



Volunteer Training & Orientation



Theme Scripture: "My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).


Helping people get to know one another and what's expected of them will build retention in your church and makes for happier volunteers. Holding an effective and well-organized training goes a long way toward this goal.

Based on Psalm 23:5-6, the Overflow theme will help your team see that serving brings great rewards. In fact, their cups will "overflow" as they let God's love pour through them to others.

In our Training & Orientation section, we've done the work for you! You'll find a proven plan that will introduce a positive volunteer culture and help people connect. You'll also get tips for what to include in your volunteer orientation time.

Planning Guide

- o Start by reading this entire guide so you'll know what you'll need to print, gather, or prepare. This is a good time to rally your leaders to plan and pray.
- o Download and print the invitations (page 7).
- o For the icebreaker activity, you'll need:
 - 1 small disposable cup for each person
 - assorted wrapped candies
- o Fill each small cup with candy; place extra candy in a large box or basket so it's accessible to anyone who needs additional pieces.
- o You'll also need a humorous video clip. Search YouTube.com, GodTube.com, or DVDs at your local Christian bookstore. The point is simply to give people a chance to laugh together! Check with your church audiovisual team to be sure you are able to play your video during the training event. Here are some ideas:
 - Tim Hawkins ("Hand Sanitizer" is a favorite!)
 - Mark Lowry, "My Church"
 - Bob Stromberg has some fun stuff, too!
- o Set up a white board or flip chart and markers in your meeting area.



Use this training & orientation event with all your volunteers to get everyone moving in the same direction. Or adapt the agenda and have team leaders use in their own ministry areas.





Training & Orientation Session

Begin with an icebreaker—Candy Cups of Affirmation! Give one cup of candy to each person as they arrive.

Say: **Welcome to our volunteer training and orientation! We're so thankful that you'll be part of our team this year. Together we'll let God's love flow through us...to the people in our church and community.**

Let's get better acquainted. Stand up and introduce yourself to someone, and tell how you'll be serving in the coming months. When you're done, give that person a piece of candy from your cup. Meet as many people as you can in 3 minutes. I'll keep time. Go.

Call time after 3 minutes, and have everyone return to their seats.

How many of you have cups that are overflowing? Actually, all of us have overflowing cups because God has filled them with many good things.

I'd like to read Psalm 23:5-6 to you: "My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever."

God has given us so many blessings. In my own life, I think of the blessing of [Insert a personal blessing here; for example: friendships, family, my dog.] What are some of the blessings God has given you? Ask for a few responses.

All these blessings make the "cups" of our lives overflow! Let's take a minute and consider how others in this room are a blessing to us and to others. In a moment I'd like each of you to find a partner and tell that person one thing you appreciate about him or her. It could be a talent you've noticed or their warm smile. Or you may share a Bible verse that would encourage this person. As you talk, give the person a piece of candy from your cup. Then find another person to bless. If you need more candy, come get a refill from this box. (Allow 1 minute, and then call time.)

How many of you still have a full cup? When we bless others, we also receive a blessing. Our cups overflow as we share God's love with others. That's what we hope for you as you start this new season of service. Serving can bring many blessings into our lives! Not that it will always be easy. There may be challenges along the way, but if we remember to do three things, we will find our lives overflowing.



Say: The first thing we need to do is look at the big picture. In 1 Corinthians 12:14, we read: "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ."

We are part of something bigger than ourselves. There may be times when we feel we're on our own or that no one notices what we're doing in our little corner of ministry. But the truth is, we are all connected...to each other and to God's bigger purposes.

According to 1 Corinthians 12, we are all members of the same body, with very unique gifts to share. Let's take a few minutes and talk about that in small groups.

Divide participants into four groups. (You can also discuss as one large group, depending on the size of your group.)

Have each group read a different section of 1 Corinthians 12 and discuss what this means to the team...and to the individual.

Group 1: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Group 2: Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Group 3: Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-17

Group 4: Read 1 Corinthians 12:18-22

Ask the groups to discuss:

- o In the area of serving, how do these verses apply to our team?
- o How do they apply to you personally?

Have each group report back some of their observations.

The second thing we need to do is love with our actions. First John 3:18 says: "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

Love is not just something we talk about; it's something we do. We are the feet and hands of Jesus to the people we serve. Our love will draw people closer to Jesus.

Find a partner and share some specific ways you could show love to others through what you'll be doing in the coming months. Allow 3-5 minutes to share.

To lead into point three, show the funny video you've selected.

The third thing we'll do this year is laugh a lot! In John 15:1, Jesus said "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" Why is it important to have fun while we are serving God? Let participants call out ideas.



Say: What are some things we could incorporate this year to make serving, meetings, and trainings, more fun? Let the participants brainstorm; write the ideas on a white board or flip chart.

These are great ideas to help the joy overflow this year! As we remember to look at the big picture, love with our actions, and laugh a lot, we'll see God work through us in amazing ways.

Be sure to keep the ideas from the brainstorming, and do the ones that are most appropriate and practical for your team!

Orientation Breakouts

Divide into ministry areas or breakout groups for continued training. Insert your own training points here. You can break out by ministry area, tour the facility, review training manuals, watch safety videos, and so on. Specify a time, such as 20 minutes, when everyone should meet back in the common area for a wrap-up closing.

Closing Prayer

Ask everyone to stand.

Say: Cup your hands and hold them out.

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

First Thessalonians 3:12 says, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

Pray: Lord, we long for your love to fill us to the point where we are overflowing into the lives of others. Fill us with joy, peace, and hope.

Say: Hold your hands in fists, as if you're gripping and holding tight.

Joshua 22:5 says, "Love the Lord your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, hold firmly to him, and serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

Pray: Lord, help us to hold firmly to you and to your word. We're thankful that you hold us tightly in your grip, as well.





Say: Hold the hand of someone next to you.

Psalm 37:23-24 says, "The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."

Psalm 63:8 says, "I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely."

Pray: Lord, as we feel the hands of others holding our own tightly, remind us that you are always with us, always holding us securely. We cling to you. We thank you for your strength, your grace, and your love.

Say: Put your hand over your heart.

Psalm 23:5-6 says: "My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever."

Pray: Lord, some of us have heavy hearts due to situations or challenges we are facing. We give those situations to you and ask for your joy instead. May your goodness and unfailing love fill our hearts and lives and overflow onto the lives of others. Amen.



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Bulletin Announcement: Use this wording in your church bulletin, on your website, or on your Facebook page. Simply copy and paste, filling in your own information.

Our Volunteer Training & Orientation will be held
[DATE]_____ at [TIME]_____. If you have not
received an invitation but would like to attend, please contact,
[NAME & E-MAIL/PHONE]_____

There is room for you to be part of the "overflow"
...don't miss out!





THANK YOU!

Thanks for visiting our booth on Overflow Kickoff Sunday. You're invited to attend our upcoming Training & Orientation to learn more about serving.

Training Date:

Time:

Location:

Questions? Please call:

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