



Introductory Information Packet

Dear Applicant,

Welcome to Faith Home Teen Challenge. We are a Christian discipleship ministry which focuses on adults with life-controlling problems. We were established in Turlock, CA in 1989 and are an accredited member of Teen Challenge International, USA, which was started in 1958. Our sincere desire is to help you in your time of need. But to do this, we need your total honesty and cooperation to help us determine how we can be of assistance to you at this time.

I. THE PROGRAM

Teen Challenge is a holistic program which ministers to the whole person: spirit, soul, and body. We believe the basic root problem for all mankind is their separation from God, their Creator and Savior. Teen Challenge emphasizes a spiritual foundation to each person's life, which is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. With the Spirit of God in a believer, they are encouraged to nurture and develop their new relationship with Christ through such avenues as prayer, worship, reading, studying, and memorizing of Scripture, wholesome fellowship, etc.

Through biblical counseling, prayer, and a specifically created Teen Challenge curriculum, the Teen Challenge staff endeavor to help each student to identify and overcome spiritual and emotional issues in their lives that they need to be set free from or healed of so they can advance in their relationship and walk with the Lord.

Once they are made alive spiritually and begin the process of discipleship, becoming whole and like Christ, then it affects every other aspect of their being – emotionally, academically, socially, and physically.

This transformation process is from the inside out, dealing with the hearts of men and women and the real root issues of their behavior, not just the outward symptoms. People will not long behave contrary to their beliefs so the core matter is to change what they believe about God and how they view themselves. As they begin to understand who Christ is, what He has done for them, and who they now are in Christ, their thoughts, words, and actions will slowly change to live up with their new faith.

This biblical transformation process is so profound and effective for men and women who seriously surrender themselves to Christ and apply themselves, that Teen Challenge has been repeatedly found to be the most successful ‘drug program’ in the world today.

But we do not consider ourselves a ‘drug program’. We are a Christian discipleship program for those with life-controlling problems. Discipleship is a process, not a program. But the Teen Challenge program initiates this process until the student can be safely transferred to a local church, which will enable them to continue to grow and be used of the Lord to help others.

Teen Challenge does not provide the clinical setting of a ‘drug program’. There’s no treatment plan for the students to work on. There’s no easy two-step, five-step, or twelve-step plan to freedom from one’s addictions. There’s no plan or steps to ‘work’. We cannot ‘work’ our way to salvation or freedom in Christ. But what is offered is so much deeper, more loving, and lasting an eternal personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the family of God to walk with them through the ups and downs of their earthly journey.

But as a holistic ministry, Teen Challenge does have a work therapy aspect to its overall program. Every student is required to participate in this work therapy program as an essential element of the life-training process Teen Challenge offers. It addresses the importance of work assignments in helping to build the Biblical values of a work ethic and the character of a responsible and upright individual. The students perform their work assignments not as an employee of Teen Challenge but solely for their benefit to further their spiritual growth, character development, and readiness to return to the workplace. Thus, students do not receive compensation of any kind in exchange for the performance of any work assignments.

II. FINANCIAL COSTS

As a Christ-Centered ministry we neither ask for, nor receive, any government funding. We ask that each student provide \$500.00 per month of support personally or through family, friends or church to offset the \$2000.00 to \$2500.00 per month cost per each student. If a prospective student cannot provide the entire \$500.00, we do have scholarship

opportunities that can be applied for that will provide assistance. Students are required to participate in a variety of staff-supervised enterprises including our lawn service, car washes, painting service, farming and various other work opportunities for which the students are hired by individuals and businesses in the community. These enterprise work assignments provide job skills training, encourage a good work ethic and enable students to become financially responsible by providing them the opportunity to pay a portion of the cost of their own tuition (II Thess. 3:10). The income generated by these enterprises contributes to, but cannot meet actual expenses. The remainder of our financial needs must be met by numerous fundraising events and by the faithfulness of churches, businesses and individuals- people who share the burden and the vision God has for this ministry.

III. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- a. Assessment Interview: While waiting for a staff member to interview you please read this introductory material and fill out the Assessment/Interview form. If you need help, ask for assistance.
- b. Preparation for Admission List: After your interview, if you are wishing to enroll and are accepted into the Teen Challenge program, you will normally be asked to do a few things before moving in to prepare you for an undistracted and successful stay here.
 - i. In preparation you should:
 - 1. Get a physical exam and have the Medical Form completed by the examining doctor and return it to us prior to or at the time of your admission. If you have any major health problems, please have them taken care of prior to your entry. If you are 21 years of age or under you may need to apply for Medical, depending upon your circumstances, in order to have your exam and lab tests covered.
 - 2. Take care of all custody issues regarding children must be resolved prior to entrance into the program.
- c. With certain guidelines, we will accept those who are court mandated to enter a drug program.
- d. If you are on probation or parole it will be your responsibility while in the program to notify your Probation or Parole Officer of any address changes, of all home visits, when you are exiting the program (2 weeks in advance) and to send monthly reports. Faith Home Teen Challenge has agreed to notify your Probation or Parole Officer when you transfer to another Teen Challenge Center or when you leave the Program.

- e. Put all your affairs in order. This could mean, storing your belongings, parking a car, or any number of things. However, try to resolve these as quickly as possible, or have someone take responsibility of them for you.
- f. You will not be allowed to deal with any marital or custody issues once you've entered the program, unless it has been declared at the time of your assessment interview. The only exception to this is if you are brought into a court issue against your will.
- g. If you need to detox, Teen Challenge only offers the 'cold turkey' approach (without medication). If you want medication, you will need to be detoxed before you enter the program here. Please come to the program clean and sober at the day of admission.
- h. If you are currently taking a mood-altering medication, explain what it is and why you're taking it in the interview. If it is unacceptable in our program, you'll be asked to get the clearance from your doctor to discontinue its use. Before you could enter Teen Challenge, you would need to be off of the medication, stabilized and bring us a letter by your doctor stating that you are emotionally and medically fit to enter the Teen Challenge program. If the medication you're taking is acceptable for us in Teen Challenge, you'll be asked to obtain a letter from your doctor who prescribed it to explain to us why the medication is needful for you and how long you need to take it.
- i. Bring with you a picture ID, birth certificate, or Social Security card and proof of your high school graduation or the completion of a GED course, if applicable. If you do not have these, try to apply for these and have them mailed to you at the center. You can use the center address as a mailing address but not as a permanent address.
- j. You will need to arrive with the amount of \$100 non-refundable fee needed for a return ticket home in case if you decide to leave or are asked to leave by the Teen Challenge staff.
- k. If you currently receive General Assistance, Food Stamps, or State Disability, these will need to be cancelled when you enter Teen Challenge. If you are receiving SSI, you may continue to receive this while in Teen Challenge, but we will ask that you pay \$500 per month towards the expense of your care. (This is only one third of the actual cost of your care.)

I. Waiting List:

- i. If the center is full at the time of your interview and you desire to enroll in the program and are accepted, you may be placed on a waiting list. You will be asked to call in weekly at the time specified during your interview. When you call, let us know of your progress in completing the requirements for admission. If you miss one week's call you will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list. If you miss two calls, you will be removed, until you call again. At that point, we may require another interview. As soon as there is an opening for you, we'll call you and let you know.
- ii. If you are incarcerated, you will be asked to write every two weeks letting us know of your interest to get in to the program and to keep us updated on your release date. If you miss writing, you will be removed from the list until we hear from you again. At that time, we may require you to go through the assessment process again

Be sure to discuss any of these items that apply to you during your interview. Our goal is to admit you into the program as quickly as possible so you can get the help you need.

Once these issues are taken care of and you're ready to move in, give us a call. At that time the Admissions Coordinator will tell you when to arrive and work out any last minute details with you.

IV. **Orientation:** Upon entry, you will receive an orientation and will enter into a minimum of a 30 days "Probationary Phase".

