



welcome to refuge student ministries

welcome guide



PARENT & STUDENT WELCOME GUIDE



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"

Romans 15:13 NIV

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders"

Psalms 78:4 NLT

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Hello Parents & Youth!

First of all, thank you for choosing to be a part of what God's doing in and through Refuge Student Ministries (RSM)! We couldn't be more excited for your student to be a part of your student's growth in their walk with the Lord. At Refuge, we desire to assist them in finding authentic hope, love, and purpose through Jesus.

It's a goal of ours to not only see youth come to a genuine relationship with Jesus but for them to have the tools they need to be successful in their walk with Him. One of the ways we do this is through partnering with you, the parent/guardian of your teen!

We love when parents can be involved in their student's lives so we'd like to extend an invitation and opportunity for you to serve at RSM by joining our volunteer team! There are several ways and time commitments that you can serve within RSM, from providing snacks from time to time, to "crowd control" for special events. If this is something you're interested in, please let us know and we will provide further information.

It is our hope that your student would feel welcomed and valued at Refuge Student Ministries. We know that student struggles are unique to them and their personal life experiences, so we try our best to keep that in mind.

We also invite you, (If you haven't already) to feel free to check out Refuge Sunday church services, held at 10am. This is another way for your family to grow spiritually as a family, if you are not already attending another church.

We are so excited to continue to get to know you and your family. If we can be any help to you, please feel free to reach out to the RSM Youth Director. We will continue to pray for you and your family, for God's best this school year and beyond!

Your Family in Christ,
Refuge Student Ministries Leadership Team

Vision Statement

Refuge Student Ministries exists to empower the next generation of youth to grow while finding authentic hope, purpose, and love; through Jesus.

Mission Statement

Refuge Student Ministries is a place that welcomes all youth; equipping them to grow in faith through God's word. We create engaging environments where youth discover their purpose, resulting in a life-changing encounter with Jesus. We take His message of love and hope to the youth within our community and beyond.



ABOUT THE RSM YOUTH DIRECTOR - MIRANDA WINTER



I began serving in the youth ministry at Refuge in January 2020. I accepted Christ into my life in March 2016 which led me to have a heart for people, especially youth. I grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin going to a few youth groups and enjoyed connecting with my peers. I developed great relationships with the youth leaders and have since wanted to provide the same experience for other students.

I attended the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point (UWSP) in the Fall of 2015, graduating in the Fall of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Social Work and Sociology. During my time at the University, I became involved with a Christian campus organization called Cru. Through Cru, I participated in stateside and international mission trips, attended conferences, led bible studies, and mentored younger female students.

It was also through Cru that I met my amazing husband, John Winter. He was involved with Cru at his campus in his hometown Alexandria, MN. We had attended an ethnic minority conference that Cru hosted and became friends. Shortly after, we started dating and got engaged on January 2, 2020. John became a member of Refuge and served on the Sundays he was in town. On August 15, 2020, we got married at Refuge and have made Stevens Point our home!

We have become connected to our Lead Pastors, Matthew and Deborah Mallek, by being mentored by them both. We have loved being a part of the Refuge family and being challenged as we learn more about God and serve His people. That all being said, we both have felt a strong calling to serve our community and to be part of what God's doing through Refuge!

RSM HANGOUT

RSM Hangout is our weekly gathering for the youth which occurs at Refuge from 7-8:30pm. Below, we have included a brief overview of what our time with your student(s) will typically consist of.

Schedule

6:45PM - Doors Open

7:00-7:05PM - Mingle

7:05-7:20PM - Welcome/Introduction

Short introduction game

7:20-7:25PM - Video Countdown

7:25-7:35PM - Worship

7:35-7:55PM - Message

7:55-8:20PM - Class Breakouts

8:20-8:30PM - Announcements & Dismissal



EVENTS

Throughout the year, we love participating and attending several events! Events will be communicated to parents/guardians in advance with details regarding the event. A consent form would be required for any event that's off Refuge campus and/or during our regular meeting times. Some of the events we have done in the past are listed below.

- Crave Conference
 - Location: Faith Christian Church - Mauston, WI
 - Typically occurs during the last weekend of October
- Ice Cream Trip
 - Typically occurs in the Spring during a RSM Hangout night
- Laser Tag
- Baptisms
 - During Sunday morning service at Refuge
- Refuge Life
 - A one-time class where anyone can get to know more about the mission and vision of Refuge as a whole, as well as learn how to serve at Refuge and/or RSM.
 - Occurs after a Sunday morning service at Refuge

OUTREACH & MENTORSHIP

At Refuge/Refuge Student Ministries, we believe that the safety of our young people and children is very important. We desire to build relationships with the youth and parents of the youth by providing opportunities to mentor youth who attend RSM regularly. However, we want to make sure that we are taking the right steps in mentoring your youth by having your permission to do so. As a church, we ensure that all our leaders are safely recruited by completing a background check. Leaders receive training on appropriate leading and behaviour around children and young people.

