

CHALLENGE

everything is new • 2012



Leaders' Planning Guide New Orleans Convention Center July 1-6, 2012

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Purpose of Challenge

VISION: To provide a catalytic growth level event, targeted for high school students who have trusted Christ seeking to Challenge them to live as a “sent one” on mission with God, everyday, everywhere, forever.

NEEDS: Most students understand the core significance of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection as the means for their forgiveness but have a very vague understanding of the implications of the Gospel in their everyday lives. Many young people are clear on what God calls them to avoid, but not what God has called them to give themselves to.

THEME: **EVERYTHING’S NEW: everyday. everywhere. forever.**
Daily, we are bombarded with messages of new inventions, ideas and experiences that promise to change our lives or fulfill our longings. And yet each day we wake up and it seems nothing has changed. But the promise of the gospel is that *everything* is new.

We’ve made the gospel small. We’ve made Christianity about little else than avoiding bad things, having access to a cosmic lifeguard, and getting our ticket to heaven stamped. *But the gospel isn’t small!* And following Jesus is about *so much more* than avoiding sin and going to Heaven. We follow a *risen* Christ, who *killed* us when He was killed, and *raised* us when He was raised, which means that now we can view *everything* through the other side of death -- eyes filled with New Life.

This *risen Christ entrancement* changes the way we see ourselves and every other person around us. It changes the way we view the church, school, technology, sports, dating, love, friendship and all the things that make up our lives. It changes *everything*.

Through the book of Colossians we will help students open risen eyes to discover the inexplicable wonder that through the Gospel, *everything is new*. Together, we will see how Jesus, not just crucified for our sin, but *risen for our new life*, has massive repercussions for why and how we live our lives *everyday, everywhere, forever*. Literally, *everything is new*.

PURPOSE: Challenge 2012 exists to enlarge student’s vision of the *resurrected Christ* and therefore walk in the fullness of a *resurrected life* in everything, everywhere, everyday, forever.

OBJECTIVES: In light of this purpose our prayer is that:

1. All Christians will leave Challenge 2012 with new eyes to see everything in their life through the new lenses of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and therefore depending on His Spirit to live a resurrected life everyday, everywhere,
2. All youth groups will leave Challenge 2012 committed to being resurrected communities that seek to live out Colossians 3 and 4 both when they are gathered and scattered.
3. All youth workers will leave Challenge 2012 compelled to lead students into greater identification with Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection and the ramifications of the Gospel for them as they seek to live on mission with God, together.

4. All non-Christians will leave Challenge 2012 having heard the Gospel proclaimed clearly and been given the opportunity to surrender their lives Christ so that they too can live a new resurrected life through Him.

EFCA STUDENT MINISTRIES MISSION AND VISION

EFCA Student Ministries exists to glorify God by multiplying healthy disciple making student ministries among all people as an integrated part of the local church. Our vision is to ignite a disciple making movement among this generation. Making disciples is the commission that Jesus Christ gave us. As we grow in our intimate COMMUNION with Him, we seek in greater measure to COOPERATE with Him in accomplishing this commission as we live a Great Commandment life. We want our student ministry leaders and students to be characterized by this COMMUNION and COOPERATION. We want to be disciples who make disciples that make disciples.

- Great Companion – our disciple making guide and effectiveness
- Great Commandment – our disciple making motivation
- Great Compassion – our disciple making distinctive
- Great Commission – our disciple making mission
- Great Community -- our disciple making environment

