

The Master Guide Course

The Master Guide course designed by the General Conference Youth Department is recognised internationally as the premium Youth leadership course in the Seventh day Adventist church and was designed to prepare leaders to function at all levels of youth leadership.

In the early eighties, the SPD Youth Department responded to some urgent needs in regards to a scarcity of junior Pathfinder staff by making some significant reductions to the Master Guide requirements in view of attracting and training more junior leaders. The revised version of the Master Guide curriculum primarily focused on skills development and minimized the personal spirituality and Adventist heritage components contained in the original.

While that action that was taken by the Youth Department has served its purpose, it is felt that a review of the SPD Master Guide program is warranted. In the current climate where there is a great need for a new generation of leaders to be fully conversant with issues pertaining to Adventist identity, it is felt that every opportunity ought to be taken to pursue that objective.

The upgraded SPD Master Guide course that you have in your hands reclaims much of the personal spirituality and Adventist Heritage aspects of the original course, while maintaining all the current skills requirements. It is our view that this upgraded course brings us back closer to the General Conference program and will serve to train leaders who will be well acquainted with the essence of the Gospel as well as our Church heritage. Graduates of this SPD Master Guide course will receive the same recognition and insignia as conferred by the General Conference Youth Department.

New Elements of the SPD Master Guide Course

Pre-Requisites

Candidates for the Master Guide course are required to be baptised members of the Seventh-day Adventist church or in preparation for baptism.

I. In-Service Training

The opportunities for in service training has been expanded to included the Adventurer, Pathfinder, Ambassador and Youth clubs.

II. Personal and Spiritual Growth

A strong emphasis is placed on spiritual formation, the integration of Bible knowledge and service. Acquaintance with specific Seventh-day Adventist teachings and Adventist identity also feature prominently.

III. New Skills Development

The resources for teaching the 10 hour Conference sponsored seminars are supplied.

IV. Leadership Development

A number of contemporary resources are recommended for reading and several opportunities for leadership practicum have been added.

V. Fitness Lifestyle Development

This new category that has been added brings the course back online with the General Conference MG.

Implementation Time

The Upgraded SPD Master Guide program will commence operation on 1 January, 2009.

Completion Time Frame

It is anticipated that the SPD Master Guide will take two years for completion; however, this is only a guide. The determining factor will be the satisfactory fulfilment of all requirements.

Transitioning to the SPD Master Guide Program

Graduates of the Previous Master Guide Program

For graduates of the previous MG who wish to transition to the Upgraded SPD MG, the following process is recommended:

1. Graduates of the previous Master Guide program will present their blue record book to their Club Director or the District Director with the view of a mapping out exercise with the Upgraded SPD Master Guide requirements. Credits towards the SPD MG will be given for all In-service Training, Personal and Spiritual Growth, New Skills, Leadership and Personal Fitness Development requirements completed.
2. The Club Director or District Director will plan with the SPD MG candidate for the completion of the outstanding requirements.

Candidates Currently Involved in the Previous Master Guide Training Program

1. Current trainees in the previous MG training program will present their blue record book to their Club Director or District Director with the view of a mapping out exercise with the SPD MG requirements. Credits towards the SPD MG will be given for all In-service Training, Personal and Spiritual Growth, New Skills, Leadership and Personal Fitness Development requirements completed.
2. The Club Director or District Director will plan with the SPD MG candidate for the completion of the outstanding requirements.

Access to Resources

Union/Conference/Mission Youth Directors

Union and Conference/Mission Youth Directors will receive a complimentary copy of the completely resourced SPD Master Guide folder. The folder will contain the following:

- Master Guide Record Book
- Encounter Plan Series 1
- Pamphlet of 28 Fundamentals
- Church Heritage Manual
- Brief History of Youth Ministry in the South Pacific
- Christian Storytelling Honour workbook and all other relevant documents
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Physical Fitness Requirements
- Silver Award Physical Fitness Requirements
- Gold Award Physical Fitness Requirements
- Group Skills lecture outline
- Communication Skills lecture outline
- Camping Skills lecture outline
- Creativity & Resource Development lecture outline

- Fundamentals of Club Leadership lecture outline
- DVD/CD with soft copy of all documents listed above.

All the resources listed above will be accessible online www.spdyouth.com by 1 January, 2009.

Training Participant

All the training resources will be made available as separate units to participants at minimal costs.

We are confident that the SPD Master Guide will serve as an excellent tool in your hands as you equip your young people to pursue their leadership destiny.

*Youth Ministries Team
South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*