

Dear Youth Worker,

A new season is finally here, and with that comes all the joys *and* headaches of planning for the upcoming year. What curriculum should I pursue? How will the new students adjust to our group? How can we please parents and students? What does the church really expect from me? What must we do to encourage authentic worship? How will all the kids fit in that van? What does GOD desire for our group? As a former youth worker myself, these are some of the questions my staff wrestled with.

One thing is for sure, youth ministry can be vital in developing real Christ-followers in today's youth. In an age where technology rules, teens have more access to global interaction than ever before. Because of this, earthly things are becoming easier to find. However, so many people are desperately searching for concrete, eternal promises that only GOD can provide.

I am writing you not because I have discovered the solution to your problems. The only solution is the work of the Holy Spirit. Nothing is more important to your student ministry than your staff and their GOD-given desire to serve.

This letter is my invitation to consider hosting a special event at your church or youth facility. I represent a music ministry featuring one of Michigan's most promising up and coming bands, Echo After. As sure as I am about the band's sound, I am even more convinced in the band's ability to make a powerful impact on your students' lives.

As a youth worker, there is a good chance you have been to a Christian concert, maybe even one you have brought your students to. Perhaps you have hosted such concerts. *So why should you invest your time and a portion of your budget into this band?*

Ministry Experience

Echo After is new to the national, mainstream market, however, the band has played at many churches, retreats, festivals, coffee shops, and concert halls across the state over the last two years. All four band members have participated in the music program at their home churches. Two out of four, have served as youth leaders at one point in time. Echo After's lead singer holds a degree in youth ministry and is a fantastic speaker.

When you partner with Echo After, you can rest assured knowing the band is professional and passionate about their ministry. I have attended concerts and hosted them for many years. Whether local bands or nationally-signed artists, it's hard to get a Christian band that is open and honest about their faith. Since their beginning, Echo After has proclaimed the Gospel from the stage at churches and night clubs.

Music

So is Echo After any good? Unfortunately, so many bands who openly share the Gospel are just plain not that good musically. In the last two years, Echo After has opened for Thousand Foot Krutch, Pillar, Kevin Max, Everyday Sunday, Day of Fire

(2x), Decyfer Down (2x), NeedToBreathe, The Showdown, and more nationally signed bands. Early in 2007, the band signed with Fuselage Artist Management from Franklin, TN. The band's manager developed Building 429 and Grammy award winning band DecembeRadio. Earlier this year, Echo After spent three weeks in Dallas, TX working on their first full-length album with Grammy winning producer, Eric DeLegard.

What does the band sound like? One of the great things about Echo After is their diverse sound. In other words, not every song sounds the same (a problem with many bands). In fact, audiences from pre-teens to senior pastors have enjoyed Echo After's music. The band's overall sound is a mix of alternative, modern, and pop rock similar to Kutless, Switchfoot, and Anberlin.

An Event Centered Around *Your* Ministry

I am not simply asking you to host a concert (unless that is what you want). Echo After's ministry is most effective when it focuses around *your* ministry. You may choose to host a concert as an outreach, discipleship, worship, or just plain fun event. One of my biggest mistakes as a youth leader was preparing an event without clearly defining its purpose. You, your staff, your students, and your church body need to know the reason you hold each event. When you are all working together, focused on the same purpose, your ministry will be most effective.

Outreach

If you would like to host an outreach event, we will prepare a concert for outreach. There are bleeding hearts and lost souls right outside your door. A killer rock show can be a tremendous opportunity for your students to invite unsaved friends to church. You may be surprised by random people from your community who show up without a personal invite as well. When I hosted concerts, my students and I were amazed by the new people who showed up. Some times it was their classmates who they had never talked to before. Now they had something in common to share.

A lot of "unchurched" teens are uncomfortable visiting a youth group meeting for the first time. A concert can be a great opportunity for them to meet your group in a larger setting where they feel relaxed.

Discipleship

If you need an event to enhance a certain theme, rally, or lesson you are teaching, we can focus a concert on discipleship. This may include sharing Bible verses or stories relating to your theme or using the music to explain the life application derived from your teaching. You might choose to keep this concert private for just your students or share it with another neighboring church or youth program.

Worship

Worship concerts are also a possibility. Humans were made to worship GOD. Yet so often, we give GOD the backseat and focus on what we desire. A student ministry living lives of authentic worship is a powerful thing!

Echo After plays original and popular mainstream worship songs made popular by artists such as David Crowder, Chris Tomlin, Sonicflood, Kutless, and more. Such concerts may be part of your regular worship gatherings or a special retreat or holiday event.

Fun & Fellowship

There is a good chance your students enjoy hanging out and listening to music. If you would like to hold a concert just to facilitate some hangout time, we can do that too. The band often times play games with the students during a concert, give away prizes for fun games, etc. Our GOD is a god of love and He enjoys seeing his children laugh together.

Professionalism

Multi Media Presentation

Depending on your needs and budget, we will gladly do whatever we can to enhance your event experience. If you have a video projector and accompanying sound system, we can offer images and video to add to the event. These tools work great for worship concerts as well as other events.

Promotional Assistance

Whether its help with print, online, or video promotion, we have the media and knowledge to promote your event to a large audience.

Booking Ease

Echo After booking is taken care of through XN Artists. Based in Franklin, TN, XN is run by a full-time staff with years of experience whose desire is to make your ministry a success.

I look forward to hearing from you. We'd love to serve with you in reaching today's youth. May God bless your ministry!

Scott from Echo After

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