Five Myth’s To Being a Volunteer In The Youth Ministry

By Chris Dortch, lead youth pastor of Christ Community Church in Huntersville, N.C. This was originally posted on Christ Community Church’s blog. (ccchuntersville.com)

**Myth #1 “You’ve got to be cool.”**
Let’s face it, we probably weren’t that cool in high school and we’re certainly not cool as adults. Students don’t need someone to be cool, they need authenticity. If you are willing to be yourself around teenagers, you’re a great candidate for volunteering in the youth ministry.

**Myth #2 “You’ve got to be young.”**
Sometimes we think that the 20-somethings “relate better” to teenagers because of their age. Most teenagers have a hard time telling the difference between a 25 year old who is married and a 37 year old who is married (they are both “old”). Research shows that teenagers are actually drawn to the oldest person in the room who will listen to them and take them seriously. If you are willing to listen to teenagers and take their problems seriously, you’re a great candidate for volunteering in the youth ministry.

**Myth #3 “You’ve got to act like a teenager.”**
There is a difference between being child-like and being childish. One of my youth ministry heroes, Duffy Robbins says, “Teenagers don’t need adults who act like teenagers. They need adults who don’t freak out when teenagers act like teenagers.” If you can act like an adult and not “freak out” when teenagers act like teenagers, then you’re a great candidate for volunteering in the youth ministry.

**Myth #4 “You’ve got to be a Bible scholar.”**
Sure, we want you know something about the Bible, but we don’t expect you to have all the answers. In John 9, the man born blind gives us a great example of how to respond to questions we don’t know the answers to, “Whether Jesus was a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know, I once was blind but now I can see!” If you are willing to help students discover answers to their questions, you’re a great candidate for volunteering in the youth ministry.

**Myth #5 “You’ve got to know everything in teen culture.”**
It’s okay if you don’t listen to Justin Bieber and you still listen to Abba on vinyl. Students want you to be you. Many of them would even love to hear stories about the time you were in a KISS cover band! If you know who Justin Bieber is, you’re the perfect candidate for volunteering in the youth ministry.