



Christian Youth Outreach

Apprentice Year Scheme Information Pack

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Apprentice Year Scheme overview

Thinking of taking a year out to explore a call to youth ministry? The CYO Apprentice Year Scheme could be just the thing if you're wanting to get involved in youth ministry and find out more about your own calling and gifting.

Running from September 2009, the heart of the Apprentice Year Scheme is a partnership between you, a Church (usually your own church) and CYO. This brings together the benefit of a pastoral and ministry base in the church with the wider youth ministry opportunities offered by CYO. We're partnering with CYM, an organisation like ours in Ipswich to provide weekly training in youth work theory and practice, and theology. CYO helps to set up all the necessary support to make sure this is a year that works for you. Costs are shared between CYO and the local church.

The focus of the year is the development of your gifts and abilities. As the title suggests, the aim is apprenticeship – learning through doing by working alongside experienced practitioners. You'll receive appropriate training and be given lots of opportunities to put into practice what you're learning. You'll get involved in a wide variety of activities related to youth ministry and schools work, speaking to many or working with individuals, up front and personal or behind the scenes and technical. You'll be challenged and equipped and we'll help you grow in your faith and in your understanding of God's call on your life.

The scheme is open to anyone aged 18 or over on 1st September 2009.

My gap year was a brilliant experience. The chance to learn immediately from face-to-face work, and with a down to earth and energetic team, was priceless and helped me discover more about God's call on my life.

Amy Watson – CYO Apprentice Year 05/06, now doing the CYM degree course in Youth Work and Applied Theology.

More info

For more information or an application form, please contact Tim Abbott at CYO.

About CYO

Our Vision

CYO is a youth and schools ministry based in Colchester. Our aim is to make Christ known to the young people of this area. We seek to do this by being the good news, demonstrating God's unconditional love for young people through what we do, and by telling the good news, creating opportunities for young people to come to faith in Jesus Christ and to grow in him.

Our work

Schools

Although the ministry of CYO has diversified over the years, schools work remains at the heart of much of what we do. This can involve taking assemblies and lessons, and leading lunchtime Christian groups. We also help out in some extra curricular activities.

Unity and partnership

CYO's work with local churches includes setting up projects that involve the churches of an estate or area working together. Typical examples have been Schools Missions, an 'Xtra Time' sports outreach, an inter church outreach café or a "Noise" community project.

We also run or promote events and weekends away for Christian young people and youth leaders. In all of this our aim is to support and encourage local churches in their work of mission among young people.

Management and pastoral support

CYO is a charity overseen by a body of Trustees. Day to day management of the work is the responsibility of the Director who leads the youth and schools work team.

Each team member is expected to be a member of a local church. In addition they receive individual pastoral support in respect of their work with CYO.

Schools

There are over 10,000 young people in secondary schools in the Colchester area and we believe every one of them should have an opportunity to think seriously about Christ and his call on their lives. CYO has ongoing contact with 10 of the 13 secondary schools and many years experience of sharing the message of Jesus relevantly with young people in schools.



Working in schools, whether in assemblies, lessons, helping to run a lunchtime group, or getting involved in some extra curricular activity, gives you real contact with young people and an instant platform to share your faith. You would be working alongside others, from CYO and from local churches, who have experience of schools work and who can help you to develop your understanding and your skills.



You'll find your understanding of Christianity deepened and your ability to share your faith will develop more than you can imagine.

Wherever possible we link the work we do in schools with the mission of local churches so you could find yourself involved with a local church, helping with other outreach projects on a local estate or taking part in a schools mission.

Whatever you do, you'll have opportunities to develop your ministry in the way that reflects your own style, gifts and abilities.

Inter-church work

CYO also works with churches to bring together youth leaders and young people. Termly gatherings bring together youth leaders from across the town to share news and pray for each other. And we're also working on a number of projects to bring young people together from across the town to help them grow and to make a difference where they live.

Local Church

CYO will give you experience of working in schools and on inter-church or town wide projects. But for part of your week you'll also get to help or lead some of the youth work in your church. This could be a mid week or Sunday youth group or involvement in some other outreach or youth ministry within the church. You wouldn't be expected to do everything, but you would be challenged to stretch yourself and to try things you may not have tried before.



As with your time with CYO, your youth work with the local church would follow an agreed timetable to make sure you know exactly what's expected and so that you don't get drawn into doing other things that could become a drain or a distraction. This would be overseen by someone from the church who would be there to help you make the most effective use of your time. We don't want you to suffer from either burnout or boredom!

Training

One day a week you will be in Ipswich for training with other youth workers. CYM, our partner for the training programme, has a strong track record of offering theological and practical training in youth ministry. The year's course will, provisionally, cover the following.

Youth work

- Essentials: Child Protection
- Youth Culture
- Small groups
- Christian leadership
- A disciplined lifestyle
- Reviewing and evaluating
- Mentoring
- Prayer with young people
- Communication
- Disciple making
- Teams
- Worship
- Teen issues
- Weekends away
- Personality

Theology

- An introduction to theology
- The Bible
- The nature of God
- Creation
- Angels and demons
- The nature of humans
- Sin
- Prayer
- Jesus
- The cross
- Church
- Gifts
- Death
- Return of Christ
- Guidance

Finance & practical arrangements

This Apprentice Year is a partnership between CYO and your local church. The approximate costs and working week are therefore divided as set out below. In seeking to set out clearly the responsibilities and expectations of each party we need to recognise that some flexibility may be needed as we work to produce the best arrangement for you, as well as for CYO and your church.

Your Church	Per week	Total
Personal allowance (minimum)	£25	£1,175
Expenses relating to work with your church		unknown
Housing/accommodation Staying with parents or host family	Any costs covered by the local church	
	Total	£1,175

CYO

Additional personal allowance	£25	£1,175
Basic theology and youth work training		£500
All CYO related work expenses, including travel	(estimate)	£800
	Total	£2,475

You will receive guidance about your status concerning the Inland Revenue.

Hours and holidays

The CYO Apprentice Scheme runs from Wednesday 2 September 2009 to Friday 23 July 2010, a total of 47 weeks.

You will have opportunities to be involved in youth and schools work up to a maximum of 10 'sessions', a session being a morning, afternoon or evening. A session includes training and preparation time as well as actual face to face youth or schools work.

You will typically spend 2 days with CYO, 2 days with your church and one day training.

As is typical with youth work, some activities will be in the evening or at weekend, so it will help if you can be flexible about this. We will help you keep an eye on the how much time you are giving to different types of youth or schools work so that you get an inspiring balance of differing youth work experiences.

Line Management

CYO will take responsibility for overall line management and day to day diary planning to ensure the year benefits you. You will also have a line manager at your church who will oversee your involvement there.

Pastoral support

The church where you are based will be your home church for the year. As well as the worship, teaching and fellowship of the churches we belong to, every member of the CYO team is linked with a pastoral friend who they meet with monthly. We will help you to find someone who can fulfil this role for you.