

ACOLYTE / CROSS BEARER PROGRAM

INFORMATION

Note: Please direct questions on this program to:
Pam Lucas, 248-417-7876, email pjlucas53@sbcglobal.net

1. Where do I find the Sign up Genius website?

Go to the Confirmation section of the church website.

You DO NOT have to be a member of Signup Genius. If you forget the link, just go to www.signupgenius.com, click on "Find a Signup", click on 'Search by Email', enter Mrs. Lucas' email address (see above) and the random letters as requested (these are case sensitive); that will take you to the Redeemer link.

2. The date I want to serve is already filled up. What can I do?

If you have a special day on which you want to serve (i.e., a birthday or anniversary), sign up early. There are plenty of times available, but it is a first-come system. Remember there are times available at 9:00 and 10:30, and also Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and the Wed. evening Lenten services. Also, check the schedule frequently, as there can be cancellations.

3. The Confirmation program is over in the beginning of May, and I am not signed up to acolyte until the middle of May. Will those dates still count towards this years' service requirement?

Yes. The Confirmation Program Director is given an acolyte schedule which goes through May, and takes those hours into consideration for the acolyte service requirement, and for the general service hour requirement. However, you will then be obligated to make sure and keep that commitment.

4. Will someone remind me when I have signed up?

We are using the Sign-up Genius website, which will generate an automatic email reminder. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PROVIDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, as this is the only notice which you will receive. The Sign-up Genius webpage will be the only source to access the schedule.

5. I signed up for a time, and then found out that I can't do it that day. What do I do?

Please delete your name from the on-line schedule as soon as you know you can't serve on the date/time for which you signed up. That way someone else will be able to sign up for it. If it is really last minute, do you have a brother or sister who can help? A close friend you could call? If not, notify Mrs. Lucas, even if it is Sunday morning, and arrangements can be made for a replacement. You will then be required to make up the commitment on another date (if you have not already met the requirement).

6. What happens if I am late?

If you are late, a substitute will be requested from someone in the congregation. You will be asked to go back and sit with your family in church, and you will not receive service credit. You will need to sign up for another time. "Late" means not ready to go by 10 minutes before the start of the service.

7. What type of dress is considered not appropriate?

It is requested that you would wear to acolyte whatever you would normally wear to church. The robes will cover most of what you are wearing, but we do ask that the boys do not wear shorts. If you must wear tennis shoes, please make sure they are your good ones! Girls, it is preferred that you don't wear your strappy sandals. **The general rule is, if you are wearing a robe, your toes should not show.** Please NO FLIP FLOPS – GIRLS OR BOYS. It is the discretion of the Acolyte Coordinator to determine if your attire is inappropriate, and you may be asked to make a change of attire or to serve another time.

8. Can I acolyte for one of the Chapel services?

The acolyte program has been set up for Sanctuary services, which are more formal than the Chapel services. There will be plenty of available opportunities during the 9:00, 10:30 and special services. If there are extenuating circumstances, please make special arrangements with the Acolyte Coordinator and Confirmation Program Director.

9. Can I sign up for more than the required number of times?

Please limit the initial sign-up to the required number of times. After everyone has a chance to sign up, there will be LOTS more opportunities. In fact, we will encourage you to sign up for as many times as you would like.

10. My older sibling has already been confirmed. Can he/she serve with me? What about my younger sibling?

Absolutely! We encourage the senior high school students to participate, and hope that once you are confirmed you may want to serve as well. However, priority is given to the Confirmation students who need to fulfill the requirement. If you have a younger sibling who is very interested, please contact the Acolyte Coordinator for additional information and training options.

11. I worked at VBS and completed all my service hours. Do I still need to acolyte?

Yes. While Acolyte service counts towards total service hours, you will still need to full the requirement (3 times for 2nd and 3rd year, 2 times for 1st year students), even if your other service hours are all done.

12. When will I be trained?

Training will begin shortly after commencement of the fall Confirmation classes, and will be held during Small Group sessions immediately following snack time. Training will begin with acolyte training for the 1st year students, and continue at a later time with cross bearer training for 2nd and 3rd year students. You will notified in advance by the Acolyte Coordinator when your acolyte training is scheduled.

For 2nd and 3rd year students who have not had cross bearer training, it is **YOUR responsibility** to notify the Coordinator that training is needed and make arrangements for it prior to the date of service. There is not always time for training immediately before a service.

Training sessions are typically scheduled once or twice a month, and will be determined based on the date you have signed up to serve, so that the training will be not more than 2-3 weeks prior to your service date. All students should feel free to re-take training at any time, and please feel free to contact the Acolyte Coordinator with any questions you may have.

Banner and flag bearing will be conducted on an individual basis.

13. I haven't had training yet, and I am scheduled soon. What should I do?

Contact the Acolyte Coordinator, and arrangements can be made to do training at a mutually convenient time, usually Sunday morning immediately following the 9:00 service. We encourage training to take place on a date prior to your service date.

14. I carried the banner or flag for one of the services. Does this still count?

Yes, the Acolyte Program encompasses not only lighting the candles, but also cross bearing, banner and flag bearing. Any one of these activities will count as one hour of service, and any combination will satisfy the requirement. It is not required that you do one of each.

15. My family signed up for the Family Advent Candle during Advent. Does that count towards the service requirement?

This will only count if you have also signed up to acolyte or be a cross bearer on that date.

16. Can I still do a sermon report if I am serving as an acolyte?

Yes, the Acolyte Coordinator will make sure that you have available the sermon report forms, sharpened pencils, a clipboard and a bulletin. If you wish to have other items please place them on your chair prior to the service. However, if you are serving as an acolyte, you will not be able to leave after the sermon for sermon report assistance.

17. I can't remember how many times I have served the Acolyte Program. How can I find out how many more times I need to serve?

The Acolyte Coordinator maintains a master schedule showing dates served and future dates scheduled. This is provided to the Director of the Confirmation Program, as well as the Records Coordinator, on a regular basis. The Sign-up Genius website will also show the full year's schedule.

The Master Service List is also available from past years. If you ever need to provide proof of community service for a school or scouting requirement, please contact the Acolyte Coordinator anytime in the future, and information for all of your past Acolyte service can be provided.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THIS PROGRAM!