



What is the Josiah Project?

The Josiah Project gathers the most gifted young leaders we can find, equips them to respond to God's call, and catapults them into ministry. We are primarily looking for young men and women who are in college and who:

- Possess a solid personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord
- Manifest consistent Christian character
- Show a track record of motivation and ability as servant leaders
- Exhibit intellectual ability and personal responsibility
- Demonstrate giftedness in making God's love contagious (evangelism, preaching, writing, singing, video, etc.)

This project offers participants a one or two-summer program designed to strengthen spiritual life and sharpen leadership skills. We seek students who want to learn about the Kingdom of God, to serve, strategize, plan, and implement ministries accordingly. Employing a specific focus on youth ministry, we intend to create the best possible experience of learning and service in order to prepare collegians for a lifetime of Christian leadership.

Why Josiah?

Josiah was one of the Kings of Judah descended from David. He is the only person described in Scripture as having fulfilled the first and greatest commandment to "love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." When Josiah began his reign, his country was in terrible condition. Oppression, immorality, and decadence had progressively taken hold in Judah as the people of God had fallen deeper and deeper into idolatry. Even the Temple in Jerusalem was filled with the worship of false gods. Josiah took control of the situation, destroying the idols, establishing justice, and turning his entire nation back to God. The Biblical record indicates he initiated these reforms when he was eighteen or nineteen years old.

There are a few "Josiahs" in the world today, young Christian men and women with a deep and sincere love of God who are already turning the world upside down. You may know one of them. You may be one of them. Rock the World Youth Mission Alliance knows we have a responsibility to do everything we can to train, encourage, and release such collegians into ministry now - especially ministry with other young people.

What is the Program?

FIRST SUMMER: Great Commission Basic Training

The group (minimum of 4, maximum of 12) gathers in mid-May and continues until early August. A "La Vida" wilderness retreat at the outset of the project prepares us spiritually as individuals and as a team. For the central part of the summer, our training incorporates the following six components:

1. Biblically sound instruction in Christian leadership and on national and global issues in the mission of the church. We especially focus on the commandments of Christ, evangelism, discipleship, social justice, Christ and culture, and servant leadership.
2. Experiential contextualization of these issues through summer-long placement in a vital ministry with youth and students and short-term mission trips to the Third world and inner city.
3. A worship and devotional life that keeps us walking with God as well as thinking about Him.
4. Analysis of actual ministry experiences & reflection on their impact in others' lives and in ours.
5. Communicating to others what we're learning about the Kingdom of God.
6. Building community in which we can learn about our own gifts by serving with others.

What does that look like?

Orientation: Gather with the Josiah team in Pittsburgh and find out what you've gotten yourself into this summer.

La Vida Wilderness Trip: How does camping, hiking, rock climbing, and a little bit of wilderness grunge sound for getting to know your team?

Youth Ministry Cycle: Learn about Youth Ministry from the experts and then gain practical experience by taking part in the leadership of an evangelistic youth ministry.

Urban Ministry Cycle: Find out what scripture and scholars say about our role in urban ministry. Get involved by serving in an organization that is ministering to an urban population.

Global Mission Cycle: Find out how Christians can do a better job of carrying out the Great Commission. Grab your passport as we give you the chance to share the gospel with people whom Jesus loves in another country.

SECOND SUMMER: Great Commission Maximum Impact

Near the end of the first summer, each participant will decide whether or not to apply for the “advanced level” second summer. Students who choose not to apply (or who are not accepted) finish their basic training by serving in one last field assignment with youth or the inner city. Those accepted for the second summer choose to make a maximum impact for the Kingdom of God in one of two ways: interning in a student/youth ministry led by a Rock the World graduate, or by entering a process to plan a second summer of mission and ministry.

We have a few guidelines for those who design their own second summer—but no limits. It’s all up to you and we will stand behind you all of the way

What does that look like?

Final Deployment/Maximum Impact: Your team is challenged to spend the next summer making the greatest possible impact for the Kingdom of God! For some this means finishing your Josiah Project summer with a final outreach. For those who continue with Josiah Project for a second summer, this means matching up with an exciting internship in one of our high impact youth/student ministries, or following God’s call to forge an entirely new ministry. What might God call you to do?

What does this whole thing cost?

First The Good News: Rock the World Youth Mission Alliance recognizes that most students need funds for college, and that participation in this rigorous program excludes possibility of obtaining a summer job. In recognition of this, each participant will be awarded a \$2000 scholarship to be given after the student completes all of the project’s summer activities. These activities are described in the team hand-book “Josiah Project Participant’s Job Description.”

Each student must be nominated by an advocate (someone who knows the applicant and is willing to help as liaison between the student and their church). Parents may not serve as advocates, nor as the sole clergy reference. (WARNING: the following information scares some people, but no one as ever followed our advice and failed to see God provide the whole thing.) Advocates must help their nominee raise at least \$3800 each summer of the student’s participation to help defray the cost of the program. (Our real cost is more than \$5000 per student). At least \$2000 must be in the student’s account at Rock the World by May 1 in order for the student to participate. We will supply you with proven suggestions for raising support. Room and board and all other program-related expenses are included. However, transportation to and from Pittsburgh at the beginning and end of the summer is the responsibility of the student and advocate.

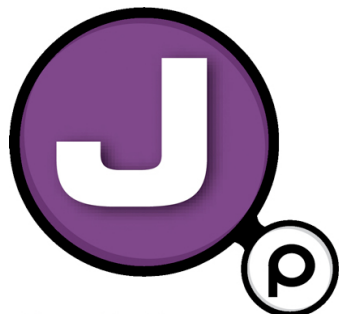
Some students have been able to use their participation in the Josiah Project for undergraduate credit. Not all colleges will grant such credit, but it is certainly worth looking into at your college.