- a. Once you have successfully completed the Probationary Phase, you will enter into the long-term phase of the Teen Challenge program. **The length of the program will be approximately 12 to 16 months to grow through this intense discipleship program.**

V. **PREREQUISITE FOR ADMISSION INTO TEEN CHALLENGE**

A personal readiness to change one's lifestyle is needed. Teen Challenge is not just a place to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It is not simply a "drug program" or an

“alcohol program”. One must be teachable and ready to lay aside their past habits and lifestyles, to follow Christ.

You must be open to making this change by way of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Since Teen Challenge is a Christian discipleship program its entire program is Christ-centered.

Agree to abide by the Teen Challenge policies and guidelines, for the time required for you to complete the program.

Complete the entrance process and be accepted into the program.

VI. POLICIES

Teen Challenge is here for you. We are a Christian Discipleship ministry designed to help people with life-controlling problems. In the assessment interview honestly share your situation with the staff member who will be assisting you. They will in turn explain some different options, which may be available to you. We will assist you in making this very important decision. So please read carefully and prepare any questions you may have.

Teen Challenge is a highly structured program starting with wake-up at 6:00 a.m. The days are filled with devotions, Group Studies Classes, and Personal Studies Classes. The non-class times are spent in the Work Experience part of the program. The evenings are busy with church attendance (on the ranch) and various other events ending around 8:30 p.m. Free time is generally between 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm with Personal Studies/Quiet Time at 9:30 pm and lights off at 10 pm. You will receive a “Student Policies” manual when you enter the center. But here are some basic rules to understand:

- i. Any refusal to cooperate with the policies identified in this Student Policies manual.
- ii. No swearing, foul language, or coarse joking is permitted (II Tim. 2:16)
- iii. No "street talk" (glorifying in the sins of the past)
- iv. No "play fighting" or wrestling (Eph. 5:4)
- v. Any probation/parole restriction or limitation imposed by the courts and/or legal systems will be honored and followed by the student who is placed under these demands while he is attending this program. He will be expected to be in full compliance.
- vi. No covering up of conduct unbecoming of a person desiring to change their life. The terms and peer pressure inferred by the words “snitch”, “rat” etc. will not be tolerated.
- vii. No bullying of any form will be tolerated. This can be grounds for an immediate dismissal.
- viii. If you conflict with another student, follow the instructions in “CONFRONTATIONS” in this Student Policies manual.

- ix. Non-participation or refusal to complete the class work
- x. Refusal to do the daily chores or complete the work in a satisfactory manner.
- xi. Causing damage purposely to the facility or ranch property
- xii. Overly aggressive arguing with another student
- xiii. Being repeatedly spoken to about the same matter without an attitude or action change
- xiv. Not following the policies
- xv. Use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any substance considered to be harmful to you, the ministry or the ranch.
- xvi. Failure to successfully complete a phase after steps has been taken to assist you with problem areas.

VII. PASSES

a. Probationary Phase

- i. This period is a minimum of one to two months in length. If you come from another Teen Challenge Crisis Center your blackout time will be for a minimum of two weeks. You are not officially part of the program until you finish the probation period. This gives both you and the staff time to see if this program is what you need at this time. During this time, students are not allowed to have any visitors, nor make or receive any phone calls, except in an emergency. Permission must be given by staff on duty and your Advisor. Only correspondence by mail with immediate family is allowed. Incoming mail will be opened, but not read by staff, until you reach the Induction Phase.

b. Induction Phase

- i. After 60 days Induction Phase students are allowed one 5-hour pass per month.
 - 1. These passes can be taken on Sunday from 1 pm - 6 pm or on Tuesday from 4:30 pm - 9:30 pm.
- ii. Upon your return from any pass you must check in with the staff on duty before proceeding to your room.

c. Training Phase

- i. You are now eligible to have two weekend passes away from the Ranch in non-consecutive months. These weekends will be scheduled by staff and posted in the JH hallway and/or staff office.
- ii. Your plans for the weekend must be in writing and cleared ahead of time by your Advisor. These requests are due on the Center Supervisor's desk by 8:00 am the Tuesday before your pass. Obtain the forms from the staff office. The time allotted for the weekend pass is from Friday at 4:00

pm to Sunday at 4:00 pm, or as set by the Center Supervisor. When returning from pass, all monies over \$10 must be turned in on Monday to the bank.