Challenge 2012

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TIME	SUNDAY 7/1	MONDAY 7/2	TUESDAY 7/3	WEDNESDAY 7/4	THURSDAY 7/5	FRIDAY 7/6
7 am ↓ 9 am		Breakfast at the NOLA Convention Center				Breakfast (not provided by conference)
8:30 am		Youth Worker Update Youth workers meet for prayer and information				Leave for home ready to bring the reality of Christ to the world
9:30 am		Morning Gathering Theme: Everything is New				
11 am		The Huddle				
11 am – 1 pm		Lunch at the NOLA Convention Center				
1 pm ↓ 5 pm		Registration NOLA Convention Center	<i>Afternoon Options</i> Ministry, Training & Recreation options are all offered concurrently, daily			
4:45 pm ↓ 6:30 pm	Supper not served Sunday PM	Supper at the NOLA Convention Center				
5:42 pm	Student Prayer Army					
7 pm	Evening Gathering Theme: Everything is New					
9:00 ↓ 9:45 pm	The Huddle					
9:45 pm	Evening Options					
11:30 pm	In hotels					
Midnight	In rooms and quiet					

Conference Highlights

MAIN STAGE GATHERING

The Gathering brings the whole body of 5000 - 6000 participants together for a time of energizing and reflective worship music along with powerful prayer and a captivating message. We will unpack the “all things are new” theme by teaching through the book of Colossians. Students will be challenged through what they see, hear and experience in the Gathering.

YOUTH WORKER CONNECTION AND UPDATE

During Youth Worker Update you will hear daily highlights of the speaker flow of “all things are new” The YW Update is a place that will keep you informed so that you are able to maximize your group’s time at Challenge. The YW Update connects you to the schedule for the day, conference news, other youth workers, and to the greater vision of Student Ministries in the EFCA. Update is a way that we all stay informed and contribute to making Challenge a top notch environment for all involved. Also, we will have a Youth Worker hospitality room during the week where you can find free wi-fi, refreshments, freebies, a place to connect with other youth workers and a chance to catch a breath during the week.

THE HUDDLE

Immediately following each morning Gathering, there will be a time for your ministry to get together. You may also utilize time after evening rallies for The Huddle. The Huddle is a great chance to help your group apply the lessons of the conference and to develop a response to the challenges you will hear during the week. This time allows you to do a variety of things: review the morning Gathering, pass on information from Youth Worker Update, do group building activities, plan your options for the rest of the day, and spend some time in prayer with your group. During the Youth Worker Update, we will help you by providing resources and discussion questions for The Huddle on the topics addressed at the main stage rallies.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS: 1 – 5 pm everyday

Challenge is more than an event. It’s an invitation to a way of life. The afternoon options will allow your students to be involved in hands on ministry, take a training session that will equip them for life and ministry and/or do some recreational activities. All are designed to give your students time to interact, partner and learn side by side with each other and your adult leaders. Take time to plan how you will use your afternoons to the benefit of your students and your ministry.

MINISTRY

Ministry opportunities continue to be a highlight of our Challenge conferences. Groups are sent out to minister in various ways:

- **PRAYER:** The two primary forms of Prayer Ministry will be participating in Prayer Stations and Prayer Walking.
 - *Prayer Stations* allow opportunities for students to engage people of the community in non-threatening ways.
 - During *Prayer Walks*, students partner with local churches and church plants to provide needed prayer support for spiritual breakthrough in a targeted community. Training for all prayer ministry is provided at the conference.

- **SERVICE PROJECTS:** These projects mobilize groups to serve with their hands, muscles, and servant hearts. Projects will include: partnering with Urban Impact to renovate their new property, working with TouchGlobal in Katrina Rebuild projects, partnering alongside church plants, local churches, and city organizations, or engagement with Love Moves, the Challenge international project.
- **CARING FOR PEOPLE:** These ministry opportunities focus on ministering directly with people. These opportunities require intentionality, interaction, and compassion. Projects will include day camps or sports ministry alongside Urban Impact and other ministries, outreach projects, ministry to the homeless, and Intentional Acts of Kindness.
- **SHARING:** We will mobilize your group to minister in a specific environment created for sharing the Gospel. The environment could be in conjunction with a local church or may include street evangelism within a strategic context and location. This category will require faith, boldness, intentionality, and interaction. Training will be provided.

