



Getting Started!

Pastors, youth pastors, and youth leaders:

The adventure of initiating a new program is easier when you have a good road map to follow. The following suggestions provide a map to help you initiate involvement in Talents For Christ (TFC) in your youth group and church.

- **Familiarize yourself with this TFC Participation Packet.** When launching TFC, you will find it beneficial to gain an initial big-picture awareness of TFC's purpose and design. You'll be better able to understand the program and explain it to others.
- **Introduce TFC to your youth ministry workers.** It is important to get your youth workers' support of TFC by showing them the value of this endeavor and how it fits into the other components of your youth ministry. Show the TFC video, explain the benefits of participating in TFC, and share the testimonies of pastors who use TFC in their churches. (See "TFC Builds Ministry Skills" in this Participation Packet.)
- **Recruit coaches.** Seek competent adults in your church who would value the opportunity to coach a young person. Talk to each potential coach individually to help him/her catch the vision for investing in the development of a student in serving the Lord. Before approaching a prospective coach, you might wish to send him/her an introductory

letter (see “Coach’s Letter” in this TFC Participation Packet.) If you are lacking a coach with specific knowledge and experience, a person from a sister church or a believer who is like-minded in doctrine and practice may be willing to assist you.

- **Recruit students.** Give an enthusiastic and thorough introduction of TFC to your students. Show the TFC video, identify the TFC categories, describe the benefits of participation, explain the registration procedure, and tell about upcoming events on the TFC calendar. Present the various types of participation—individual, small group, large group, scholarship, and non-scholarship. Opportunities exist for every student to be involved. Describe the coaching plan and introduce the coaches. Send a follow-up letter to inform and challenge the students. (See “Student Letter” in this TFC Participation Packet.)
- **Meet with parents.** Inform the parents of your students about the opportunity and benefits of TFC. Help parents to realize the value of their children’s participation in TFC and the potential for TFC to develop maturity in their children’s lives. Show the TFC video, identify the TFC categories, describe the benefits of participation, explain the registration procedure, and tell about upcoming events on the TFC calendar. Send a follow-up letter to inform and challenge the parents. (See “Parent Invitation Letter” in this TFC Participation Packet.)
- **Present TFC to the church family.** Get the whole church excited about TFC and supportive of the students’ efforts. Show the TFC video, and ask the church family to pray and encourage the teens as they develop their skills for serving Christ.

- **Launch students in their preparation.** Match students with coaches; explain TFC category rules and TFC registration to coaches, parents, and students; highlight the TFC timeline, including deadline for registration; and assure students of your help and support as they participate in TFC.