

TEEN CHALLENGE of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

GENERAL INFORMATION
AND
INDUCTION GUIDELINES



Effective Date: 8/1/11

General Information and Induction Guidelines

When contacting a Teen Challenge Center for assistance, it is important that the individual who needs help makes the contact themselves. There is an application, as well as other necessary paperwork, and an interview that **must be completed by the applicant**. A health screening is also required. In the event it is determined that the contacted program is not in the best interest of an applicant, a referral will be provided to another program or programs that offer the most effective and appropriate services to the applicant. Please check our website, www.teenchallenge.org or www.teenchallengeusa.com for additional information or facility locations.

Please read this entire form for important information.

What is the Teen Challenge program?

The Teen Challenge program is designed to help men and women find a meaningful answer to the problems, habits, addictions and conflicts that control them.

Whom does Teen Challenge help?

Any person eighteen years of age or older who has a drug and/or alcohol related life-controlling problem and has a sincere desire to change.

- 1) **Drug habit:** Consistent use and abuse over a long period of time.
- 2) **Alcohol habit:** Consistent use and abuse over a long period of time.
- 3) **Emotional problems:** Problems that stem from drug and alcohol abuse. Others will be considered on an individual basis.
- 4) **Behavioral problems:** Problems due to lack of taking responsibility, lack of self-discipline, lack of motivation, lack of self-esteem and laziness. (drug and/or alcohol related)

If it is determined that this program is not in the best interest of an applicant, a referral will be provided to another program or programs that offer the most effective and appropriate services to the applicant.

What does the Teen Challenge Program offer?

Teen Challenge is concerned with the "total person". The program structure is aware of each person's spiritual, mental, physical, social and, educational needs.

- Spiritually:** Teen Challenge deals with a person's problems as symptoms that relate to deeper problems and conflicts. Zeroing in on a person's spiritual needs is when and where real healing in that life begins. Instead of "copping out" they find, through faith in Christ, the changing power that gives the ability to cope with problems and live a more effective life.
- Mentally:** The rebuilding of an abused mind is of key importance. The consistent study of the Bible enhances mental growth by serving as the foundation for the restructuring of broken-down thought patterns, creating new, more stable ways of life.
- Physically:** Teen Challenge cares for such needs on a long-term basis. Assistance is provided for shelter, food, clothing and recreation.
- Socially:** Through the benefits of a group living situation, students work out relationship problems to more successfully relate to family and peers. Such interaction promotes a strong character of moral fiber and right attitudes and desires.
- Educationally:** Through collective efforts with local school districts, those who have not completed high school have the opportunity to complete their high school education or earn their General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

How does the Teen Challenge Program work?

Since Teen Challenge was founded in 1958, it has developed a six-phase program; in which the residential and re-entry program has been noted for its success. Those considering the residential program must be willing to commit twelve to sixteen months to complete it.

Phase 1: Outreach and Evangelism - all Teen Challenge programs carry out this phase in some aspect of their program. Teen Challenge reaches out to those who need help through jail visits, pre-induction chapel services, school assemblies, street rallies, prevention programs and support groups. This phase is the core of the process and the reason why Teen Challenge was birthed. In its very essence, this phase entails going out into the community, seeking those who require the assistance of Teen Challenge, and making them aware that life can be better.

Phase 2: Crisis Assessment and Referral – is the procedure of assisting individuals with the crisis at hand in relation to the use and/or abuse of drugs and alcohol. Then providing them with an appropriate and accurate referral to services that are conducive to his/her needs. Small support groups called "Living Free" minister to those with life-controlling problems and their families. In rare instances, a crisis and referral center may include, in its services, short-term (1-4 weeks) residential care while placement is applied for and readied at an Induction Center. Southern California Teen Challenge does not typically provide residential pre-induction services.

Phase 3: INDUCTION (Three to four months) – The applicant is referred to a residential recovery center. This is the beginning of residential services at Teen Challenge and is the service most commonly referred to when “entering” the program. During this phase the participant will experience all aspects of the program after an initial orientation phase. Withdrawal is achieved without medical assistance. **Teen Challenge is not a medical facility and therefore, it is not a substitute for medical or psychological care. We never advise anyone to stop taking prescribed medications or cancel their doctor’s care.** (Referrals will be provided to another program or programs that offer the most effective and appropriate services to the applicant whenever necessary). The daily routines consist of prayer, devotions, chapel, group studies, personalized studies, chores & work projects, or recreational activities, etc. A foundation in Christ is established prior to students transferring to the next phase.