Some of these projects will help with the church planting projects. [Watch for Ministry Information on the Challenge Website in early 2012.](#)

TRAINING

Challenge 2012 has at its core disciple making. The training workshops are designed to equip students in practical skills they need to live Great Commission lives in a Great Commandment way. This year, our goal is that not only will there be great individual training workshops, but students can also choose to be part of a specific “track” that will provide hands-on labs with outreach opportunities during the week where students can put into practice what they learn and then come back to discuss what they learned.

RECREATION

Challenge 2012 will have a variety of team recreational events held during four different afternoons. There will also be plenty of individual recreational activities making use of the green spaces and local site. [Watch for Recreation Information on the Challenge Website by April 2012.](#)

STUDENT PRAYER ARMY

Challenge 2012 will again recruit a Student Prayer Army. Your two “Challenge-2-Pray” Recruiters will develop a prayer base in your local church starting in January 2012. Once the “Student Prayer Army” comes together at Challenge 2012 they will meet on a daily basis to pray for the specific needs of our conference and for God’s power to be evident through our rallies and each other. **Once you have registered for the conference, we would like you to name a couple of Student Prayer Army Recruits to act as the initial contact people for the Student Prayer Army. They will then inform and encourage other members of your youth ministry to not miss these powerful prayer events!** We will have a prayer blog and communicate with all who are interested in prayer leading up to Challenge. Look for that prayer information on the website in January. Students, youth workers, and your local church can now become aware of prayer updates before, during, and after the conference.

CONFERENCE PROJECT

The community of New Orleans will be impacted by Challenge 2012 in conjunction with EFCA Start Churches, EFCA Southeast District and TouchGlobal. Challenge 2012 would like to jump-start a church planting movement in New Orleans. Challenge will do this by giving money received in our conference offering, participating in community projects to raise awareness of the church planters, and raising awareness in the neighborhoods of the church plants and the planters with acts of kindness and service projects. Why not do an extra fundraiser for the church planters of New Orleans?

Challenge 2012 Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. When and where is the conference?

Challenge 2012 will be July 1-6, 2012 in New Orleans, LA. Our entire conference will be held at the Convention Center in New Orleans.

2. Why New Orleans?

New Orleans is a new site for Challenge. It offers incredible facilities for our needs and outstanding opportunities for ministry and recreation. The facilities are air-conditioned, the Convention Center can hold 6,500+ participants, the hotels are very safe, and they come as an affordable package. The city of more than 4 million includes many urban sites, parks, malls, and an opportunity to help plant multiple churches this year.

3. Who may come?

Challenge 2012 is designed primarily for Christians, as opposed to being an outreach to non-Christians. It is open to any and all Junior and Senior High EFCA youth. We suggest bringing only students who have completed 7th through 12th grades as of June 2012 and their adult youth workers. Because this event demands the full attention of youth workers for the students they bring, **absolutely no children will be allowed.**

FYI . . . New Orleans is in the Central Standard Time zone.

FINANCES

1. What does the total cost include?

Conference registration fee includes nine main rallies, ministry training and recreation opportunities, 12 meals (beginning with breakfast July 2 through supper on July 6), and all other officially sponsored program costs. Cost does not include any special trips your group may want to take.

2. How much does it cost to register and when is the balance due?

The cost is \$275.00 if registered before April 15th and \$300.00 if registered April 16th through May 15th, 2012. The initial, non-refundable deposit amount is \$100.00 if postmarked by April 15th and \$125.00 after that. **The balance of \$175 per participant will be due June 1st.**

Housing registration is separate from, and in addition to, the conference registration. You will register with a hotel immediately following registering for the conference. **Hotel costs range from \$110- \$125** (with taxes and fees), assuming 4 people per room per night. You will pay for housing directly to your hotel.

3. I am a youth worker ... do I get in for free?

Sorry ... we'd love to give you a free registration, but our budget won't allow that. All participants must pay the same amount.

4. What is the cancellation and refund policy?

All deposits are non-refundable. Payments may be transferred only to a previously unregistered participant from your church. No registration refunds after June 1st.