Deadlines:

The priority deadline for receiving applications is **February 28th**. All elements of each application must be received at Rock the World by that date. We will act on your application as soon as all materials are received. Students and advocates will be notified of our decision no later than Mar 15th.

It is possible to apply at any time of year for the next team. Apply early if you want us to make an early decision. We recommend doing this in order to get in on the decisions churches sometimes make in January about what to do with budget surplus. Many churches designate surplus funds for out-reach.

Participation in the second summer advanced level of the program is not automatic with acceptance into the first summer. A second application must be completed in July. Participation in the advanced level is contingent on successful completion of the first summer, a mutually satisfying evaluation between staff and student in August, and a satisfactory review of the student’s continued Christian leadership during the year.



Josiahproject

A Word about Nominating

Thank you for your interest in being an advocate! You are essential to your nominee's success in the Josiah Project, both in the selection process and as the project progresses. Your nominee will need your help in finding prayer and financial support and connecting with the powers that be in your local church, diocese, synod, presbytery, conference, or what ever your denomination calls it. Not everyone would be willing to invest their time and effort in helping an unrelated young person as you are choosing to do.

As you work your way through this form please understand that we value your insights as well as your time. We need explicit information in order to select the right participants for this project. Your candor is very important: to us at Rock the World, to your nominee, to the other participants in the Josiah Project, and to the present and future mission of the church. Since I am asking for your candor, let me demonstrate some myself.

Who should be nominated? All of us have favorite people. Jesus' favorite people were evidently Peter, James, and John, and perhaps Martha's sister Mary and Mary Magdalene. If you are like me, your favorite people are likely to be people whose love for God runs deep. These are not the students we are looking for. We want to find people whose love for God is contagious. Depth, yes...but the ability to inspire love for God in others is the truly critical factor.

The Josiah Project is designed for people who have very little trouble reading, writing, and meeting deadlines. For this reason we had originally required an excellent academic record. We still require transcripts, but we have discovered that there are some whose grades are mediocre because they have been busier with the Kingdom than with school. We appreciate the meaning of good grades, but in faithfulness we cannot require them. Nevertheless, we must not unintentionally conspire to set young people up for failure. So here is fair warning: we can only accept and retain students who are able to read, write, and meet deadlines, including self-imposed deadlines.

Be sure your nominee visits www.rocktheworld.org/josiahproject and clicks the following link to apply: "Online Josiah Project Student Application"

Well over 90% of Josiah Project graduates from the last 20 years continue in positions of Christian leadership today. Thank you for your time and your willingness to share an extraordinary young Christian with the wider church.

Yours in Christ,
Whis Hays
Executive Director
Rock the World Youth Mission Alliance



Advocate Nomination Form

Please attach additional sheets to answer essay questions. We will keep all information confidential except for questions 1 and 2. Please return this form to **Rock the World Youth Mission Alliance, c/o The Josiah Project, P.O. Box 43, Ambridge, PA 15003** no later than **February 28th** (sooner if possible). Also, be sure your nominee visits www.rocktheworld.org/josiahproject and clicks the following link to apply: **“Online Josiah Project Student Application”**

About You

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Church _____

Staff or Volunteer Position _____

Name of Your Rector/Minister/Pastor _____

About Student

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (school) (home) _____

E-mail _____

Student's Church _____

Name of School _____

Name of Rector/Minister/Pastor _____

What person (if it was not you) has been most influential
in this student's spiritual development during adolescence? _____

Questions to answer:

1. How do you know this student? How would you describe your relationship?
2. Describe this student's relationship to God and giftedness for ministry. (When and how did he/she come to faith in Jesus Christ? Which aspects of the student's faith are strong or weak? What have you seen God do through them? How do they handle being in leadership?)
3. On a scale from 1(low) to 10(high) rate the student's character with regard to:

_____ courage	_____ initiative	_____ persistence
_____ tact	_____ organization	_____ chastity
_____ honesty	_____ trustworthiness	_____ teachability
_____ stability	_____ sobriety	_____ loyalty to friends
_____ humility	_____ loyalty to God	_____ self-image
_____ integrity	_____ teamwork	_____ flexibility
_____ compassion	_____ sense of humor	_____ responsibility
_____ openness/vulnerability		_____ comfort exercising authority
_____ need to be in charge		_____ responsiveness to authority

4. Are there other reasons you believe this student should be in the Josiah Project? Do you have any reservations about recommending him/her, including reservations about emotional stability or Christian character?
5. What ministries and other charitable organizations do you support? Why do you support these specific organizations? (We do not want to know how much you give.) This leadership training program costs several thousand dollars per student. Are you willing to help raise at least \$3500 to defray expenses of this student's participation in each of the next two summers?
6. Does the Pastor/Minister of the student's church agree to give the student a forum to communicate his/her experience of the Josiah Project to the congregation between mid-August and January 31? How and when?

If you have any other information about this student that addresses our criteria for the Josiah Project, please submit it with this nomination form. For example, a copy of your recommendation for his/her college application, a sample of the student's ability to communicate the gospel: video file, CD/MP3 recording, article, etc., along with the approximate date when it was produced. If you need these items returned, you must inform us when they are submitted. We will not reproduce them without the student's permission.

Signature of Advocate

Date

Please note: Do not initiate fund raising activities until you and your nominee have been notified of acceptance and have reviewed our fund raising guidelines.