



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

Pastor/Minister Recommendation

I, _____,
pastor/minister of (church name)

_____ ,
recommend (student's name)

for participation in the Josiah Project. I believe him/her to have reliable Christian character and have evidence of his/her capability as a young Christian leader.

I also acknowledge and honor this student's commitment to share the learning and experience gained in the Josiah Project with this congregation, both youth and adults. We will give him/her at least one such opportunity between mid-August and January 31 following each of his/her summers of involvement in this project. I commit to giving him/her time to speak publicly to the church and/or giving him/her space in a mailing sent to them. Specifically, he/she may communicate by: (specify both means and dates)

Signature

Date

Please return this form no later than **February 28th** to:

Rock the World Youth Mission Alliance
PO Box 43
Ambridge, PA 15003
724.266.8876
724.266.5916 fax

Please feel free to request further information on Rock the World Youth Mission Alliance or the Josiah Project. We want to work with you to maximize the effectiveness of this project for your collegian and your congregation.

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.