REGISTRATION

1. When is registration due?

There are two deadlines to keep in mind. **The first is April 15th!** Registration deposits must be made by this date to qualify for the \$275.00 price. After April 15th, the date to remember is **May 15th**. We will not be able to guarantee your participation if your registration is received after May 15. After May 15, or if previously sold out, you must check the website to verify space availability. Again this year all registrations will be on-line by visiting our website at: (www.challengeconference.org) see below for precise procedure.

The remaining balance of \$175 per participant must be submitted or postmarked by June 1st and paid in full.

2. How do I register my group for the conference?

Registration will begin on January 2, 2012. Make sure you know what students are coming and that you have their deposits. Register online by visiting our Website at www.challengeconference.org. You will need to know your church id number. There will be a search engine on the registration Website that will provide this if you don't know it. This number is the same that you have used in the past. As you begin the registration process, you will be asked to create an ID and password that you will use to get back into the registration page.

Please do not share the ID or password with anyone outside your church staff. This will protect you and your registrations. You can then complete your group's registration entirely online by using the form and a credit card.

OR

Complete the Website registration form mentioned above and then send one check, made payable to Evangelical Free Church of America, to: **(THIS IS NOT FOR HOUSING, CONFERENCE COST ONLY)**

Challenge 2012
Student Ministries
901 East 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55420

Your deposit must be received by credit card online or by check before your registration is processed. *(Your registration will not be processed until a verified hotel reservation is made associated with your conference registration.)*

3 How do I register my group for housing?

Once you have completed the conference registration, you will see the link to the online housing system on the registration confirmation page that you should print out.

- **Multiple rooms**

The process for all room blocks: You will go on-line and create a user ID and password and then enter your church information and contact information along with your desired hotel the number of rooms required. They will fulfill the request and send you a confirmation that it has been fulfilled. Then you will need to go back in and guarantee it with a credit card. Once the block is guaranteed, you will then be able to book your attendees into your housing block.

- **Church ID number**

To help keep your group together you will need to enter your church ID number in with your church name when in the company field on the reservation form when you register for housing.

- **Deadline**

Reservations must be made by **May 15, 2012** in order to guarantee convention rates. You will be able to use the online system to make, change or cancel reservations until **May 31, 2012**

- **Tax rate**

All room rates shown are per room, per night and do not include the 13.0% tax plus \$3 per room per day (Hilton) and \$2 per room per day (Embassy Suites and Doubletree)

- **Special requests**

Special requests cannot be guaranteed, however the hotels will do their best to honor all requests.

- **Reservation guarantee**

Reservations must be guaranteed using a credit card. A deposit of the first night may be charged on the credit card after your housing block is sent to the hotels in early June. You must release any room prior to 72 hours before arrival to avoid penalty credit card charges. If you desire to pay by check instead of with a credit card, you will need to establish that payment plan with the hotel prior to your arrival. You will be able to contact the hotel directly AFTER June 6 for any changes, etc. in your reservations.

2. What adult to student ratio is required?

The lower the ratio of students to adults the greater potential you have for personalizing your ministry. As in the past, we ask for a minimum of one male adult for every 10 male students and one female adult for every ten female students. (That means if you have 6 gals and 4 guys you need to send one male and one female adult leader.) Your students must be under the supervision of someone of the same sex. If you are unable to provide adequate adult supervision, you must make arrangements for another church to supervise your students. Please indicate this arrangement in your registration if you do this, and be sure to house your ministries together.

5. When and where do we pick up our conference materials?

On-site registration will be open Sunday afternoon, July 1, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the New Orleans Convention Center. Details will follow in the Confirmation Booklet sent to you after registering on the Website. The Confirmation information will be available on the web after April 1.

6. What if a few of our kids are coming as part of another church?

Make sure the church that is bringing your students has registered your students. Handle all the registration funds and details for these students through the group they are coming with.

For other questions about registrations, contact the Challenge 2012 office by emailing student@defca.org or calling 1-800-745-2202.

