

## Billerica Catholic Religious Education



### Volunteer Title: Small Group Leader - Pathfinders (Gr. 5-6) or Navigators (Gr. 7-8)

**Objective:** Provide teens with meaningful adults who can get to know the teens and be positive role models for them. Like Jesus Christ on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), we evangelize through building relationships and modeling our faith in our everyday lives.

**Description/Responsibilities:** You have the primary responsibility for working with your small group of teens, including **attendance, discipline, and other issues** that may arise. You are responsible for the supervision of these teens (they are your “class”). However, *you are not expected to prepare curriculum - that is the role of the Presenter / Coordinator.*

Your role as a small group leader is to lead and facilitate discussion and activities that happen during the Faith Formation sessions. Catechists and Presenters will be responsible for presenting content and leading activities. Your role will be to assist the activities and facilitate discussion and participation within your small group. By participating in the activities and discussion, you model for the teens the value in learning more about our Catholic faith and how to apply that learning in daily life.

Today’s youth need to be connected to positive adult role models. They may have many online “friends”, but few who will model what it means to be a Catholic Christian today. *Get to know your teens well* by talking with them before and after the gatherings. Ask them about their interests, activities, and goals.

*Please familiarize yourself with the buildings in which you are serving.*

All Billerica Catholic Religious Education volunteers are expected to abide by the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct.

**Time Commitment:** Attend all Religious Education assigned sessions that teens are expected to attend. *Please make a point of arriving early, before each of the Religious Education sessions begin, to welcome and greet your teens.* If you will be absent, please contact the Coordinator as well as your co-group leader (if you have one) at least 24 hours in advance.

**Training & Support:** Occasional trainings and meetings may be scheduled for Small Group Leaders.

**Supervision:** All Pathfinder (Gr. 5-6) and Navigator (Gr. 7-8) Small Group Leaders report directly to the BCRE Pathfinder and/or Navigator Coordinator.

*Please see reverse side for additional information...*

**Qualifications:** A willingness to engage teens in conversations about faith and life is important. An ability to follow directions as given by the Presenter is needed, since you will be following their lead.

All Small Group Leaders are expected to attend Mass regularly and support the teachings of the Catholic Church.

All volunteers with Billerica Catholic Religious Education programs are expected to:

- have an annual CORI (background check) on file
- complete the *Protecting God's Children* (Virtus) program
- sign the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct

**Communication:** Primarily through e-mail

**A Pathfinder (Gr. 5-6) and Navigator (Gr. 7-8) Small Group Leader:**

- ✓ Knows their young teens well - names, personalities, interest, and gains a sense of their moral and spiritual maturity
- ✓ Is an authentic witness to their Catholic faith
- ✓ Is aware of the varied and changing needs of young adolescents, including their inconsistent behavior and maturity
- ✓ Facilitates discussion among the young teens, participating when necessary; encourages participation by all the teens
- ✓ Challenges teens to take their faith seriously, to engage the material, and to ask challenging questions
- ✓ Is involved in the activities alongside the teens, modeling good participation
- ✓ Is supportive of the Presenter; is focused on the Presenter when they are speaking (modeling), and keeps the teens focused as well
- ✓ Works with their co-leader to manage their group conscientiously
- ✓ Helps the teens stay focused on the activity or discussion at hand, minimizes disruptions, and participates as well
- ✓ Moves around the group as needed, making sure to help teens who need help, and be near teens who need a close adult presence to help them behave
- ✓ Encourages and challenges the teens to grow in their faith
- ✓ Provides feedback about particular activities and the program in general, as asked for by the Presenter
- ✓ Notices things / offers suggestions for improvements and reports them to the Presenter and/or the Navigator Coordinator