

Youth & Family Ministries

Youth Ministries at St Mark's are best understood as an umbrella that covers many activities and events, some of which are directly overseen by the Director of Youth Ministries (DYM) and others of which are under the direction of certain Pillars.

Director of Youth Ministries and Youth Ministries Council

The activities and events that comprise "Youth & Family Ministries" at St. Marks are vast, various, and evolving. They constitute as extensive a part of the church's communal life as do the Pillars and, as a result, are most manageable when overseen by a staff-level Director and a two-part Youth Ministries Council (YMC) composed of a Youth Ministries Board and a series of action teams charged with executing individual events (see "YMC Action Teams").

Worship

St Mark's children and youth have the opportunity to participate in weekly worship services as Acolytes, Beadles, and Lay Servers, depending on their age. Sunday School classes and other youth groups are also given an opportunity, from time to time, to write parts of the liturgy in conjunction with other projects.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Co-Directors have creative and administrative oversight of Sunday School. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has its own leadership but, both it and the "Functionally" taught 4-12 grade program are not in the portfolio of the DYM.

Music and the Arts

St Mark's has a Children's Choir (grades 1-3); Boys & Girls Choir (grades 4-8); and Chancel Choir (which includes qualified high school students). The St Mark's Players, our resident theater company, also provide artistic opportunities for our youth.

Youth Ministries Board

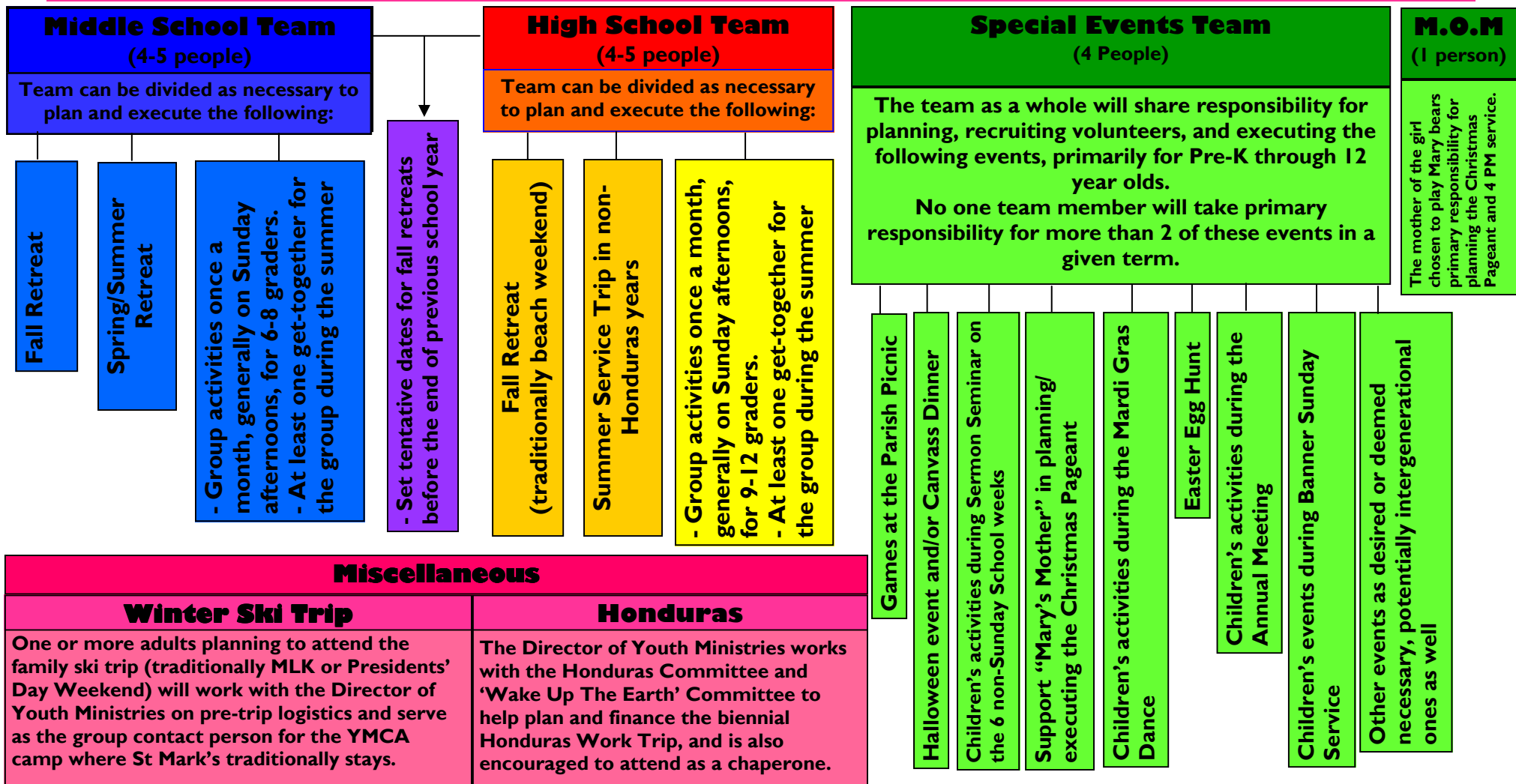
The Youth Ministries Board (YMB) is chaired by the DYM and is composed of the Vestry Liaison for Youth and no more than six other individuals representing a) the different five Pillars and b) the whole spectrum of parish youth, ranging from nursery to high school. The YMB serves as a trustee of the Youth Ministries Program and communicates the needs of the program to the Pillars, Vestry, and community at-large.

