

SECTION 6: FORMATION MEETINGS – MEETING 1

John 12:24 *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat but if it dies, it will bear much fruit"*

Important for ALL meetings: Place Leader Reflection and Sharing in Middle of Meeting
for best attendance and participation

First WT Meeting Leaders bring snacks!

Before meeting: Touch base with PT for meeting needs; touch base throughout meeting

5 mins WSL - Lead Opening Prayer

10 mins Leader Introductions — Stress Confidentiality
NO CELL PHONES AT MEETINGS OR WEEKEND

20 mins Team Introductions – Get Creative

- The Basics – School, Family, Sports, Hobbies, Work, Church
- 3 Fun Facts

20 mins Leader(s)

- Explanation of what the Wheat Team is all about:

The Wheat Team is a living and visible symbol of God's love. It is comprised of TEC-ites, like yourself, who are willing to give of your time and energy to serve the Lord in a very selfless way.

The purpose of the WT is to provide a constant support of **Prayer, Service, and Community** beginning now, in the upcoming weeks, and throughout the TEC weekend.

It is the responsibility of all of us – the Wheat and Presenting Teams - to see that the spiritual and physical needs of the weekend are met. For the WT specifically, since our tendency is to become very task-oriented, we need to remind ourselves that we have a special call to "pray always" during the weekend - in the Chapel, while serving, or even when enjoying the companionship of others in the kitchen or Wheat Room.

The WT is a ministry of joyful service rooted in the fact that everyone here has experienced an encounter with Christ and God's love and wants others to share in that experience. This gift of service and prayer goes beyond our letter writing and sacrifices for our friends. It is a concrete, visible sign of prayer and wheat for the **entire** TEC community.

The signs of prayer and service are such that we - the WT - **stay in the background** and let our **actions speak**. We are not introduced to the PT and Candidates until Monday morning at breakfast. We approach everything / **all** tasks with joy in our hearts and we encourage others at the center to do the same.

We do anything that will enhance the Candidates experience of encountering Christ. They will feel His presence through **your** action _____ ers or trash on the floor,
emptying the trash cans often, cleanin **1st TEAM MEETING** _____ ing the floor,

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writing wheat letters to your Prayer Partners, other PT members and the Candidates, setting up Mass, making prayer tokens (small prayerful gifts), just to name a few things.

People in love make signs of Love - as their gifts - and that is what the WT does ... "see how these Christians love one another!"

You, as a WT, strengthen the impact of TEC. You, as a WT, are a symbol of the heart of TEC. The heart pumps life-giving blood throughout the body; it is necessary for life. The WT pumps life into TEC, into the PT during their meetings, into the Candidates on the weekend, and into the community gathered at the Hoot.

Remember – our purpose is to provide a constant support of **Prayer, Service, and Community** – living out our faith **in action**.

Being on this WT includes inviting other teens to make TEC. Don't be discouraged - persevere! Also, extend invitations to those who have already made TEC: adults, teens and their parents, and *your* parents to join with you in Prayer, Service and the building up of the TEC Community. Encourage them to come and pray in the Chapel, write wheat letters, do "wheat", help in the kitchen, donate snacks. Your examples of Prayer and Service, combined with theirs, and your loving attention to the needs of the community are a symbol of Christ's love.

During these next six weeks, your primary responsibilities on this team are to:

- Pray - find yourself in prayer, on your own and together with our team, friends, or family.
- Sacrifice - do wheat, with love, and offer it up. If you haven't started doing "wheat" yet — start right now.
 - We'll talk more about Wheat later today
- Unassuming and Generous Service – own and practice an attitude of service, gratitude and unselfishness.

During our meetings and on the weekend, please serve in this spirit and when asked to do something, please do it with joy in your heart!

- Obedience - to your commitment. **Your attendance is required for the entire TEC weekend and preferably for ALL meetings.** If it is absolutely necessary to miss one of the *meetings*, discuss this with one of the leaders.
- Trust - Do **not** place limits on God and the Holy Spirit working on this team. We don't yet know what all God has in store for it! So, try not to compare this team with others you may have served on. Each TEC weekend is a unique experience.
- Have fun! God loves laughter – just keep it appropriate for the day, time, and place.

