

Summer Connect Groups – Leader FAQ

Thank you for considering leading a Summer Connect Group!

These groups are all about creating joyful connections with Jesus and others through shared interests and activities. Here's what you need to know:

1. Who can lead a Connect Group?

Anyone who is part of the Sunset Church family and excited to build community is welcome! No previous leadership experience is required, though a willingness to facilitate connection and communication is important.

2. What types of groups can I lead?

Groups can be based on shared activities or interests, such as:

- Sports or outdoor activities (hiking, biking, frisbee, etc.)
- Creative hobbies (crafting, painting, music, cooking)
- Social meet-ups (coffee, board games, meals)
- Learning together (book clubs, discussion groups)

Groups should be activity-focused and welcoming — Connect Groups are not necessarily curriculum or Bible study driven, but they also can be!

3. How often and when do groups meet?

- Groups meet **3–4 times over the summer** (roughly once a month, June - August).
 - Leaders set dates and times that will work for the largest number of people.
 - Flexibility is key — summer schedules can vary!
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4. Where can groups meet?

- **Community spaces** (parks, local restaurants, coffee shops, homes) are encouraged.
 - **Sunset Church spaces** may be available if needed; these must be **reserved in advance**. To inquire about space availability, please contact Karen Carroll - karencarroll@sunset.church.
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5. How do I recruit participants?

- Personal invitations are the most effective! Invite friends, small group members, neighbors, or coworkers.
 - The church will provide **general promotion** via newsletters, social media, and Sunday announcements, but leaders are responsible for inviting people to join their group. All group members will be required to register for connect groups through our church website.
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6. Are there any costs or supplies needed?

- Keep groups low-cost and accessible whenever possible.
 - Leaders can ask participants to contribute for materials or food, but this must be communicated when participants sign up.
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7. Are kids welcome?

- These groups are meant to be intergenerational, so we definitely want kids to be involved!
 - If the activity is not suitable for all ages (book clubs, mountain bike riding, etc.) that is totally fine!
 - Group leaders will specify the ages best fit for their group.
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8. What support will I receive?

- The church staff will:
 - Provide **leader guidelines** and resources.
 - Help answer questions about space, promotion, or logistics.
 - Offer feedback on your group proposal to ensure it aligns with the vision.
 - Leaders are encouraged to collaborate and reach out to the church staff with any challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Maddie Martinez at maddiemartinez@sunset.church.
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9. How do I propose a group?

1. Complete the **Summer Connect Group Proposal Form** (link provided in church communications).
 2. The church staff will review your proposal and provide feedback or approval.
 3. Once approved, start inviting participants and plan your first meeting!
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10. Any tips for a successful Connect Group?

- Keep it **fun and welcoming** — make it easy for new people to join.
- **Communicate clearly** with your participants about dates, times, and location.
- Foster an environment of **connection and care**, not just activity.
- Encourage participants to **invite friends** — this is a great opportunity for outreach.