- iii. Upon your return from any pass you must check in with the staff on duty before proceeding to your room.

d. Reentry Prep Phase

- i. In this phase a student is given Sunday as a day off from 8 am to 4 pm. They are required to attend a morning church service and provide their advisor with a bulletin from that service.
- ii. In this phase a student is allowed a weekend pass once a month from Friday 4:00 pm to Sunday 4:00 pm. The same policies apply upon your return as in the two previous phases.

VIII. WHAT TO BRING (Space is limited so please limit what you bring to two suitcases.)

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| i. Bible (NIV, NKJ, NLT) | xii. Notebook |
| ii. Birth certificate | xiii. Pens |
| iii. CA Picture ID | xiv. Razors (electric razor) |
| iv. Social Security Card | xv. Shampoo |
| v. Belt | xvi. Shower sandals |
| vi. Collared dress shirts
(one white) | xvii. Soap |
| vii. Casual pants | xviii. Socks |
| viii. Casual shoes | xix. Stamps or envelopes |
| ix. Deodorant | xx. Ties |
| x. Dress pants | xxi. Toothbrush |
| xi. Hair products | xxii. Toothpaste |
| | xxiii. Towel & wash cloth |

IX. WHAT NOT TO BRING

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| i. Items CANNOT contain any alcohol! | ix. Unapproved Printed materials |
| ii. Any electrical device | x. Matches, lighters, etc. |
| iii. Cell phone, MP3, iPod, Radios etc. | xi. Mouthwash etc. with alcohol |
| iv. ATM, EBT, Gift, or Credit cards | xii. Pets |
| v. Personal vehicles | xiii. Skateboards |
| vi. Drug/alcohol related clothing | xiv. Valuables |
| vii. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco | xv. Weapons |
| viii. Gang related clothing | xvi. Knives, any item deemed hazardous to other students. |

X. SCHEDULE (THIS IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT REFLECT THE CURRENT DAILY SCHEDULE)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Saturday	Sunday
6:00 AM			Wake Up			6:00 AM	6:00 AM Wake up	Wake Up / Breakfast 7:00 AM
6:15 AM			Meds			6:15 AM	6:15 AM Meds	
6:30 AM			Breakfast			6:30 AM	6:30 AM Breakfast	Meds / Chores 7:30 AM
7:00 AM			Ranch Chores			7:00 AM	7:00 AM Chores	
7:30 AM			Prayer & Devotions			7:30 AM	7:30 AM Devotions	Dress for Church 8:00 AM
8:00 AM			Chapel			8:00 AM		Devotions 8:45 AM
8:30 AM			GSNC			8:30 AM		Gather up 9:15 AM
10:00 AM			Break			10:00 AM		Church 10:00 AM
10:15 AM			PSNC		Rnch Wrk and Enter.	10:15 AM		Lunch 12:30 PM
11:45 AM			Break			11:45 AM		Family Visits / Free Time 1:00PM - 4:00 PM
12:00 AM			Lunch			12:00 AM		
12:45 PM			Ranch Work and Enterprises			12:45 PM		
3:00 PM			Break			3:00 PM		
3:15 PM			Ranch Work and Enterprises			3:15 PM		
5:30 PM			Clean up & Dinner Prep			5:30 PM		
6:00 PM			Dinner			6:00 PM		
6:30 - 7:00 PM	6:30 PM Study Hall	7:00 PM Center Forum /Choir Practice	7:00 PM Chapel	6:30 PM GED / 7 PM Study Hall	7:00 PM Campus Prayer Meeting	6:30 - 7:00 PM		
8:00 PM			Free Time / Shower Time			8:00 PM		
9:00 PM			Meds			9:00 PM		
9:30 PM			Personal Studies / Quiet Time			9:30 PM		
10:00 PM			Lights Out			10:00 PM		
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Saturday	Sunday

XI. PHONES CALLS

- Students are allowed to communicate by telephone or by mail; only to immediate family members, parents, spouse, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, etc. or approved people on communication list spiritual parents, pastors, attorney, parole or probation officer. You may contact a Christian fiancé or girlfriend from before you started the program with the approval of your advisor. There are no phone calls allowed to or from women you have met while in the program.
 - No phone calls are to be made or received during classes or services.
 - No phone calls may be made on Sunday just to confirm a ride or visit from family.
 - No collect phone calls will be accepted.
- Students should instruct their family members to leave messages on 209-537-0606 ext. 22 if they need to leave a message for the student.
- Phone privileges will increase as the students progresses in the program.