HOUSING

1. Where will we be housed?

Lodging will be in three hotels within walking distance of the New Orleans Convention Center. Accommodations will be given on a first-come, first-served basis as selected on the website at the time of registration. We reserve the right to substitute comparable accommodations. (Go to the website for the list of hotels) <http://challengeconference.org/logistics/conference-location-housing>

2. Basic Hotel information?

The hotels range in cost from approximately \$110 to \$125 per night with taxes and fees. Rooms can accommodate up to four in a room.

3. Will there be male and female students housed in the same hotel?

Because we assume you want to keep your group together and give them a chance to interact with other groups, we will house your female and male students in the same hotel. We will make every effort to separate male/female by floor. If you would like to, or need to, be housed with another group; please arrange that with them before registering.

4. How will rooms be assigned?

The hotel will try to place all of one group's rooms together. Male/Female separation will be communicated to the hotels and they will have pre-keyed packets upon your arrival.

5. Will there be a curfew and security?

Yes, just as in past Challenge conferences, we will have an in-the-hotel curfew (11:30 pm to 6:00 am). Our security personnel will staff the hotel lobbies and nearby streets in order to assist you in preventing confusion and curbing potential problems.

6. What will we do if we encounter problems or have questions in our hotel?

We are working very closely with hotel staff, and they will be able to assist you with most issues related to the hotel. We will also have our own Challenge residence hall supervisor, security, and medical personnel for your assistance at each hotel.

THE PROGRAM

1. Where will all of the events take place?

Most Challenge events will take place at the New Orleans Convention Center., which is within walking distance of the hotels. You may leave the convention center as some recreation opportunities and ministry opportunities are offsite.

2. How will we get to these events?

Every on site event is accessible by foot. You may need a vehicle for offsite ministry opportunities and excursions.

3. Is there enough activity for my students to participate in during the afternoon?

Each afternoon there will be a full slate of ministry, recreation, and training opportunities. By early 2012, there will be information on the Challenge Website detailing afternoon options. With four full afternoons, your group should also be able to see the local sites one afternoon if you so choose. **Obviously the key is your personal involvement with your students during the afternoon hours.**

4. What kind of ministries will there be?

There will be information on the Challenge Website detailing ministry opportunities beginning in January

TRANSPORTATION

1. We are coming by bus/van/car - where will we be able to park our vehicle?

We have arranged for bus and van parking at the New Orleans Convention Center. The rate will be \$10 per day. Most of the hotels will not have parking available for large vehicles and their parking rates will be higher.

2. We won't have a vehicle available during the week - how do we get around?

Because the hotels and the convention center are within walking distance, you should be able to have maximum involvement without transportation. You will need transportation for offsite activities. We will work to coordinate transportation for afternoon, off site ministry outreach.

3. Is there a special deal on airfare?

There are some airlines that offer group rates on travel. It would be worth checking with various airlines. It is also worthwhile searching for help on-line with learning how to book group rates.

United Groupsplus. <http://www.united.com/page/article/0,,3552,00.html>

Southwest.

http://www.southwest.com/html/air/groups_2/index.html?src=SRCHMSNGROUPTRAVEL_AIRLINE_GROUP_RATES

Delta: http://www.delta.com/planning_reservations/plan_flight/group_sales/index.jsp

4. What about the bus or train?

Some youth ministries have cut costs by traveling together to past Challenge conferences. **Check with the Challenge 2012 Mobilization Director, Jon Reese, (see page 15) for other transportation options.**

CONFERENCE RULES

Are there a lot of rules that my ministry has to worry about?

The Challenge conference attempts to keep its rules to a minimum. Here they are:

