



## SKILL GROUPS INFORMATION

The following information is to help you understand a little more about how we use the skill groups during the summer.

Ministry Skill Groups play a significant role in our ability to minister and are a major part of our summer. Whether we are doing street ministry or working in the context of a local church we are able to use these skill groups to provide a program (performance) that will draw attention to our message of salvation through Jesus Christ!

Following our skill group performances, team members will have opportunities to share their faith in Christ by using Connecting With God to engage in conversations with people who are gathered to watch the performance. Each summer God provides countless “divine appointments” for students on our teams, and we see many people come to a genuine faith in Christ and have their lives changed for eternity!

Because the skill groups are such an important part of our summer we are very excited about this aspect of our ministry and also take it seriously. Please read through this information carefully so that you can be better informed about our skill groups. Also, we would like to ask you to join us in praying for those people that you will come into contact with as a result of your team’s ministry.

### WHY DO WE DO MINISTRY SKILL GROUPS?

- We believe that our skill groups provide a creative and exciting way for us to draw together a crowd of people and give them a presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After doing so, then we can have the opportunity to speak with them about what they saw and share Christ with them. Our “performances” are not done for the sake of entertainment, but for the purpose of gaining the interest of an audience so that the individuals present will allow us to speak with them about Jesus.
- Our skill groups are honoring to God and present the simple message of the Gospel.
- We work hard on our skill groups so that they can be done with excellence. Even though we are not seeking to entertain, we believe that excellence is important as we pursue the ministry opportunities that God gives us. Skill group performances are relevant to the cultures we are visiting and the environment of our ministry. Because of this, some of our teams may vary in the way they choose skill group material, train for, and make use of the skill groups.
- We believe that the skill group training and experience a Royal Servant gains can and should be taken home and put into practice within the local church. We encourage students to use what they learn during the summer and find ways to be involved in ongoing ministry within their church or youth group after returning home.
- Our skill groups provide an opportunity for students to be creative in expressing the Gospel and have a lot of fun while doing so!

### WHAT DOES EACH SKILL GROUP DO?

**DRAMA:** Because of the nature of our ministry performances, our drama presentations are set to musical scores and typically do not have words as part of the presentation. Our dramas are very powerful visual presentations of the Good News of Christ’s death and resurrection and what it can mean to our individual lives! God often uses drama teams in amazing ways to prepare the hearts of the people who see it for an explanation of how to receive Jesus!

**PUPPETS:** Our puppet teams participate in the ministry performances through choreographed movement with the puppets to songs that entertain and provide lots of fun for the audience. We choose songs that are fun as well as provide an important message. Some of our teams who work in stationary locations may utilize the puppet team in a more traditional “puppet show” format. Teams who have Kids Club type ministries also may use puppets to present Bible Lessons.

**DANCE:** The dance team is fast, upbeat and fun. Those on the team have to be flexible, able to move fast, and in sync with the other dance team members. The dance team will learn two to three choreographed dances, that will be used to generate excitement during ministry performances.

## **WHAT DOES THE TRAINING CONSIST OF?**

Once your team comes together at training camp, each of the skill groups will be given several hours of instruction and training in order to develop and practice your ministry skills.

## **WHAT ABOUT TALENTS, ABILITIES, AND EXPERIENCE?**

This question comes in various forms. Depending on the skill group you are interested in, it might sound something like the following:

- I've only done drama once (when I told dad how I wrecked his car). Could I still be on the drama team?
- What if I can't sing, but want to be on the music team?
- Which end of the puppet does my hand go in?

Talent, abilities, and experience in a particular area of ministry are always helpful. However, we want you to learn ministry skills that will help you to build God's Kingdom during the summer as well as when you return home. Our ministry skill groups are planned for and taught in a way that allows students to participate in something they are interested in, even if they do not have prior knowledge or experience. Some students choose to be involved in a ministry that is completely out of their comfort level in order to stretch themselves and see God use them in new ways. Others choose to be part of what they already know, and see how God will use that for ministry. The important thing is that each student participates in the ministry that God gives us during the summer and sees how the various skills are used by God to touch people's lives!

## **DO I NEED TO BRING ANYTHING RELATED TO MY SPECIFIC MINISTRY SKILL GROUP?**

It is not necessary for you to bring anything with you. We'll provide any music and props you may need.

## **IF I AM ON THE MUSIC TEAM (OR EVEN IF I AM NOT) CAN I BRING MY GUITAR?**

Each airline limits the amount of luggage that we are allowed to take with us. It is very important if you wish to bring a guitar (or another instrument) that you contact your team leader first. The best thing to do is to send them an email in late May or early June and ask if it is possible for you to bring it. If your Team Leader allows it and you decide to bring your instrument, please understand that it will need to be checked in at the airport with the other luggage. Therefore, you must have a hard case for any instrument you bring. Neither the Airlines nor Royal Servants can take responsibility for any damage that occurs to an instrument during the summer.

*We are confident that God is going to use our ministry skill groups this summer to impact the lives of people we minister to! And, we pray that as you participate in the Drama, Music, or Puppet Ministry that you will see God do amazing things and that you will enjoy your . . .*

*Summer of Service for a Lifetime of Ministry!*