YMC Action Teams

The following Teams work in conjunction with the Director of Youth Ministries to provide our children and youth with year-round opportunities to engage with each other and to reap the full benefits of the vibrant and loving community fostered by St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill. Team members serve for a term of one year. Additional volunteers for individual events will be recruited at the Youth Ministries Lunch each fall and throughout the year, as needed.

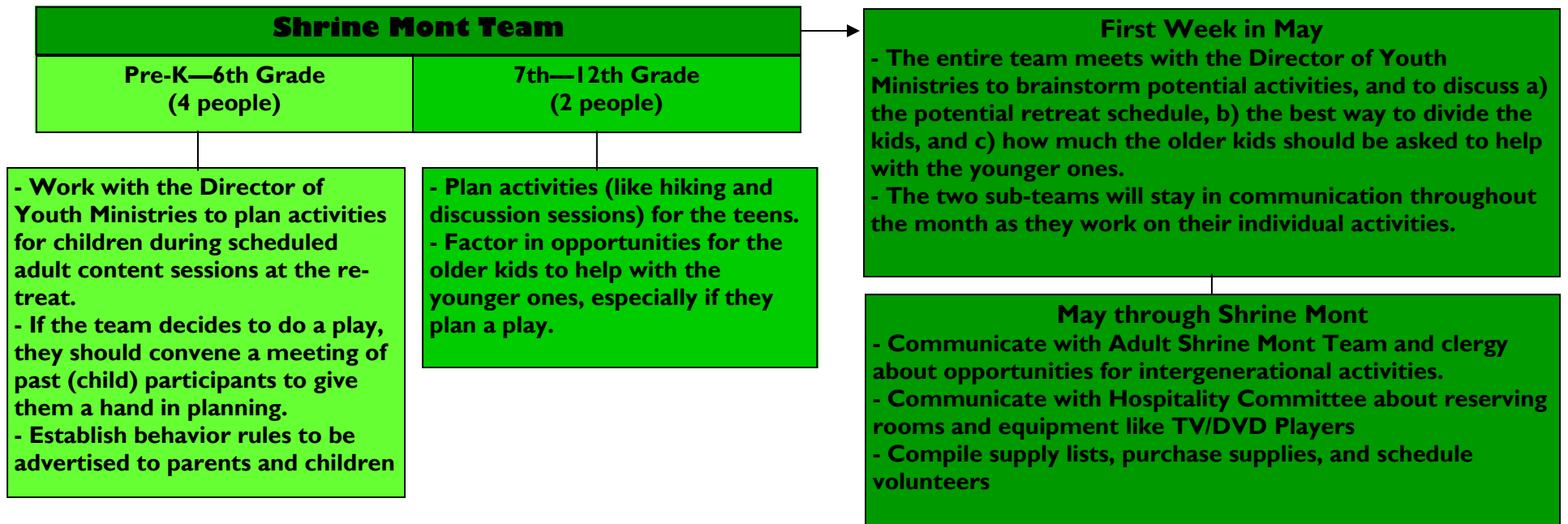
September to September Teams

While the periods of high-activity will ebb and flow with the calendar, the members of these teams will serve for 12 months. Each team will meet formally with the Director of Youth Ministries once a quarter and correspond as necessary to accomplish their duties.



Late Spring/Summer Teams

Summer is a weird and wonderful time at St. Mark's, punctuated for children and youth by the opportunities offered by the Shrine Mont retreat in June and Summer Sunday School activities from mid-June through mid-August. The following teams will meet as a whole with the Director of Youth Ministries in the late spring to begin brainstorming potential activities, establish divisions of labor, and identify extra volunteer needs. They will serve from that time thru the duration of the event and help to recruit the following year's team.



Summer Sunday School Team

(3 people + Director of Youth Ministries)

Late Spring:

- Brain-storm and plan a basic curriculum for the summer and begin to map-out topics for each week. It helps to have an over-arching theme or project.
- Establish point-persons for each Sunday in the session (traditionally 10-weeks long). Only one team member needs to be scheduled for each session. The team is encouraged to support each other, but external volunteers should be utilized.
- Start writing lesson plans and making supply lists, keeping in mind that the 4th Sunday of every month the kids can spend half the period helping with Grate patrol (bag lunch prep).
- Make announcements in Church and on the Web for weekly volunteers

June:

- Finalize lesson plans for first 4 weeks
- Finalize volunteer sign-up
- The first Summer Sunday School class is 10:00-11:00 the Sunday following the Shine Mont retreat.

July-August

- Classes usually run through the third week in August.
- Announcements should be made reminding parents of the 2-3 week gap between the end of Summer Sunday School and the regular session.