1. ***Students are not permitted in rooms of the opposite gender.** This is a non-negotiable rule that will result in being sent home at personal expense.
2. Possession of fireworks, alcohol, tobacco, or narcotics is prohibited.
3. Students are responsible to obey their assigned youth workers and the Challenge staff and volunteers.
4. Youth workers are expected to uphold the rules of Challenge and treat with respect and maturity the Challenge staff and volunteers.
5. Students are required to attend all rallies, the Huddles, and meals. Other "required" attendance is at youth worker's discretion.
6. Racial slurs will not be tolerated.
7. Clothing and swimwear should be modest in taste. It is generally agreed that modest attire does not include clothes like halter-tops, spaghetti straps, Speedos or two-piece bikinis. (NOTE: If it doesn't get packed, it won't be worn.) Challenge staff is permitted to request a student to change into more modest attire. As believers, we should present a modest approach to the way we dress in order to present a favorable impression of Christ and not cause any to stumble.
8. All students must be in their hotel by 11:30 pm
9. No one is permitted to leave the hotel after 11:30 pm or before 6 am
10. Lights should be off and students quiet from Midnight until 6 am.
11. Individuals are liable and will be billed for any damage they have done to the New Orleans Convention Center, any hotel, or Challenge 2012 property.
12. Challenge 2012 identification is to be worn at all times.

Violation of these rules may result in an early dismissal from conference.

***Any student sent home due to disciplinary action would be sent at his or her own expense. They will not receive any refund for conference fees.**

With a few hundred ministries in attendance, it is necessary that you work hard at communicating these rules to your students. It is your responsibility to make sure that these rules are observed. We will not spend a lot of time nagging students into compliance. We expect that you will work with your group individually. No youth worker is an exception. If you are uncomfortable with these rules we would request that you reconsider your decision to attend Challenge 2012.

CHALLENGE 2012 STAFF NEEDS

As you can imagine, a conference the size of Challenge 2012 needs a lot of volunteer staff. If you have interested adults who fit the criteria and interests listed below, please encourage them to be part of the Challenge 2012 staff. Give them a copy of the application form that follows.

STAFF CRITERIA

1. Applicants must be at least 21 years old or have completed **3** years of college by June 30, 2012. (Current enrollment in college is not necessary.)
2. Applicants must be able to articulate their faith in Jesus Christ and be willing to readily share that faith commitment with others.
3. Applicants must have a heart for teenagers.
4. Applicants must be willing to operate within the guidelines and framework of Challenge 2012.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Your primary job will be to execute the responsibilities of your team as effectively as possible under the direction of your team leader. You will be accountable to and supportive of your team leader.
2. You will be fully dedicated to your staff team once you arrive at New Orleans.
3. You will not be able to act as a youth worker for your youth ministry at New Orleans.
4. You will be responsible for enforcing Challenge rules and guidelines by abiding by them personally, encouraging students to abide by them, and by reporting violations to your staff team leader.
5. You may be called upon to serve in a capacity you did not apply for or get assigned to, depending upon the needs that arise at Challenge 2012. You must be very flexible and cooperative.

STAFF NEEDS

Medical Team: - Needed:

Nurses, doctors, EMTs (to staff each of our hotels)

Security Team - Needed:

At least 25 years old, mature, good natured, assertive individuals who have the ability to maintain the safety of individuals, foster student participation in required Challenge activities, and effectively enforce Challenge regulations including curfew.

Housing Team Needs:

At least 25 years old, mature, good natured, assertive individuals who have the ability to effectively enforce Challenge regulations, including curfew and be grace oriented. Each hotel will have at least one hotel supervisor that will act as a liaison with the hotel staff and to communicate and enforce curfew and safety guidelines for the hotels. They will also act as security or fill in as needed in other areas throughout the week. Primary responsibility is at night when students are coming into the hotel and getting to bed.

Recreation Team - Needed:

Supervisors for open recreation activities and special recreation events,
Referees for tournaments

Ministry Team - Needed:

People willing to coordinate a team of students doing ministry at a particular venue.
People willing and qualified to help with these ministry skills.

Training Team – Needed:

People willing to help in student and youth worker training.

Office - Needed:

Good people skills, light typing, phone etiquette, communication skills, servant heart.

Technical Team - Needed:

We will need 2 camera operators for the rally sessions. Experienced videographers needed.

Physically strong, servant oriented volunteers to serve as grips (and stage crew)

Servant oriented stage crew for stage set-up and transitions.

Media/visual operator - Has knowledge of Power point, Media shout, is creative and understands the need for knowing music/songs.

