

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

NOTE: Level Zero is the starting position for every new resident of Youth-Reach. This level lasts for two weeks beginning on the day of your entrance. It is not a degrading position, but a clean slate. When you enter Youth-Reach we look at you like an empty chalkboard. What you choose to write will determine which way you go in this program. Your reputation did not follow you here. Your past is known only by the staff and what you did or did not do prior to entering this home is not our focus. You will not be reminded or disrespected for anything done before coming here. We are focused on your future, not your past. Level Zero does not mean that you have no worth. On the contrary, we believe you to be of infinite worth and value. Now is the time for you to discover that value.

You have the unique opportunity here before you to build a new future, beginning today. Your past is behind you. We may need, in confidential counseling, to deal with some of the issues of your past and at times restitution must be made for some of our mistakes. This will be done with sensitivity and if you choose to cooperate you will see a bright new day coming your way.

Behind you may be a long list of mistakes, some with serious consequences, but rest assured that you are in an environment of change. During the two weeks that you are on Level Zero we will determine if you are ready for what we have to offer; if you are ready for change. If it is agreed upon by the staff that you are not willing to receive our counsel or you appear to be here for insincere reasons you will be asked to leave at the end of the two weeks. If you prove over the next two weeks that you are truly ready for help, responsive to correction and counsel and display a willingness to follow the rules of Youth-Reach you will be automatically promoted to Level One when your initial two weeks are complete. Level One will bring to you additional freedoms and privileges, but also it will come with added responsibilities.

The following curriculum is part of the requirements for you to retain your positions and your bed here at Youth-Reach. It is simple and easy and will not fully challenge you, but the following levels each have a more complex and difficult curriculum. All of this is a part in your path to a new life.

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day One

Date: _____

Briefly describe in the space provided what circumstances brought you to Youth-Reach.

What adjustments do you already see that are necessary for you to make to be successful at Youth-Reach?

Think ten years from now, where do you want to be in life?

Do you want to be married? _____ If the answer is yes, what kind of a woman do you want to marry?

How important is an education in reaching your goals? Why?

In your opinion, how are you doing so far in your efforts to achieve your goals?

What has held you back from doing better in life?

Counselor Initials _____

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day Two

Date: _____

Yesterday we discussed future goals and plans. Now we'll go in a different direction. What influence, honestly, did your friends have in the decisions you have made in the past?

Do you now understand how important it is to choose positive friends? Explain.

Considering some of the trouble you have found yourself in, what difference would have been made if you had chosen better friends?

Give your definition of the word "punishment".

Have you ever been punished in a way that you felt was inappropriate? Explain.

Do you understand the value of correct, balanced and fair punishment? _____

What would our world be like if there were no punishments for crime or disobedience?

Are you aware of the forms of punishment that are used at Youth-Reach?

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day Three

Date: _____

Yesterday we discussed punishment and its value in our society. List and describe the punishments used in Youth-Reach.

Are you prepared to accept the punishments that are used at Youth-Reach? _____

Lets shift gears. Without a law there is no offense. In other words, If there is no stated rule against something it cannot be justifiably punished-if you drive down the road and there are no speed limit signs posted you may drive any speed you like. That is why there are always speed limit signs. The police know they cannot pull you over and give you a ticket if the rule (speed limit) is not posted.

Here at Youth-Reach the rules you were given before you came here are like speed limit signs. Without them there would be chaos and disorder. They are there to assure that you are aware of what is acceptable behavior here and what is not. You need to make sure you are fully educated on these rules. They are posted in the home for you to see anytime.

Is it ever acceptable to be disrespectful to staff members or guests?

At Level Zero, what is the rule in regards to where you sit in church?

Are you allowed to venture into other resident's rooms? _____

When do you perform your assigned chores?

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day Four

Date: _____

We are still on the subject of the rules and expectations of Youth-Reach. How valuable is it to you to have a bed at Youth-Reach? _____

Do you realize that there are other kids trying to get into this program every day? _____

Do you recognize that the staff here sacrifice daily to help you build a future? _____

Circle one of the following answers

If I break a tool or damage something in the home I should:

- A. Cover for what I did, walk away and hope no one notices.
- B. Blame it on another resident.
- C. Take the issue directly to a staff member and take responsibility for what happened.

If an argument develops I should:

- A. Jump in and give my opinion.
- B. Challenge someone to fight.
- C. Walk away and inform the staff if necessary.

In church it is best if I:

- A. Catch up on my sleep.
- B. Slump over and watch my shoelaces.
- C. Listen to the pastor and take some notes.
- D. Daydream about what I'll do that afternoon.

