Autumn Ridge Church Small Group Leader Role Description

Team Leaders

Svea Merry - Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Provides vision, leadership, and ongoing support for the Small Group ministry
Sara Lee - Small Group Director
Coaching, encouragement, questions, and leader support
Shannon Gladkowski - Spiritual Formation Administrator
Registration, group management, rooms, and administrative support

Volunteer Schedule

Small Groups set their own time/location to meet during the fall semester (September-November) and/or spring semester (January-May). Some groups meet occasionally during the summer.

Value to the Community

Small Group Leaders create environments where people can build meaningful spiritual friendships and take their next steps as followers of Jesus. Whether leading sermon-based discussions, using an approved study, or gathering for fellowship and encouragement, they help people experience authentic Christian community in a large church. Our desire is not simply for people to attend a group, but to become known, loved, encouraged, and formed into the likeness of Christ through relationships with others.

Responsibilities

- Lead consistent group gatherings on a weekly or bi-weekly basis
- Foster a warm, welcoming environment where people feel known, valued, and safe to participate
- Pray regularly for your group members and encourage their spiritual growth
- Communicate with group members regarding schedules and opportunities
- Reach out to members who may need encouragement or care
- Create an environment where honest questions, meaningful connections, and authentic faith can flourish
- Participate in Small Group Leader trainings and coaching opportunities
- Complete assigned online leadership training
- Communicate with the Spiritual Formation team when questions, concerns, or pastoral care needs arise
- Identify, encourage, and help develop potential future Small Group Leaders

Qualifications & Characteristics

- Be committed to pursuing life as a fully devoted follower of Jesus
- Be a member of Autumn Ridge Church who supports the church's mission, vision, values, and Statement of Faith
- Live in alignment with Autumn Ridge's Volunteer Lifestyle Agreement
- Have taken (or intend to take) Practicing the Way and Lead Develop Care
- Be pursuing spiritual growth, emotional health, sound judgment, and the desire to build healthy friendships
- Possess a teachable spirit and a desire to continue growing as a follower of Jesus
- Be excited to encourage others in their spiritual formation

Serving with Autumn Ridge

We consider our Small Group Leaders to be ministry partners and shepherds of the people God has entrusted to Autumn Ridge. Because of that, we ask our leaders to share in the mission, values, and theological direction of our church through church membership.

We also ask leaders to participate in Practicing the Way and Lead Develop Care because we believe healthy leaders cultivate healthy groups. These aren't simply requirements to serve-they're investments in the Christ-centered leadership of those shepherding ARC ministries.

Leading a small group is more than facilitating a discussion; it's creating a space where people can experience healthy spiritual friendships. Success isn't measured by finishing a study, but by being a community of people seeking to become more like Jesus together.