**Forming Your LABS Teams**

You will have two teams. A primary core team of 4-6 people and a task force/advisory team of 8-12 people. Remember collaboration and commitment!

**I. Primary Core Team of 4-6 people**

A. This should be the main team who commits to the work of the LABS Training Cohort for two years.

B. It should be a multigenerational team that consists of men and women, mirrors the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity in your church, and includes:

1. One designated point person for the project, ideally part of the church’s pastoral team (e.g., youth pastor, associate pastor)

2. A senior leader (e.g., pastor, board member)

3. A parent from the church of a current (or recently former) teenager

4. A high school-aged teenager who is part of the church

5. A youth ministry volunteer, preferably a young adult (ages 18-29) who is part of the church

C. We understand that gathering a committed team of the people above might be difficult depending on the context of your church, so if you can't get the full breadth of the list mentioned above, from previous experience, we recommend asking people who will be committed and available over someone who fits a category but may be less committed.

**II. Task force/Advisory Team of 8-12 people**

A. This will be the support team

1. They will not come to the Summits

2. They will attend your meetings when possible (although they might not be able to make all of your meetings, but you want their input).

3. They will help you stay on task and keep listening to what’s going on in the church.

4. These are people who either have an interest in the healthy discipleship/development of youth or they are leaders and volunteers of different ministries who have some great input and/or decision-making power that will be helpful for the whole church to collaborate together. They are stakeholders.

B. From experience, we have seen decisions about youth/teens tend to default to the youth leader, a set of parents, or a small group. In order for really important work to happen in the church, you’ll need a broad cross-section of people from various generations, of various levels of authority, so when you think about how you disciple your teenagers it’s a collaborative conversation. Don’t just default to the usual suspects of people who always help the youth group. This is your chance to form a larger dream team that includes people who can commit and help at different levels.

C. Also, if one of your core members moves or cannot continue the two-year journey with you, you can replace that person with a member from your advisory team.

D. Please also make this team a multigenerational team that consists of men and women who mirror the age, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity in your church. Some people to consider are:

1. An associate pastor, family pastor, upper elementary children’s pastor, junior high pastor, college pastor, etc.

2. A board member or elder

3. 1-2 parents from the church of a current (or recent former) teenager

4. A member of a local PTA

5. More high school-aged teenagers who are part of the church

6. Youth ministry volunteers who are part of the church

7. Ministry leaders of outreach, hospitality, worship, etc.