XII. Family Visits

The purpose is to promote family unity. It is important for students to have contact with their families. This day is available to anyone who meets the following criteria:

FAMILY DAY VISITS WILL BE HELD ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH

The schedule for the Day will include;

- a. 1 pm Gathering Time **
- b. 1:15 Family Time
- c. 4:00 pm Chapel (Families encouraged to attend)
- d. Music and Worship
- e. Student Testimonies
- f. The Wrap Up (May conclude with a Baptismal service if weather permits)

** On occasion the men will be away from the ranch on an Outing and will not return until after 1 pm. Compensation for schedule changes will be considered but not promised.

Please understand that your family or friend will not be allowed to visit with you until your Blackout period has been completed.

1. Students must have signed up to have family visits on the Family Day Reservation List posted in the Staff Office. Staff reserves the right to limit the amount of people allowed to visit.
2. Students with a spouse or female friend must meet with their Advisor and fill out permission slip one week prior to the first Family Day visit. The Advisor will present the request to the Center Supervisor for approval.
3. Family members are asked to leave their cell phones in their car until the visit is over. A student in possession of a cell phone for any reason is subject to discipline.
4. Public displays of affection are discouraged during visits.
5. Children are to be supervised always, this includes teenage children.
6. The Staff member(s) on duty have the right to manage crowd control.
7. The staff offices are off limits without staff present.
8. Students are not allowed to infringe on other family's visits without an invitation.
9. The pool gate, the weight area and the door from the sanctuary when not in use by the staff will be locked during Family Day times for safety reasons.
10. Students are not allowed to linger in the front of the buildings.
11. The Ranch is off-limits to persons who are deemed by the staff to be detrimental to the student's recovery (2 Cor. 6:14).
12. Staff reserves the right to ask anyone to leave with or without cause if they deem there is a risk or safety issue that could negatively affect any or all of those present.

Money, Gifts and Valuables

The following policies and procedures shall govern items or money brought to the Ranch by visitors for a student:

1. The student shall request advance approval from staff to accept items brought into the facility by a visitor.
2. All money and gift items brought to students during family visits must be checked-in by staff personnel.
3. Money received by a student shall be placed into his Faith Home Teen Challenge Student Bank Account.
4. Students who accept any item or money directly from a visitor without approval from staff personnel on duty shall be subject to discipline and possible dismissal from the program.

XIII. Outside Communication

1. Student communication by mail or by telephone to persons outside the program shall be considered a privilege and not a right. All communication shall be subject to the discretion of the Advisor, consistent with a student's progress in the program.
2. Student communication privileges shall be refused to those persons outside the program, including immediate family members, who at the discretion of Advisor, are deemed inappropriate or a hindrance to the student in his pursuit of the Lord. All mail must be pre-approved per the "Outside Communication Sheet," as described in the following paragraph.
3. Students are allowed to communicate by telephone or by mail; only to immediate family members, parents, spouse, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, etc. or approved people on communication list spiritual parents, pastors, attorney, parole or probation officer. Christian fiancé or girlfriend from before you started the program.
4. Up to five contacts can be specified on the "Outside Communication Sheet" and these approved contacts may be changed at the student's request. The new contact must likewise meet your Advisor's approval.
5. Any family at the same address can be listed as one "contact". Divorced or separated students shall not be allowed to communicate with their spouse (or ex-spouse) without the permission of their Advisor and the Program Director.
6. Any student wishing to contact an individual in another program must prove substantial reason to do so and receive permission from the Advisors of both parties and supervisory staff as necessary