



Contact (lists)

Young people today are extremely mobile. They do not necessarily stay in the same place for very long at a time, and it is essential to systematically keep track of where they are at the moment. The bottom line of this value is to make sure nobody is forgotten or neglected.

There are five elements that are essential in this area.

1. Seeking contact with new students

This can be done in various ways.

- Keep in contact with other local churches and pastors, and particularly the conference youth department to know who might be moving to your area
- Summer camps are also a good place to find out what young peoples' plans for next year are
- Register with university chaplaincies
- Advertise on campuses
- Have a stand during fresher's week as to be visible to new Adventist students

*CORe Value No 4
A CORe church is committed
to actively seeking and
getting in contact with
young people who are
moving, or have moved,
into your vicinity*

2. Have a list

Some people love making lists. Other people hate it. Having a list of people in itself does not accomplish anything, and at the same time it does, because at least you know where to begin.

You want to have a list of every child, early teen, teen, youth and student who regularly attends, occasionally attends, and rarely attends – even used to attend. Every young person

that you know should be on that list. The reason is that we're human beings and we forget. Unless we are able to look at a list of people, we will forget someone.

On the list you want to include the following **(be mindful of data protection laws in your country – this may vary)**

- Contact information: Name, full address, mobile number, email address
- Network (Page or/and group) on facebook

- If the person on the list is not active, you want to include what they use to attend
 - o Pathfinders/AY/children's Sabbath school/sports
 - o Who were they friends with? / who did they hang out with when they attended?

- You want to indicate whether or not they are baptised (i.e. member of a local church)
 - o This way you can also keep track of whether a young person or student has transferred their membership, while arriving and/or leaving

Your list could look something like this:

Children/Teens/Youth/Students								
Name	Address	Post code	City	Mobile	Email	Status (last seen/last contacted)	What did they attend?	Member of which congregation?

Also, be sure to coordinate your list with lists from neighbouring churches, as well as the local conference.

Remember, a list does not get young people to know Jesus, but it makes you capable of which young people are closest to you.

3. Welcome pack

A CORE church has a welcome pack. In this you want to include various things that you think could be helpful to a new student moving to your area. A welcome pack could include:

- Extra pair of socks
- Coupons for the local grocery store
- Bus plan
- Church bulletin
- Hand written welcome note
- £ 5 note
- Phone number of the local youth elder
- Information about the youth activities at the church
- Directions to the local grocery stores and fast food restaurants
- List of ministries that the student can take part in

It is important that the welcome pack is specific to whether or not the student is already a member. If the student is not yet baptised, you do not want to assume that they want three different areas of responsibility right away.

Remember, the list is not set in stone. Adapt it to your local setting.

4. Sabbath opening of the school year

Remember to make this Sabbath special. At the same time, do not do something that you know will make the new students disappointed next Sabbath. Do something that *you* can do.

Example order of service (fairly traditional)

Welcome

(Skip the organ playing at the beginning)

Make sure the students are recognised straight away

(Do not make them stand unless you know they will be comfortable doing so)

Opening Prayer

Opening Song/Hymn

Announcements

(Show that you know how to use powerpoint, or at least prioritise – do not read everything up from the church bulletin, if all of the new students have already gotten one of these in their welcome packs)

Next songs or hymn

Children's story (do not neglect the children, even though it's student emphasis)

Hymn/Song

Special item (be sure this is not the first time this year that you've had one)

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Sermon

This is your big opportunity to make an impression on the new students. Don't bring in a big-shot guest speaker. Show that you know how to speak to them. Be creative, use illustrations, but by all means – say something that has a practical meaning on Tuesday. Make sure the theology is deep, but at the same time – be relevant! Also, be confident, they will be back next week, so do not go on forever. Stay and talk with them afterwards.

Closing hymn/song

Benediction

5. Student tracking system

Set aside a significant amount of time bi-annually at your local church board meeting to go through your list and update it.

Be sure you are systematic in contacting, visiting, and personally inviting young people to church activities. But above all, it is about having relationships with them. They do not care what you know until they know that you care.

Be in contact with other pastors and the local conference youth department – coordinate in your area, so there is a system in place and you do not first realise two months after somebody moved that they are now in your area.

This is something you cannot do alone, but you need help from others.