

## FIRST TRAINING: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

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If you're keen to participate FIRST training but not quite sure where to start here is a step-by-step guide for you to follow:

- Read through the information on FIRST Training found on the Events page of the CCCNZ Youth website (<http://youth.ccnz.nz/first-training/>). Be sure you clearly understand what's involved before you proceed further.
- Check the date of the FIRST Training retreat nearest you and consult your diary. Are you able to attend? If you can't make it, you'll need to find another key leader who can. This is essential!
- Discuss as a leadership team who you might invite. We're expecting they'll be in the 16-18yrs age group but if you have someone just outside of this you really want there, then we will welcome them. We recommend that you look for two qualities: (i) They are showing a clear desire to grow in their Christian faith (ii) They have a willingness to be used by God – even if they lack confidence in their ability to be used. We don't just want your super-confident up-front people. Look around for the quiet, faithful ones too. They can grow into excellent leaders.
- Download and print off copies of the FIRST Training Invitation found on the FIRST Training page on our website. (You can fold these like a card). Personally give them to the young people you've chosen, briefly explaining what FIRST Training is and why you are inviting them. Encourage them to check out further details on our website including the two videos from last year's retreats.
- A week later, follow up those you have approached. Answer any questions they might have and continue to encourage them to attend.
- When a young person commits to coming, sign them up using the form you can download from our website. Once you've collected all your registrations, enter details into our online database using the link on the FIRST Training page on our website. We'll send your church an invoice.
- Raise funds that make it possible for them all to go. Exactly how you do this is up to you. You may expect the young person to make a contribution or you may raise the full amount. The church may assist from their budget or (and this is our preference), individuals in the church may sponsor young people to attend by paying all or part of their registration. We can also help you apply for funding through a trust that supports what we do.
- Work out transport details to and from the retreat. Note that we aim to start at 10am on the first day and finish at 2pm on the final day.
- Enlist people to pray for your young people while they are away at FIRST Training. If people have sponsored a young person they might like to pray too for that individual.
- After the retreat, encourage young people to report back to the church and to sponsors telling them what they gained from their time away. Continue to meet with them, reminding them of what they learnt and supporting them as they apply it. If you don't already have a leadership development programme for this age group running in your church, then consider setting one up. See the link to guidelines on the FIRST Training page on our website.