



S.T.R.I.V.E.

ST. MARK'S STUDENT MINISTRIES

Students Turning Responsibility Into Valuable Experience

Dear Parents of St. Mark's Youth,

Thank you for allowing us to serve your student and your family through St. Mark's Student Ministries this year. We consider it a privilege to be entrusted with your student on Sunday's and Wednesday's and we are working hard to make our student ministry the best it can be.

The purpose of this letter is to give you all the information you need about our upcoming fundraiser. S.T.R.I.V.E. is a fundraiser that has been a part of St. Mark's Student Ministries for eleven years. It is basically a work-a-thon designed to serve our community through a one-day volunteer work effort and to raise money for our student ministry. Your son or daughter will raise pledges based on an eight hour work day. The money raised will go towards camp, mission trip and retreat scholarships both partial and full. This also helps to send our sponsors on these trips, and will support the incentive program built into S.T.R.I.V.E. as well as fund the scholarfund program for students enrolled in Jesus University.

S.T.R.I.V.E. will take place on **Saturday, October 9th**. We will be meeting at the church at 7:45 a.m. for breakfast and will then head over to the Regional Food Bank for our 8-hour workday. The day will come to a close with a 5:00 p.m. dinner and celebration. Our S.T.R.I.V.E. bash will include dinner, door prizes, awards for the students, a picture slide show, games, and praise and worship. The bash should be finished around 7:30 p.m.

We are praying S.T.R.I.V.E. becomes not just a money raising effort but that it has a character-building effect on those who participate. **Colossians 3:23-24** says, "*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.*"

There are many values our students will learn through S.T.R.I.V.E., but the three we would like to highlight are:

Faithfulness – As students are faithful to their commitment to participate in S.T.R.I.V.E., they get to see God use them to do something incredible.

Stewardship – This is God's ministry, but all of us have been called to be stewards of it. Through S.T.R.I.V.E. students learn responsibility and the importance of giving something back to their church and community.

Service – Doing something good for someone else and improving our community. Not merely looking out for our own personal interests, but also the interests of others.

In order for this to happen, we need your support of your student's S.T.R.I.V.E. effort. Talk together about these values. Ask often how S.T.R.I.V.E. is going. Support and encourage. Let your son or daughter know that you are proud of them and you believe in what they are doing.

Your students will be receiving their S.T.R.I.V.E. packets and T-shirts on Sunday, August 29, during Sunday school. Their packets will have the pledge cards and envelopes needed for the pledges they raise.

Before closing, we would like to highlight that your student can earn free trips to camps, mission trips and retreats by raising pledges that will be linked to incentive levels and dollar amounts. Students enrolled in Jesus University will also be raising money for their scholarfund account. **Please note that the final turn-in date to qualify for incentives is by the morning of Saturday, October 9th** (this means all money turned in – not just pledges). The incentive program is as follows:

- \$150 – one free retreat and J.U. credit for Jesus University students
- \$250 – another free retreat
- \$500 – a free camp or mission trip
- \$750 – an additional free camp or mission trip (honor-grad level for J.U. students)
- \$1,000 – an additional free camp or mission trip
- \$1,500 – St. Mark's Student Ministry Season Pass (all events for free)

For your own records, here is a list of our upcoming trips over the next year and the estimated costs of those trips.

- \$75 – Nov. 5-7 Fall prayer retreat
- \$75 – Jan. 14-16 Winter suspension retreat
- \$225 – Sr. High mission trip to Impact Florida
- \$75 – April 8-10 Spring Heroes retreat
- \$75 – June summer kickoff retreat
- \$225 – June Disciple camp for mid-high
- \$225 – July Lawton Youth Force for 7-12 grade
- \$225 – July Dayspring camp for high school
- \$100 – other events throughout the year (bowling, incredible pizza, etc.)

If you have any questions about S.T.R.I.V.E. or want to know how you can be more involved in helping us make this happen please give me a phone call, pull me aside at church or send me an email. (789-9033 – church; 317-8682 – cell; josh@stmarksbethany.org)

Thanks and God bless,

Joshua Coats
The Way, St. Mark's Student Ministries