Residents are under 24-hour care and may not leave the center without supervision. Since the program is very structured, students are not allowed to have outside jobs, attend outside classes, or schedule excessive appointments during their enrollment in the induction or training phase of the program. (We welcome on-sight visits from the probation/parole department. No more than one appointment away from the program per quarter is allowed.)

Phase 4: TRAINING CENTER (eight to twelve months) Upon successful completion of the induction phase, the student is transferred to a training center (in a separate location, usually in another county). This phase trains students in life skills, as well as providing classes in character education. Biblical instruction focuses on teaching Christian moral values, responsibility and dependability. Through collective efforts with the local school district, those who have not completed high school are given the opportunity to complete their high school education or earn their General Equivalency Diploma (GED). The program provides "student to student" interaction during class, work, recreation and free time. Experienced staff members are on hand to help students deal with various problems with care and compassion. At the end of this phase, the student receives a letter of completion but must go on to achieve 4 months of Successful Christian Living in order to receive a diploma. (Students can participate in an optional intern program to complete their 4 months of Successful Christian Living or go home to their local church)

Phase 5: Re-entry – is offered after graduation if a participant chooses to establish residence in the area of the program instead of going back home. Normally the program consists of part-time help at the Teen Challenge Center and a 6-12 month commitment involving a mentoring relationship, finding a job and pursuing a career, the establishment of a bank account, purchasing an automobile, and other necessary stages towards independence. Graduates of the Teen Challenge program are also offered opportunities to enroll in the Teen Challenge Ministry Institute (TCMI) in preparation for the ministry. Many graduates are serving with distinction as pastors, business people, and highly regarded employees.

Phase 6: Restoration – is the most diverse of the phases at Teen Challenge and is currently available in limited areas. This involves the process of assisting graduates of Teen Challenge who have gone out and experienced some problems or experienced a relapse and require a safe place to recover and regroup. (Not yet widely recognized or adopted as a phase in the TC program, although widely practiced)

THE TEEN CHALLENGE CURRICULUM

The Teen Challenge curriculum is designed to help students discover how life-controlling problems develop and how to avoid such mastering problems. It can also help them learn how to identify the spiritual and emotional conditions that contribute to a problem and assist them along the paths of total recovery. The main goal of these classes is to help the students discover ways to apply Biblical truths to their daily living.

The Teen Challenge classes often include:

How Can I Know I'm a Christian?
A Quick Look at the Bible
Attitudes
Temptation
Successful Christian Living
Growing Through Failure
Christian Practices (Local Church Relationships and Practices)
Obedience to God
Obedience to Man
Anger and Personal Rights
How to Study the Bible
Love and Accepting Myself
Personal Relationships with Others
Spiritual Power and the Supernatural
Personal Studies for New Christians – Scripture Memorization, Character Qualities, Lessons and Devotional Reports that teach foundational truths, goal setting for application, and character development.
Alive in Christ
Solving Life's Problems
Christian Maturity
Prayer and Worship
Responsible Christian (stewardship)
People, Tasks and Goals (leadership)
Tents, Temples and Palaces (Old Testament survey)
The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory (New Testament survey)

The Christian Church in Ministry
Battlefield Of The Mind
The Bait Of Satan
Marriage In The Home

Teachers certified by Teen Challenge teach the classes. Each class may take anywhere from 2 weeks to 3 months to complete, depending on the class and the phase the student is in. Classes are held 2 to 5 times a week, again depending on the class and the phase the student is in. Homework is assigned in each class and the student is given scheduled "study hall" times to complete it.

SOME BASIC RULES YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ENTERING TEEN CHALLENGE

Mail, Phone Calls, & Visits:

All communications and visitations are restricted to immediate family members only. These include grandparents, parents, husband, wife, children, brothers, sisters or immediate in-laws. All other phone numbers and addresses should be left at home.

Mail may be sent and received upon admission. Incoming mail can be sent to the street address of the center where the student is a resident.

Students are eligible for phone calls ten days after arrival. Each student is allowed two ten minute calls per week (during induction phase). Calls may be made collect or with a calling card. The student phone number and phone hours will be given to the student upon arrival.