If I see another resident breaking a serious rule I should:

- A. Gossip about it to the other residents.
- B. Cover for him.
- C. Inform staff immediately
- D. Correct them myself.

NOTE: *Read Ephesians 5:11 and be prepared to discuss this with your counselor.*

Counselor Initials _____

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day Five

Date: _____

At Youth-Reach, what is the consequence of you cover for someone else's wrong doing or you know of it and say nothing?

If you receive a punishment, what is the correct attitude to display?

NOTE: At Youth-Reach, if a punishment is taken an adult and a positive and healthy attitude is shown by the resident then many times the offense is not considered at the time merits are awarded- if anything, this attitude will help you receive merits.

Is it better to wait to be told to do something or to do what you know is expected of you without having to be told?

At Level Zero, when is it permissible to enter any staff quarters? _____

Circle the one correct answer:

If you are facing a problem in the home, who do you take this problem to?

- A. One of the other residents.
- B. Someone at Level Two.
- C. The staff person on duty.

If you are dealing with an emotional issue, who do you take this problem to?

- A. A resident at a higher level
- B. My assigned counselor
- C. Someone at church

If you are angry with or disagree with your counselor you should:

- A. Take the issue directly to the Operations Coordinator
- B. Just stuff it down and deal with it later.
- C. Talk to the residents in the home about it.

Counselor Initials _____

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day Six

Date: _____

At Level Zero, how often can you make phone calls? _____

How often can your parents call you? _____

How long can the call last? _____

What must be done before a Level Zero resident can cross the road to the pasture?

Can a Level Zero resident receive a pass? _____

What is the only exception for receiving a pass? _____

Are Level Zero residents allowed to have or be supplied with food or money? _____

On weeknights and Sunday nights, what time must Level Zero residents be in bed? _____

Does this mean the light must be off? _____ Can you still talk? _____

At what time must a Level Zero resident be in bed with the lights out on Friday nights? _____

Can a Level Zero resident sit with Level Two residents at church? _____

NOTE: Level Zero residents must stay with a Level Three resident or staff member at all times when not on the Youth-Reach campus. This includes church.

If a Level Zero resident does not achieve Level One after two weeks what is the result?

How is this judged? _____

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week One

Day Seven

Date: _____

You have now made it through your first week at Youth-Reach. That was not so bad now was it? Now is a good time to make sure you are fully aware of some house rules.

Who has the responsibility to care for your bed linens, towel, and drink cup? _____

What will happen if your drink cup is found sitting unattended and forgotten?

If a bedroom is left unattended and a light is left on, what is sure to be the result?

As you know, the cleaning towels are kept in the front closet. After you use them you should (Circle one)

- A. Throw them in the trash.
- B. Place them in the towel barrel.
- C. Throw them on the floor.

Match the following:

“If you lose it...	put it back”
“If you break it...	find it”
“If you use it...	refill it”
“If you empty it...	report it”

NOTE: Taking responsibility and showing initiative are positive traits almost anywhere life may find you. Employers reward this, teachers love it, but it does not really matter to prison guards. Where are you headed?

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week Two

Day One

Date: _____

Where are we? Oh, we are discussing expectations and house rules. Shall we go on?

What is the result of leaving clothes in the laundry room overnight without permission?

NOTE: The washing machine will complete it's cycle in less than thirty minutes. The dryer will dry your clothes in less than an hour. That means a full load of laundry can be completed in less than an hour and a half. Leaving clothes in the machines for extended times is not permitted and is a great method to narrow down your wardrobe options.

As soon as you have the opportunity to view the chore list, it is best to (Circle one):

- A. Hide in your room
- B. Wait to be told to do your work.
- C. Do your chores right away
- D. Take a two- hour bathroom break.

What is the difference between an assigned chore and a work project?

What kind of involvement is expected of each resident when it comes to work projects?

Why is it necessary for us to do so much work?

If you have a problem understanding or completing an assigned chore you should (Circle one):

- A. Just give up. It's no use.
- B. Go play basketball
- C. Go immediately to the staff member on duty.

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week Two

Day Two

Date: _____

Yesterday we were discussing work. Let's see if you have this figured out.

What can be expected if you have trouble doing a chore?

What can be expected if you just choose not to do a chore?

If a chore is done poorly, what will be our assumption?

HINT: It is our belief that if a chore is done poorly it is because the resident has not had enough practice doing this chore and it should be given to them over and over again. This practice will surely result in the resident soon mastering this particular chore.

As a resident of Youth-Reach, circle the answers below that best describe your responsibility.