STAFF COSTS

1. Challenge 2012 will cover registration, lodging, and food for all approved staff.
2. Most staff will be responsible for their own travel costs. Staff should make travel plans with their youth group.
3. All Challenge 2012 staff need to be at the New Orleans Convention Center by 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 1 unless asked otherwise by their immediate supervisor.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Go to www.challengeconference.org/volunteer and read through the information.

(The most recent Adobe reader is necessary to successfully fill out the application form and references and submit. Get the free Adobe Reader 9 from: <http://www.adobe.com/go/reader>)

If you are unable to fill out the application on-line, down load a copy to fill out and send in – either by mail or by fax. (952-853-8488)

2. By mail:

ReachStudents
901 East 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55420

Applications must be received no later than April 1, 2012 and will be considered until staff positions are filled.

3. References can also fill out the forms online to submit or fax or mail them in.
Ask the references to mail the recommendation to Student Ministries (same address as above) postmarked no later than April 1, 2012.
4. A Challenge 2012 representative will contact the applicant by April 15, 2012

CHALLENGE 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

Name: Shane Stacey (Heather)
Address: EFCA
901 E 78th St
Minneapolis, MN 55420
Email: shane.stacey@defca.org
Cell: 952-201-0532
Work: 952-853-8477

MOBILIZATION DIRECTOR

Name: Jon Rees (Robin)
Address: 214 Lincolnshire Dr
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Email: jrees@defccl.org
Home: 815-444-6002
Cell: 815-919-8919

PRAYER DIRECTOR

Name: Nate Stenholtz (Kristin)
Address: 2421 62nd St NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Email: stayawake2@gmail.com
Cell: 507-271-9421

MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Name: Nic Schrieber (Laura)
620 SW 89th Ave
Miami, FL 33174
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Fax: 305-598-5873

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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201 N Ridgewood Dr
Wichita, KS 67208
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GATHERING DIRECTOR

Name: Lisa Bodkin (Tim)
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OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Name: Paul Stewart (Karie)
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COMMUNICATIONS

Name: Jordon Mogck
Address: EFCA
901 East 78th Street
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LOGISTICS DIRECTOR

Name: Laurie Seay
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901 East 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55420-1300
Email: laurie.seay@defca.org
Work: 952-853-8432

ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR

Name: Sharon Trucker
Address: EFCA - Student Ministries
901 East 78th Street
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Fax: 952-853-8488
Home: 763-535-4262
Cell: 612-670-6039

PLANNING AND PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

CHALLENGE 2012 TIMELINE

- SEPT/OCT** o Make the decision to bring some of your students.
o Create your promotional materials using the logo and information from challengeconference.org
o Start conference promotion. **Show the video.**
- OCT.** o Think through transportation. Contact other groups to share transportation.
o Make decisions and plans for any fundraising or scholarship efforts you will attempt.
o Begin to help your students start saving for the trip.
o Name two student representatives that will inform and encourage other members of their youth group to be a part of the Student Prayer Army.
- JAN.** o **January 2. . . Registration opens www.challengeconference.org**
o Recruit and confirm adult youth workers who will be coming to Challenge 2012 with your students.
o Hold a parents' meeting to share your current plans.
o Begin recruiting an adult prayer team to pray regularly for your students as they decide to register; and then as they prepare to attend the conference.
- FEB.** o It is time to start collecting registrations and deposits if you are going to try to beat the early deadline. Collect them, register them on the Website, use your credit card to pay deposit or register on the Website and mail your check to Minneapolis.
o Register for the ministry options your group is going to take part in.
- APRIL** o **April 15th . . .** The registrations from your group must be submitted and payments postmarked by today if you want to get that \$25 savings. (If you can't pull it off by today you do have until May 15 to register but no space can be guaranteed after May 15th.)
o Review your reservation list on-line to be sure you have all your students registered properly.
o Finalize all transportation and travel logistics.
- MAY** o **May 15th . . .** Last date to register with deposit and still be guaranteed space
o **May 15th . . .** last day to reserve your hotel rooms at the conference rates.
o **MAY 24th . . .** Request the check from your church treasurer for final payment of \$175 per participant. Mail this by **JUNE 1st**. (All final payments are by check)
May 31st . . . deadline for entering your students' names into your hotel housing block.
- JUNE** o **JUNE 1st . . . FINAL PAYMENT DUE!**
o **JUNE 1st . . .Housing blocks submitted to hotels**
o **June 22nd . . . Deadline for changing, deleting and adding names to housing reservations directly with the hotels.**
o Final parents' meeting.
o Final prayer base meeting with prayer partners, parents, and students.

