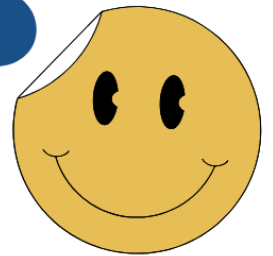


WELCOME TO



**REFUGE
STUDENT
MINISTRIES**



WELCOME GUIDE

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“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

Hello Parents & Youth!

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. Believing and following Jesus in today's world is a challenge, but through partnering with the Holy Spirit, we can be an unwavering light to the world around us and fulfill our God-given purpose; to love God, love people, and change the world. This is what we will work toward together at RSM.

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.

We hope that your student will 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 10 am. 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 of any help to you, please feel free to reach out. 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 - WILL SHNOWSKE



Before you ask if I play basketball because of my height, my name is Will... but yes! In case you're wondering, the ways to my heart are Domino's handmade pan pizza and funny dance moves.

I was one of those weird teenagers growing up who already had a passion for the next generation while I was a part of it myself. I decided to follow Jesus with my life in early high school, after battling the unique challenges of growing up totally immersed in church life and because of that, not choosing it for myself earlier. Wausau, WI is where I grew up and went through school and where I was deeply rooted in my church's youth ministry as a student. I was and am still a huge fan of my youth pastor growing up, I dreamed I'd do what he did for me!

I graduated from North Central University in 2019 with a degree in Business Administration and Biblical Studies. During my college years, I was involved in campus discipleship and interned for multiple years at a multi-site church under their Next Gen Director. The Lord ignited a passion in my soul to reach and disciple the next generation of Christ-followers, and since then I haven't looked back! Since graduating, I have served in a full-time role overseeing the youth ministry of a church in Frederick, MD for multiple years, and now run a custom home-building business along with being the Youth Director here at Refuge Student Ministries.

I met my incredible bride, Karina, while we were serving in youth ministry together in Minnesota during our college years. She and I are still serving the next generation as a team even today, though it looks a little different with our first child, Liam Joel, who was born in October of 2022. My family is and will always be my first ministry. Nonetheless, the passion shared between Karina and I for the next generation drives us and fills up most of our available time and attention!

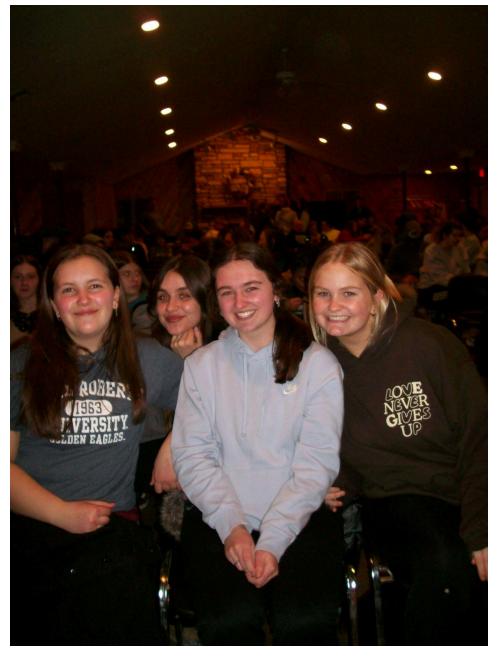
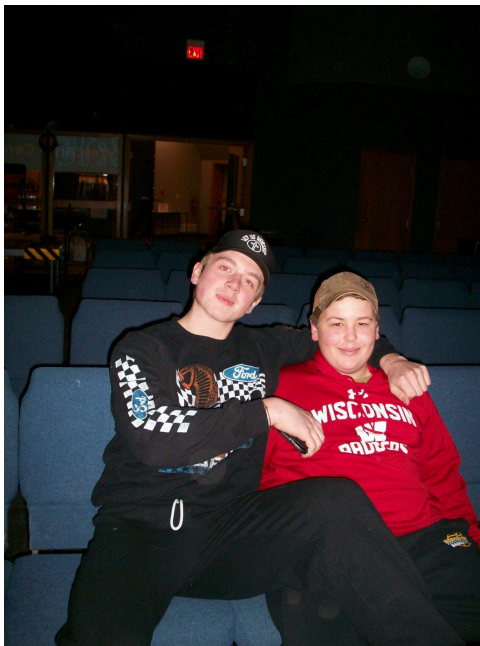
My passion has always been to help others celebrate who they were uniquely designed to be. Sometimes my quest to help others feel more comfortable to be themselves involves me trying to be the most embarrassing force in whatever room I'm in – just to make sure they know they couldn't do anything to look sillier than me! Jesus has commissioned us all to believe, follow, and make disciples. My prayer is that through this ministry, God would move on this generation to learn what it means to truly live for Christ, to discover their purpose, and to help make Heaven more crowded!

RSM WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:00PM - Doors open/Pre-service hangout

6:30PM - Service begins

8:15PM - Parent pickup/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 the Refuge campus and/or during our regular meeting times. Some of the events we have done in the past are listed below.

- Fall & Spring Conferences
- Worship Night
- Invite Night
- Ice Cream Trip
- Laser Tag
- Broomball
- Summer Mission Trip
- 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

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 the RSM Youth Director regarding any questions or concerns you may have by email (will.shnowske@wearerefuge.net), cell phone (715-571-9001), and/or work phone (715.341.3275).
- Follow Refuge Student Ministries on Instagram 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 throughout the week!
- 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.

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 6:00pm and will be locked at 6:45pm. If you need entrance around those times, knock on the door.

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: _____