



How to Coach a Campus Missionary

Thinking about coaching a campus missionary?

Well, it's time to count the cost.

Commitment

One school year...a weekly connection

MAX: Face-to-face once a week

MIN: Phone or e-mail contact once a week

Considerations

Do I have the time to be a coach?

Though the time is not extensive, the commitment to consistency is imperative.

Does my lifestyle reflect that of a coach?

This is not about perfection as much as it is about sincerity. Do you value your Christianity as the most important thing in life?

Content

Encouraging without pacifying

You want to give hope and let the campus missionary know he/she is on the right track. However, you don't want to make them complacent if their efforts are lazy or less than sincere.

Empowering without enabling

You want to offer creativity, provoke thought, and help the campus missionary problem solve. However, you don't want to answer all the questions or rescue the student from every problem. Sometimes working through the problems is what makes a student excel and learn the most.

Challenging without condemning

Sometimes the hardest part about being a coach is pushing your campus missionary to be all he/she can be. Show the student he/she can do more than he/she first thought, without quenching his/her spirit or making the campus missionary feel inadequate. You will see potential when the student only sees past accomplishments. Helping the campus missionary see his/her potential is the task of a coach.

Holding the CM accountable

A core responsibility of a coach is to ensure the student has the values of a campus missionary: **pray, live, tell, serve, give.**

Continuing

The decision to continue for another year or to pass on the baton to another coach is an important decision. The relationship formed is important to the youth. You can't just drop and leave. There needs to be a planned time to process the year, affirm the youth, and possibly even assist in passing on the baton.



Meet Weekly

Meet with all your campus missionaries for a short time each week to see how they are doing, if they need any help, and to encourage them. Meet as a small group 30 minutes before youth service or at any other convenient time.

Use the 5/5/5 strategy:

- During the first five minutes, talk about the successes and failures of being a CM.
- For the next five minutes, encourage the CMs concerning one of the five habits or one of the resources available to help them.
- Spend the last five minutes praying for each other. Have the students who had a good week pray for the ones who are struggling.

The weekly meeting should focus on encouragement and accountability. This is not boot camp.