- A. Be a team player, pitch in when needed
- B. Not to be the weak link in any effort
- C. Never to be labeled as lazy
- D. Slack off whenever it appears I can get away with it

Is it just your responsibility to take care of only what you do, or should you watch out for others?

If you see a rake left in the yard you should (Circle one):

- A. Lean it against a tree
- B. Put it in it's proper place.
- C. Walk right past it

NOTE: You always win when you go the extra mile. Do more than is expected and you will do well not just at Youth-Reach, but in every area of your life.

Counselor Initials _____

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week Two

Day Three

Date: _____

Enough of this talk about work, for now. Let us explore the spiritual world for a few minutes.

Do you understand the terms “born again” or being “saved”? _____

If you feel that you understand the terms, describe what they mean to you.

Has this event ever happened to you? _____

If so, what were you like before you were saved?

What happened to cause the change?

What changes did you notice in yourself?

How is your life different today in comparison to before you were saved?

What were you saved from?

When were you saved? _____

Counselor Initials _____

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week Two

Day Four

Date: _____

Yesterday we were prying into your spiritual life. Today we continue down this same road...

Where were you when you were saved?

What does expect from someone who claims to be a Christian?

How is your life different from someone who is lost and unsaved?

If you claim to be saved, would someone examining your behavior see this as true?

NOTE: Answer the following questions very honestly, do not hold back the truth or exaggerate and lie.

In your past, has there been any occult involvement (witchcraft, tarot cards, magic, curses, séances, etc...)? Describe:

Have you been involved in drugs? _____

Without embellishing or hiding the facts describe your experiences with drugs?

Honestly, what is your current attitude regarding drugs?

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week Two

Day Five

Date: _____

Let's discuss your communication skills (or lack of) and what Youth-Reach allows you to let jump out of your mouth.

When it comes to talking about your past life, what do the Youth-Reach Rules and Regulations have to say?

NOTE: *Check out Proverbs 4:24 and be prepared to discuss this with your counselor.*

What do you consider inappropriate talk?

Is it only outright cussing that is inappropriate? _____

Circle the practices that Youth-Reach considers to be negative communication.

- A. Racist terms or slang
- B. Glorifying your past rebellion or wrongdoing
- C. Cheering for you favorite team
- D. Suggestive sexual discussions

Why do you think we have a rule against a resident constantly talking about leaving the Youth-Reach program?

How do we expect you to talk to the staff at Youth-Reach?

How do we expect you to talk to your parents?

Speaking behind someone's back is commonly referred to as _____

NOTE: *Read Proverbs 16:28 and 26:20 and be prepared to discuss these with your counselor.*

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero

Week Two

Day Six

Date: _____

Well, your time at Level Zero is coming to a close. How do you think you have done so far?

In what area do you feel that you are struggling the most?

What kind of music do we listen to here at Youth-Reach? _____

Why? _____

Only at Level _____ are residents allowed to pursue relationships with girls, and then only at the staff's discretion.

A grade of _____ or less on a Progress Report or Report Card is considered at Youth-Reach to be a failing grade.

What is the general situation you will find you self in if you bring home these poor grades and for how long?

NOTE: *We believe that your education is vitally important. We will help you feel that way too.*

If you get in trouble in school you can expect the following at home (Circle all that apply):

- A. Heck, we'll just blow it off
- B. More trouble at home
- C. Nothing
- D. Plenty of exercise

NOTE: *Tomorrow you will know if you will be promoted to Level One or asked to leave the program. You probably have a pretty good guess as to what will happen.*

The Pursuit of a Future

Level Zero Curriculum

Week Two

Day Seven

Date: _____

Today is the big day. Certainly this is not the biggest day of your life, but it is important, if you do make it to Level One today. Let's look at the added privileges.

You will now have the opportunity to make _____ phone calls a week to your parent(s) or another approved person.

These phone calls will last no longer than _____ minutes.

You will have additional time to stay up at night. During the summer and for non-students the lights-out time during the week is _____ PM.

NOTE: For all students the lights-out time on school nights is 10:00PM. The only exception is for those on Level Three.

The Level One residents may enter the restricted _____ of staff members (quarters) only with permission and when accompanied by a staff member.

You may receive _____ passes only at Level One. These must be requested five days in advance unless it is an emergency. Usually passes are not issued on consecutive weekends and they grow in length of time as you prove yourself trustworthy.

NOTE: Level One residents may receive mail from parents or approved persons.

Level One residents enter the _____ and can now earn their way to Level Two with hard work and consistent performance.

NOTE: Chore performance and overall teachability and cooperation should improve at this level. More is expected of a resident at Level One than of those at Level Zero.

Counselor Initials _____