45 mins

Leader(s)

1. Introduce the] **1st TEAM MEETING**

g for the weekend

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2. Share the PT leader's mission/charity
3. Confirm everyone's name, address, phone number for team roster
4. Assign jobs to all members (Leaders should pre-determine -see # 6 for groups). Review expectations:
 - \$125 reimbursable budget
 - Receipts turned into Leaders who turn into TEC treasurer
 - Time is short and much work needs to be done
 - Check Wheat closet for possible re-use of materials / supplies
 - Determine today, if possible, if additional supplies are needed
 1. Make list of supplies needed
 2. Purchase – or give list to a Leader – to have ready to go **for next week**
5. **Important!** Our actions and activities are being done in love for the Presenting Team and Candidates. We are always behind-the-scenes drawing no attention to ourselves.
 - No special T-shirts, sweatshirts, name tags, other identifying signs
 - Banner and Wheat Bags for only the PT and Candidates
6. Break into 4 groups (play theme song during this time):
 1. **Conference room**
 - Decorations / Center pieces
 2. **Special Gifts**
 - **Pillow Gifts** -for Sat and Sun nights
 - **Leader Candle**
 - to be presented with Banner on Fri. night of weekend
 - can be found in Wheat closet; different from other candles
 - **Covenant Page**
 3. **Banner**
 - 3' x 4' 5" made of felt
 - Sewing, gluing, paint pens, etc.
 - Must include PT's theme, TEC number, room for the PT and Candidate names, and be decorated creatively
 - A wooden dowel is used to hang the banner. (Reuse wooden dowels from previous weekend found in the wheat room/closet)
 4. **Banquet Room**
 - **1st TEAM MEETING** hape of a Cross

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- Can customize a bit, but **must remain simple**
 - TEC # and low-key decorations, such as Bible verses or spiritual visuals, on walls
 - Table decorations
 - Party favors (i.e., to wear at the Hoot)
- 5. **As a team**, will work on:
 - Prayer/Wheat Chain
 - Wheat Bags – one for each PT team member and Candidate
- 7. Breakfast with PT on Monday
 - WT introductions
 - WT dance; invite Candidates to join in after presentation

During this time: Leader(s)

- Join and/or ask PT to complete a 3 x 5 index card or create a spreadsheet with contact information for Die Day letters
 - PT member name
 - Contact person's name, email address and phone number

60 mins WSL leads reflection, prayer service and sharing on our relationship with God and each other

15 mins WSL

- Announce names for WT-WT and WT-PT Prayer Partners and/or have short prayer service to determine
- Explain Wheat Letters
- Write a letter to PT prayer partner; will meet with PT Prayer Partner each week

40 mins Commitment Prayer Service **and** Required Forms Review with PT

- Placement of this Prayer Service based on PT scheduling

10 mins Leader(s): Closing Comments

- Do Wheat!
 - Write your Wheat down so you can add it to the Wheat Chain
- Recruit Candidates -- applications available online
- Explain sleeping arrangements on weekend (same gender of team in 1st classroom; other gender upstairs)
- Be thinking about a dance/song for Monday morning

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- Reminder: Write Wheat Letter to **both** Prayer Partners and bring to next meeting. Have them DONE...This will not be done during our meeting.
- Make sure everyone has required forms – **all due by 2nd meeting**:
 - Safe Environment / Safe Driving
 - Safe Driving required for anyone **16 and older** by weekend
 - CANTS form – if minor must be signed by parent
 - permission slips if **under 18**
- Costs for the TEC weekend:
 - \$40 for the weekend (this includes Friday night pizza)
 - Bag of candy or fruit or cookies or pop for kitchen – will know more closer to weekend
- Assign snacks for next meeting
- Expectations for next meeting

5 mins WSL – Lead Closing Prayer

Post Leader's Meeting: Consider doing after EVERY meeting

- Discuss next meeting schedule
- Note and discuss Wheaties (potential leaders, those with struggles, conflicts, key issues from sharing, etc.)
- Discuss Passion and Resurrection Roles, including Jesus
- Pray about Peace Reflection speaker (not HS student)
- Follow-up with PT SD / ASD to determine needs for next meeting (para-liturgy set-ups, reconciliation, etc.)
- Be sure one Leader is in charge of gathering Die Day contact information so emails can be sent within the next 2 weeks (see next page)

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