

## **What is Teen Challenge of Northern Nevada?**

At Teen Challenge we invite boys to discover who they are, what they are made of and what are they destined for. We teach and challenge them to know and live from their deep heart, understand what makes them come alive and discover the passions that God has instilled in them. We help them answer a boy's most crucial questions:

- Who am I?
- What am I made of?
- What am I destined for?
- What does it mean to become a man?
- Have I got what it takes?

Teen Challenge of Northern Nevada is certified with Teen Challenge USA and is a licensed with the State of Nevada as a private home school. We are a 15-18 month residential adolescent boys program that helps with:

- substance abuse, addictions, gang behaviors
- anger, defiance, rebellion
- academic challenges, low motivation, depression
- manipulation, deceit
- no purpose or direction in life

Teen Challenge's residential aspect creates a dynamic atmosphere that encompasses the boys in love when they need it the most. We surround them 24/7 with solid Christian people who have positive impacts on their lives. We labor to recognize the deeper spiritual roots of their behavior and focus on matters of the heart - not solely on their negative behavior.

## **Who is the Director of Teen Challenge of Northern Nevada?**

Derek Johnson is a graduate of Teen Challenge himself. This gives him a unique and invaluable perspective that will benefit your son in many ways. Additionally, Derek has a degree in Psychology and Sociology, is a Certified Addiction Professional, a Certified Mental Health Professional and an Internationally Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Derek was married to his wife Angie in 2003 who now works with him at the center.

## **What will my child learn while at Teen Challenge?**

In addition to resuming his traditional school work in our licensed private home school, he will be enrolled in a variety of other courses that will seek to improve his life skills, spiritual awareness and emotional stability:

- Attitudes
- Growing Through Failure
- Love and Accepting Myself
- Personal Relationships with Others
- Anger and Personal Rights                      ...and more

As your child progresses levels he will have the opportunity to advance in his studies also:

- Discover Your God-Given Gifts
- Wild At Heart - Discovering the Secret of the Masculine Soul
- Purpose Driven Life
- TC Core Values: Integrity, Compassion, Servanthood ...and more
- Emerging Leader's Program ...by invitation

## **What will a typical day at Teen Challenge look like?**

Teen Challenge's residential aspect has a transformational advantage which provides a therapeutic environment 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. It is this advantage that will surround your son as he goes about his daily activities:

- Daily chores to maintain the 6-acre ranch
- Licensed homeschooling
- Recreation: basketball, skateboarding, weights, etc
- Group and Individual counseling

In addition to the typical day your son will have an opportunity to participate in weekly and/or monthly events that will engage your son and introduce him to activities which promote trust in others, allow him to take healthy risks, promote positive self-expression build self-confidence and provide him with positive alternatives to his prior activities:

- Church services/events, theatre and drama
- Camping, hiking, snow skiing, snowboarding, fishing, swimming, movies, horseback riding
- Volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Nevada Animal Shelter, car washes, and local churches and non-profit organizations. Your boy will learn valuable life lessons as he begins to live for others instead of simply for himself.
- Yearly mission trips to other countries ...may require additional funds

### **How will Teen Challenge evaluate the progress of my son?**

At Teen Challenge, we use a level system to evaluate, determine progress of personal growth, modifying behavior, building character and potential advancements to the next level. Each boy advances through four levels as the Program Director, counselors, teachers, parents and all direct care staff assess his progress and make a determination as to whether he will advance to the next level.

- **Level One - Orientation.** Typically has a duration of 30 days as your son adjusts to his new living environment. No homeschooling will take place during this time.
- **Level Two - Induction.** Typically lasts for 4 months but varies with each boy. The main objectives are to identify attitude and behavior changes and begin to work on these identified problems. Your son will work on problems and goals established, develop honesty with self and others, learn to receive constructive feedback from others and demonstrate responsibility by following rules and guidelines.
- **Level Three - Training.** The main objectives are to develop new attitudes and behaviors. Your son will begin to act upon his new goals and attitudes. He will learn to appropriately confront and resolve conflict, take responsibility for his actions, reach out to others, learn what gifts he possess, how to work as a team and what is required of him as a Godly man. This phase varies in length depending on your child's progress.
- **Level Four - Emerging Leader's Program (by invitation only).** Staff identify students which seem to have leadership qualities and potential and are invited to take part. ELP is an extended program to identify, equip and train leaders who aspire to greater levels of responsibility. Level length is one year - the last 6 months of your son's program and an additional 6 months after he completes - whereas he will do an Internship at the Reno or a global center. Teen Challenge is currently in almost 100 countries. No tuition is owed if your son chooses to participate for the 6 months after his program completion.

**Who will have contact with my son?**

All employees, staff and volunteers will be required to pass a background screening prior to any contact with your son. In addition, Teen Challenge of Reno has other policies in place to ensure that your son will be safe at all times while he is residing with us.