World Youth Day 2027
Small Group Leader Position Description



Small Group Leader Role Description
Overview

World Youth Day leadership is an opportunity to accompany young people as they encounter Christ, deepen their faith, and experience the joy of the universal Church.

As a Small Group Leader, you will play a significant role in shaping the pilgrimage experience of participating students through leadership, discipleship, pastoral care and supervision. You will accompany pilgrims throughout their formation journey and during the pilgrimage itself, helping to foster a safe, welcoming and faith-filled environment.

This role requires individuals who are committed to the wellbeing, safety and growth of young people, while also embracing their own opportunity for faith development and encounter through the World Youth Day experience.

Purpose of the Role

Small Group Leaders support student pilgrims during the World Youth Day pilgrimage by:

- Ensure a safe and inclusive pilgrim community
- Accompanying and supporting a designated group of student pilgrims
- Encouraging participation in formation activities and pilgrimage experiences
- Providing pastoral care and wellbeing support
- Helping students engage meaningfully with prayer, faith and reflection
- Acting as positive role models and representatives of MACS

Role Responsibilities
Before the Pilgrimage

Small Group Leaders are expected to:

- Participate fully in all required formation and training activities
- Attend leader briefings and preparation sessions
- Become familiar with pilgrimage expectations, policies and procedures
- Complete all required safeguarding, screening and compliance requirements
- Develop an understanding of participant wellbeing and support needs

During the Pilgrimage

Small Group Leaders will:

- Accompany and supervise assigned pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage
- Monitor student wellbeing and assist students to engage positively in the experience
- Facilitate discussion, reflection and faith-sharing opportunities within small groups
- Support students in prayer, formation and community-building activities
- Encourage participation while adapting to the diverse needs of pilgrims
- Work collaboratively with fellow leaders, chaplains, staff and support teams
- Respond appropriately to concerns, incidents or emerging risks
- Model respectful behaviour and uphold expectations at all times

Safeguarding Responsibilities

Small Group Leaders are entrusted with the care and wellbeing of students and must:

- Adhere to all child safety requirements and safeguarding expectations according to the relevant MACS Policies and Procedures
- Maintain professional boundaries at all times
- Understand and follow all reporting, escalation and incident management procedures
- Respond appropriately to disclosures, wellbeing concerns and safety issues
- Demonstrate a genuine and consistent commitment to the safety, wellbeing, dignity, rights, participation and empowerment of children and young people.
- Follow directives provided by MACS and designated pilgrimage leadership teams

After the Pilgrimage

Small Group Leaders will:

- Participate in post-pilgrimage reflection and evaluation activities
- Support students as they share and reflect upon their experiences
- Contribute to the ongoing legacy and impact of World Youth Day within school communities