

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for applying for admission into our long-term, Christian discipleship training program.

We are interested in providing help for you; however, you must understand that Teen Challenge is a Christ centered, residential program for individuals willing to help themselves. Therefore, before completing an application, you should be sure that you are “sick and tired of being sick and tired”, and that your sole purpose for applying for admission to Teen Challenge is to develop a complete change of lifestyle.

Please be advised that applicants must be clean of any psychotropic drug for at least 30 days prior to their admission into our program. Although we agree that in certain medical circumstances psychotropic medication may be necessary, we have learned that some psychotropic medication can hinder a student’s ability to perform in the demanding structure of Teen Challenge.

Over 30 years ago, Rev. David Wilkerson, a minister and author of The Cross and the Switchblade, founded the Teen Challenge ministry. With a mission to evangelize persons experiencing life-controlling problems, he presented Jesus Christ as a solution to their problems. Rather than a twelve-step approach, he preached a one-step, eternal solution. That step was, and still is, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That’s the Teen Challenge way, and as a result, we are one of the most successful programs available for helping persons escape the bondage of life-controlling problems. Several independent studies have shown that 70-86% of those who have completed a Teen Challenge residential program are today functioning normally in society. Why? Because Jesus has delivered them from bondage.

At our Training Center in Athens, West Virginia, our trained staff provides serious Biblical training, which will aid “the inner man” in developing a new walk with Jesus. A loving but tough, disciplined, vocational atmosphere provides the training and accountability needed to help “the outer man” learn to function normally in society.

Teen Challenge is not a state licensed, professional counseling drug and alcohol treatment program, but a training center for young men who want to know Christ in a personal way. Our staff are not licensed drug/alcohol addiction counselors. However, they care enough to help you find real hope at the cross.

The fact is we care enough about you that we will play no games. If you are ready to take that “one-step” and allow Jesus to set you free from your bondage to sin, you are willing to be taught how to function as a Christian in society, and you are ready to deal with your life-controlling problems, then you should apply for admission into our Training Center.

I have enclosed an application and information concerning our program. Please complete the application, medical history form (No. 004), read and sign the last page of the student manual, carefully read the statement of faith, and return them along with \$250.00 of your curriculum contribution to me. This must be paid by a money order payable to Appalachian Teen Challenge. Checks will not be accepted. A church should not pay this contribution, directly or indirectly. In the event you are incarcerated, you must make arrangements to call me. I cannot accept a collect call unless someone is willing to pay for the call prior to the interview (\$15.00). Give the application ample time to arrive at my office before attempting to call. If I do not answer, you should continue calling until you reach me.

In the event you are accepted into our program, you will be instructed to receive a medical physical (Form 004). Afterward, you must forward the results to me. You will then be given an admission date. On the day of admission, you must be at the Training Center at 9:30 a.m. promptly. If you are late, you may be refused admission. Also, remember that the program is 12 to 14 months in duration. The average tenure is one year for those who have a high school education and 14 months for those who will be participating in our G.E.D. studies.

You should bring the following with you:

- A. \$900.00 Curriculum Contribution (non-refundable). This must be in the form of cash or money order payable to Appalachian Teen Challenge. A church should not pay this contribution, directly or indirectly.
- B. Return bus fare—cash only—from Bluefield, WV to your hometown (call your local terminal for the amount)
- C. \$50.00 for your required travel account in one dollar bills.
- D. Photo identification or your birth certificate, and your high school diploma
- E. One week's supply of clothing. This should include a suit or dress pants, dress shirt, and a tie; work, casual, and recreation clothing; work boots, dress shoes, tennis shoes, and shower shoes; swim attire; and underwear. Also bring one month's supply of hygiene supplies, two bath towels, two hand towels, and two washcloths. No blankets or pillows are necessary.
- F. A New King James Version Bible
- G. One set of white, twin size sheets

You should advise your immediate family members that you will have no communication with them for a period of 30 days from your admission date. If you are married, you will be permitted to call your wife after 14 days. Only immediate family members who fully cooperate with the program will be permitted to correspond with you for the first six months in the program. Once you become an advanced student and if you maintain a positive, hard working attitude you may be permitted to correspond with a girlfriend per student manual guidelines, providing the Executive Director approves.

You must bring with you a mailing list of immediate family members that you want to be listed in your approved visitor's file. You must have their name, mailing address, and phone number. If you do not bring this information with you, they will not be approved.

Prior to being admitted into Teen Challenge, you must be clear from all court appearances and/or legal charges. You will not be accepted on a deferred sentencing basis. We may accept you, however, as a condition of your probation or parole.

In the event you are on parole or probation, it will be your responsibility to contact your officer for permission to participate in our program. If you are permitted to come here, you should know that we will expect absolute cooperation from you in every way.

You make the choice, and if it's Teen Challenge, I will look forward to receiving your application.

Yours in Christ,

Josh Lytle
Director of Admissions

Direction to the Training Center:

Get off Exit 14 I-77. If traveling south, turn left at the end of the exit ramp. If traveling north, turn right at the end of the exit ramp.

Travel 2 ½ miles to a “T” intersection. Then turn left and travel one and eight-tenths of a mile into Athens, and you will see the CVS pharmacy on the right.

Directly across the street from the CVS pharmacy is Unity Road (on your left). Turn left onto Unity Road and travel one and four-tenths of a mile. You will see the Teen Challenge sign on the left.

Although a two-lane road, Unity Road is very curvy, so drive carefully.

Local Accommodations

The following motel is available for persons visiting Teen Challenge

Overnight lodging

Sleep Inn
Phone 304-431-2800

Food – Exit 9 I-77

Cracker Barrel
Bob Evans
Texas Steak House
Hardees
Applebee’s
Wendy’s
Ryan’s
Outback
Chili’s
Campestre

Good food and clean facilities

Gas

Gas and other items at the only service station in the town of Athens are very expensive; therefore, we recommend that, if needed, you purchase gas, etc. before you get to Athens.

Other

CVS Pharmacy, Athens

To show these businesses that we appreciate their good hospitality, please let them know that Teen Challenge referred you.