FIELD STAFF TRAINING

Young Life is committed to sharing the Gospel with young people and helping them grow in their faith. We seek to double the extent of our ministry by 2016, our vision of *Reaching a World of Kids*.

Our **most vital resource** in *Reaching a World of Kids* is our people, staff and volunteers who follow Jesus passionately and who are fully equipped for the high challenge of sharing the Gospel with young people around the world.

This means we must provide our staff with:

- The “heart and soul” of Young Life – the passion and ethos that has marked the best of our mission for over 70 years.
- A strong and clear, biblical and theological foundation.
- Spiritual and emotional health that provides a solid foundation for the incredible challenges of ministry in the coming decades.
- Practical skill training for their jobs.

Everything we do in the Training department is designed with these goals in mind.

All Full-Time field ministry staff are expected to complete Core Training Phases One, Two and Three.

**CORE TRAINING PHASE ONE**

*Course available for academic credit through one of our academic partners.*

**Year One**

- **Leadership I** – a nine-month practicum in supervised ministry delivered in the field.
- **New Staff Training** – a missionwide, eight-day intensive including:
  - *Introduction to Youth Ministry*
  - *Proclaiming Christ* – taught by Young Life mission leaders.

**Year Two**

- **Leadership II** – a nine-month practicum in supervised ministry, which builds upon the work in Leadership I.
- **Winter Training** – a missionwide, week-long intensive in which staff will receive training on the specialized ministry functions of Young Life, as well as take one of three classes:
  - *Systematic Theology*
  - *Gospels*
  - *The Minister as Person*
- **Apologetics** – an online, six-week cohort experience equipping staff to articulate the faith to a skeptical culture.

Upon successful completion of Core Training Phase One, staff will be eligible:

- To be promoted to area director.
- To apply for status as a commissioned member of the Young Life staff.
- For a pay raise and manse allowance.

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CORE TRAINING PHASE TWO

Year Three
- Winter Training – a missionwide, week-long intensive in which staff will take one of the two remaining classes:
  - *Systematic Theology
  - *Gospels
  - *Minister as Person

Year Four
- Winter Training – a missionwide, week-long intensive in which staff will take the final remaining class:
  - *Systematic Theology
  - *Gospels
  - *Minister as Person

Year Three or Year Four:
- *Area Director School – for all who move into the area director position.

Note: Completion of Core Training Phase Two is required in order to maintain status in good standing as a commissioned member of the Young Life staff.

CORE TRAINING PHASE THREE (formerly Training Timeline)

Following the completion of Core Training Phase Two, Young Life staff are expected to complete a training timeline experience (or approved substitute) every year, except for Young Life Celebration years. These options include:
- *Introduction to Old Testament – a week-long intensive required for all commissioned staff after completing Core Training Phase Two.
- *Christology, Soteriology, and Pneumatology – a week-long intensive required for all commissioned staff after completing Core Training Phase Two.
- *Equipping Leaders Who Volunteer – a practical ministry class offered in a hybrid format of online instruction and a four-day intensive.
- *The Kingdom of God and Cultural Intelligence – also offered in a hybrid format including online instruction and a four-day intensive.
- *Supervision and Organizational Leadership – a practical ministry class also offered in a hybrid format of online instruction and a four-day intensive.
- Personal Health in Ministry – a four-day intensive that equips staff with tools for self care while responding to the demands of ministry.
- Marriage Retreat – a four-day weekend experience for couples.

ACADEMIC CREDIT OPTIONS
Young Life has several academic partners who grant credit for many of the courses listed above. Young Life encourages interested staff to complete a theological degree. Financial assistance is available for additional course work. Generally speaking, completing Young Life’s Core Training – Phases One and Two, will take staff one-third to one-half of the way toward a degree, depending on the degree program and school selected.

ACADEMIC PARTNERS
- Bethel Seminary
- Dallas Theological Seminary
- Eastern University
- Gordon-Conwell Seminary
- Fuller Seminary
- Reformed Seminary
- Trinity International University
- Western Seminary

For questions about cost, schedule, or academic credit, please contact:

Young Life Training department
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(719) 381-1866

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