July 1 – 6 **Challenge 2012**

PLANNING TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR TRIP

Recruit a Prayer team at Home:

Involve as many people as possible in praying for your students, for yourself, and for the conference as a whole. If we want to see God work we need to have people who will actively entrust the conference to Him through prayer. Hold special concerts of prayer. Ask people to be prayer partners for specific students and pray for them daily by name. Do anything and everything you can to help people pray intelligently and diligently. We will actively be communicating prayer information and needs through social media as we get closer to Challenge. Check back on the website for information. (www.challengeconference.org)

CONSIDER A MINISTRY PROJECT IN TRANSIT:

Many ministries have discovered that planning an opportunity for their students to minister to others on the way to a Challenge conference can cause radical changes in preparing their hearts for what God has in store. Other groups minister on the way home. Ministry on the way home can give your students a chance to put what God has taught them into practice right away.

Consider ChallengePlus:

Come in a week before or stay a week afterwards to work with either Urban Impact Ministries or TouchGlobal in New Orleans. Information and details are available on the web at <http://challengeconference.org/leverage-challenge-to-the-max>

CHECK OUT THE NEW ORLEANS AREA:

Take advantage of your afternoons. They are excellent times to build relationships. Take the lead in planning things to do with your students. You may want to lead the way and get involved in some of the outreach possibilities. The informal time you spend with your students will lay the foundation for future ministry. Remember, you can only impact others from up close. For suggestions on activities in the area contact:

<http://www.neworleanscvb.com/>

PROMOTIONAL IDEAS

PLAN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:

One of the greatest tasks you will face in promoting Challenge 2012 is the job of getting the word out. All of us on the committee know first hand that you have parents, board members, church members, as well as students who need to hear and become excited about Challenge 2012.

- 1st: YOUR STUDENTS.** . . Begin right away using any promo ideas you have to inform and excite them about the conference. You may want to help them with ideas about the financial part of participating.
- 2nd: YOUR CHURCH BOARD . . .**Don't forget that they want and need to know all about the conference so they can be in support of your participation.
- 3rd: YOUR PARENTS . . .**They not only foot most of the bill, but they have concerns and fears as well as a desire to support what you are doing.
- 4th: YOUR ENTIRE ADULT CHURCH BODY . . .** Communicate your plans and the significance of the conference to your church body with the goal of recruiting an active prayer base of adults who will pray for you and your students regularly.
- 5th: YOUR NEARBY EFCA CHURCHES . . .** There are probably other EFCA Churches in your area that need encouragement or help to get involved. Seek them out and share the vision for what is happening. Perhaps you might be the tool of encouragement they need right now.

LOOK FOR FUTURE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE:

- After Registering Our prayer director, Nate Stenholz, will be contacting you to name two student representatives to inform and encourage other members of your ministry to be part of the Student Prayer Army.
- April 2012 The Confirmation handbook will be made available on the web to those who have registered for Challenge. This handbook will give you all the last minute information you need about Challenge 2012. Please duplicate any information in this book and give it to any of the groups listed above.

PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

THE Challenge 2012 WEBSITE

All Challenge promotion is being done via the web.

- You can download the Challenge rave card and use one side (your choice) to personalize and print out for your own youth group. (see the media pages)
- A variety of Challenge videos are available to download from the Website in various formats. (on the media page)
- The Challenge logos are available for you to download to create your own art work and materials for Challenge .