"Family Day" is scheduled once a month for a visit from immediate family only. Family may bring food and beverages. All visitors are required to honor the Teen Challenge guidelines during their visit. No alcohol or smoking on Teen Challenge property. Dates and times for "Family Day" will be given to the student as the event approaches (off grounds student passes will be given after the student completes the Induction Phase and is transferred to the Training Center).

Dress-code:

Modesty is required. No extreme styles are allowed. Clothing and jewelry may not have sayings, logos or symbols that are suggestive, drug, alcohol, occult, zodiac, new-age or rock related.

Men: Dark slacks, dress shoes, white dress shirts and a tie will be required for choir outings and/or special events. Nice casual dress clothes

may be worn to Church. Nice jeans or walking shorts may be worn to class. Each student must be completely dressed at all times, including shoes and socks. Also, a robe or large bath towel must be worn to and from the showers. No long hair, beards or extreme styles. No shaved heads. Absolutely no earrings, plugs or body piercing jewelry are permitted.

Women: Mid-knee dresses or skirts are required for Church. Walking shorts are allowed during specific times. No revealing neck or back lines; no slits above the knee; no bare midriff or tight fitting clothing will be permitted. A bra is required. A slip is also required to be worn with all dresses and skirts. A Robe and house shoes are also required. Only two earrings allowed at a time. Absolutely no ear cartilage, plugs or body piercing jewelry are permitted.

Upon Admission: A complete check-in search of all belongings will be conducted immediately upon arrival. **All unauthorized materials will be confiscated.**

No smoking, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs, no mood or mind altering medications, no narcotic or detox medications are allowed on Teen Challenge property. **Teen Challenge is not a medical facility and therefore, it is not a substitute for medical or psychological care. We never advise anyone to stop taking prescribed medications or cancel their doctor's care.** (Referrals will be provided to another program or programs that offer the most effective and appropriate services to the applicant whenever necessary). Furthermore, aspirins, cold medicines, vitamins (a multi-vitamin only) and prescription medications will be kept in a locked cabinet in the office and administered by the staff.

During the induction phase, all money will be kept in a student account. Money will be given out as needed for personal items such as toiletries, stationery, needed clothing, etc. Money may be sent to the student or dropped off at the center where the student is a resident. **No personal checks. ONLY Cash or Postal money order will be accepted.** Money orders should be made payable to the student - **not** Teen Challenge. Money orders can be cashed at a local check cashing facility. We prefer families send "care packages" with the toiletries or clothing the student needs rather than money.

Portable radios and CD players are allowed only to enhance Christian growth. The Women's home has their own; please do not bring any to the Women's home. No headphones will be permitted. No secular music will be allowed. Only Christian "Praise & Worship" music will be allowed during the induction phase.

No books, magazines or other personal reading material, other than a Bible, concordance or dictionary will be permitted.

Only photographs of immediate family members are allowed.

Do not bring gum, sodas or any other food items. Absolutely no food will be kept in the students rooms other than individually wrapped hard candies in a sealed container. No eating any food items in the dorms.

Conversation at Teen Challenge should be positive in nature. No jail talk, drug talk, street slang, gossiping, cursing, backbiting or sharing of past experiences that is not uplifting in nature will be allowed.

What is required to apply for the Residential Program?

Because Teen Challenge is offered without charge to those who need our help, we ask that only those who fit into the following categories apply:

- Must have a sincere desire to change your lifestyle.
- Must have a desire for what Teen Challenge has to offer.
- Must have a willingness to follow all of the Teen Challenge rules and guidelines.

What are the application guidelines?

Before admission:

Fill out an application and complete the interview process.

Settle all legal matters.

Complete all medical and dental treatments.

Make arrangements for the safe care of any children during the 12-month commitment.

Show proof of the necessary items on the **prerequisite list**.

Prerequisite list:

Social Security card or a receipt showing you recently applied for one.

Valid Picture ID card, Driver's License or Passport or a receipt showing you recently applied for one.

A copy of any vehicle registration if in the name of the applicant.

A copy of paycheck stubs if employed within 60 days prior to induction.

A bank statement verifying any current or recently closed bank accounts.

Terminate all Welfare and/or Unemployment benefits and show proof.

A completed Teen Challenge application.

A complete physical exam including: a **general physical**, a **TB**, HIV, Hep, and VD test (also a pregnancy test for women).

SSI or Disability benefit papers stating the reason why you are receiving said income and how much you are receiving.

A copy of your marriage license if married.

Return bus fare to the city of origin.

