



Ministry Architects is coming...

Why Ministry Architects?

At Ministry Architects, we believe there is a better way, a better way than one-size-fits-all training events and quick-fix searches for superstar staffers and youth ministry. It all starts with building intentionally. So like architects, we don't tell churches what they want to build. We start by listening and then show them a blueprint of exactly how they can move from where they are to where they want to be. And then we walk alongside them as to make sure that they build the kind of infrastructure they will need to create the youth ministry they dream of having. We have made it our mission to help

churches establish **sustainable, deep-impact youth ministries. We are excited to do this on a diocesan level!**

What is going to happen when MA is here?

MA will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups around the diocese through focused listening groups. After spending 2 days in these listening groups (and taking copious notes), the MA team will hunker down to write a report, sharing with the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast what they've heard about the needed youth programs and where they hear that the church wants to go.

As a parent, why should I attend?

As a parent, you have the strongest influence on your child's spiritual development, and you are the center of faith formation in your family. MA wants to hear your hopes, dreams and concerns about the youth ministry and exactly what you expect from diocesan youth ministry. Parents can give feedback on how the youth ministry is helping their teen to grow into the person that God created him/her to be. Parents are a vital piece to the Christian nurture of their children and MA wants them to be invested in the process of building a strong foundation.

As a youth volunteer, why should I attend?

Volunteers obviously care about the youth ministry through their commitment of time, energy, and love. Since a large numbers of churches in the diocese are supported by volunteer youth leaders, it is vital that we hear from you! You can give perspective to how you see the ministry affecting the lives of the youth because you are on the "front lines". You can see what the strengths & challenges are and can bring about change and improvement to the ministry in which they are serving. Your feedback is invaluable.

As a church member who is not a part of the youth ministry, why should I attend?

Faith formation is a community effort – it takes many folks to model the Christian life to young people. Members of the church set the example to youth on how to worship, how to live a Christ-like life, and how to serve Christ in others. As a member of the church, your feedback is significant in moving the youth ministry forward in a sustainable model. As Christians, we are called to nurture faith in our young people. Investing your time in a listening group shows the care that members of the church have for its youth. MA values the "outside" view that you can give.

What will the report look like?

The Assessment Report will start by reflecting back to the church what the MA team heard people saying about the youth ministry. We compare your situation to norms across the country. We will point out the assets of the programs – the things to protect and keep. We will also share the challenges that we see – the things that are roadblocks to the ministry moving strategically forward. We then lay out a blueprint for how to strategically move the youth ministry from where they are now to where you want it to be. These recommendations include a detailed timeline laying out the process month by month. The report will first be presented to the Bishop and Youth Commission and later to the whole diocese.