There's a permission slip provided in which allows the RSM Youth Director and RSM Youth Leaders (permission to do so by the RSM Youth Director along with oversight provided) to contact your son/daughter concerning various events happening, weekly youth hangouts, youth small groups occurring outside of the weekly hangout, follow up, and/or mentoring. Mentoring and one-on-one meet ups will ONLY be occurring at Refuge during this time. There are examples of contact provided below:

- Sending a group text reminding your son/daughter of an event.
- Utilizing the RSM social media pages (Instagram/Tik Tok) to remind your son/daughter of an event, send encouraging messages, and/or interact with their social media pages (commenting, liking a post, sharing a post).
- Meeting up with your son/daughter for mentoring purposes such as encouraging them in their walks with God, listening to them, and studying God's word with them.

Youth will NOT be contacted and/or mentored by someone of the opposite sex UNLESS consent is given by parent/guardian OR it is done through the general RSM social media pages where interactions are done anonymously. RSM Youth Leaders are mandated NOT to have solo interactions with youth of the opposite sex.

The consent form also allows us permission to use any photos and videos which we take during groups to be used to promote the work of the church further, this may involve them going onto galleries on our website for visitors to see, on the RSM and/or Refuge social media pages or appearing on posters.

RESOURCES

We have included a few links for you below. As stated above, we desire to partner with you as the parent/guardian of the youth and want to be a resource for you too! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the RSM Youth Director at any time. We look forward to continuing to grow together!

- You can reach out to RSM Youth Director regarding any questions or concerns you may have by email (miranda.winter@wearerefuge.net), cell phone (920.562.6401), and/or work phone (715.341.3275, ext. 217)!
- Follow Refuge Student Ministries on Instagram and TikTok at @wearerefugesm!
- Check out wearerefuge.net for more information regarding Refuge!
- Check out wearerefuge.net/rsm for more information regarding RSM!
- Check out wearerefuge.net/smallgroups for our small groups that we have going on all throughout the week!
 - “Going Deeper” is a small group that occurs on the same weekdays and times as RSM hangouts where parents of youth along with other older adults go through different materials and themes that will give you a chance to deepen your own spiritual journey! For more information, go to wearerefuge.net/going-deeper.
- Learn more about what it looks like to serve at Refuge through a Sunday morning service or even within RSM by going to wearerefuge.net/serve.

Whether you would like for RSM Youth Leaders to reach out to your youth students or NOT, please fill out the form below with the correct information pertaining to your youth. Any questions you may have can be directed to the RSM Youth Director.

CONTACT CONSENT FORM

Name of Youth/Child: _____

Communication Methods

Please check the boxes below to give permission for the particular item.

I give permission for Refuge/Refuge Student Ministries (RSM) to:

- Send out Text messages
- Send out Emails
- Take Photos/Video for promotional purpose
- Meet up with my son/daughter on the premises of Refuge.

OR

- I do NOT give permission for Refuge/Refuge Student Ministries to be in contact with my son/daughter on any occasion that is not during an event or service held at Refuge and/or by Refuge Student Ministries.

Contact Details (of youth/child) – fill in if applicable:

Mobile Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Youth will NOT be contacted and/or mentored by someone of the opposite sex UNLESS consent is given by parent/guardian OR it's done through the general RSM social media pages where interactions are done anonymously. RSM Youth Leaders are mandated NOT to have solo interactions with youth of the opposite sex.

If you would prefer for your son/daughter to be contacted and/or mentored by a Youth Leader of the opposite sex, please check the box below.

- I give permission for contact to be made with a youth leader of the opposite sex in regards to my son/daughter.

Best way to Communicate (Parent/Guardian) – check all that apply and provide necessary information:

- Text: _____
- Call: _____
- Email: _____
- Facebook Group (Refuge Student Ministries): _____

Consent

I hereby grant Refuge/Refuge Student Ministries consent to process my personal data for the purposes set out above.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Consent stated above may be withdrawn at any time by contacting the RSM Youth Director.

GUIDELINES

CHECK-INS

Please be sure to check yourself in and out of RSM each week on an iPad. Our check-in system helps keep everyone safe and accounted for.

RESPECT

Always show respect towards each other and your leaders. During games, activities, worship, or small groups, treat people with the same respect you would want to be shown.

CELL PHONES

Please keep your phone on silent or vibrate at RSM. We ask that you be mindful and respectful of when you choose to use your cell phone (i.e. not during the message or worship). Refuge will not be held liable for any lost or damaged devices along with equipment.

RIDES

Please find your own ride to and from RSM.

SAFETY

The front doors will be open at 6:45pm and will be locked at 7:15pm. If you need entrance around those times, text RSM Youth Director.

HAVE FUN!

We're here to have fun at RSM as we learn about God! Remember to laugh, participate, invite your friends, and keep a positive attitude!

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____