

YoungLife

Teens grow socially and spiritually through Fort Bend club

*Written by Brittany Logan and Julie Dold
Select Photography by Suzi Issa*



Fort Bend Young Life leaders (back row) Wes Carpenter and Ali Kefalos with members (middle row) Brandon, Cam, Cathryn, Zane, (front row) Mikaela, and Riley

Homework, friends, dating, and part-time jobs - these are just a few things Fort Bend teens deal with every day. There is no doubt being a teen can be difficult, but with the help and guidance of Fort Bend Young Life (FBYL), teens are learning to be a little less stressed and a little more dependent on caring adults. “Young Life is important, because it provides a place for students to have tons of fun in a safe environment,” shares FBYL leader Ali Kefalos. “It allows them to know adults who care for them and challenge them.”

Friendships and Growth

FBYL strives to ensure teens receive guidance and make and maintain lifelong friendships through spiritual growth. Every Monday, students can attend a club meeting, where they play games, sing, and socialize. Those who want to grow more spiritually can also attend Campaigners, a weekly Bible study class that meets in the homes of students. The Campaigners program seeks to help teens develop deeper relationships with their friends and share how God has impacted their lives.

Carli Safier, a recent graduate of Clements High School, enjoys FBYL because it is unlike any other club she’s ever been a part of. “FBYL is unique from other clubs, because it’s not something you have to try out for or prove you have any skill to be a part of,” she says. “All you have to do is go and you will gain at least 10 friends.”

A Club for Everyone

While high school can be full of cliques, Young Life welcomes teens with open arms and strives to make everyone feel accepted and part of the group. “In high school, it’s hard to find people you can truly be yourself around without being judged,” says Safier. “I’ve never met anyone who has not felt at home or welcome at FBYL.”

If you don’t fit into the teen category, don’t worry. Young Life offers many different programs for many different kinds of kids. Middle

school students can join Wyldlife Club, children with disabilities can connect in Capernaum, children of military families can find support in Club Beyond, and teen mothers can find encouragement at YoungLives. Wherever a child might be in their life, Young Life has a program and an encouraging adult waiting to help them with whatever struggles they may be going through.

Adults Who Care

Along with reaching out to local youth, FBYL also offers many ways for adults to get involved and make a difference in the lives of others. This fall will mark the 20th anniversary of Fort Bend Young Life. In celebration, FBYL will also host a fall round up banquet and a spring golf tournament as fundraisers open to everyone.

Young Life always seeks adult leaders who care about kids and want to see their lives changed by building relationships with others and strengthening their relationship with God. “We talk about small to big issues and how God is impacting their lives,” says Kefalos. “When you see that impact on their life, why wouldn’t you want to be a part of that?”

Leaders strive to set good examples for students and share about their own experiences, so kids can learn from them. Adults can also volunteer with the organization as committee members, helping to raise funds for students to attend summer camp and



Local volunteer Young Life leaders during summer camp



Fort Bend Young Life members Laura and Carli on top of a 13,800-foot mountain in Colorado



Fort Bend Young Life members and leaders atop a mountain during a trip to Colorado



Ali and Kerbie



Brandon, Cam, Zane, and Wes



Sporting costumes for a cabin competition during camp



The group recently took a mission trip to Ethiopia

Visit Fort Bend Young Life online at fortbend.younglife.org or call 281-313-7636



Dressed up for western night during a trip to Young Life's Frontier Ranch in Colorado



Fort Bend Young Life members at Frontier Ranch in Colorado

showcasing FBYL throughout the community. Friends of Young Life offers another way to get involved with the organization, with staff and committee members keeping friends updated on issues in the ministry.

“Young Life is important, because it provides a place for students to have tons of fun in a safe environment.”

- FBYL leader Ali Kefalos

No matter how an adult chooses to give back through the group, the chance to help others can be a rewarding, life-changing experience. “Service to others may just transform you as much as it transforms the community,” shares Wes Carpenter, a Clements FBYL leader. **SLM**

BRITTANY LOGAN enjoys writing, working in retail, spending time with her nieces, running, and scrapbooking.

JULIE DOLD enjoys being the editorial coordinator for Sugar Land Magazine.



Young Life members meet every week for games, singing, and socializing

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