents' Day weekend (Friday–Sunday), we take busses and vans of middle and high schoolers to North Bay Adventure Camp in Maryland for our Students retreat

Student + Parent Communication

We ask that small group leaders communicate to students and parents through our database and/or group chats regularly in order to keep them in the loop and updated on all gatherings/events



Resources

ADULT LEADER APPLICATION



STUDENT LEADER APPLICATION



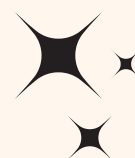
LEAD SMALL



CONTACT INFO

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tkelly@hopecentral.com





Thank
You

**FROM THE HOPE
STUDENTS TEAM**