



# Souster Youth Development Year

2024/25

# ARE YOU READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?





# Your year of youth ministry experience

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The Souster Youth Development Year is a voluntary, flexible and action-packed year of youth ministry experience, theological development and character shaping.

It runs from the start of September through until the summer, with part-time and full-time options available.

# Training & Development Days



At the heart of this year is an investment in you.

That's why as part of the year\* you'll receive free access to:

- Monthly Youth Ministry Training nights, regularly attended by more than 40 local youth workers and volunteers
- Tickets, travel and accommodation to The National Youth Ministry Weekend in Birmingham
- Two residential training blocks and monthly Development Days with our partner organisations Hope Church, CROPS and The Peterborough Diocese Gen2 Project
- An optional theological development stream with readings, discussion and theological reflection
- Line management and supervision, with regular 1:1 meetings throughout the year to support you

# Practical experience

Here at Souster Youth we're on a mission to inspire hope in young people. We want to invite you to join us in this mission.

There are four main streams that you can pick from:

- 1. Schools work ministry**  
You'll experience lessons, lunch clubs, assemblies and workshops. What does it look like to be a Christian visitor in local secondary schools?
- 2. Supporting young people's social and emotional wellbeing**  
You'll have the opportunity to take part in our Grow intervention, helping young people find healthy coping strategies for the challenges that they face in life.
- 3. Youth work ministry**  
You'll experience our helping at our Drop-in centre in Thrapston, supporting local young people.
- 4. Theological development**  
You'll have the opportunity to grow in your theological thinking, choosing from a selection of books and modules.

We'll work with you to create a mixture that works for you, and you may be able to get a taste of all four. **There is also the opportunity to get involved in a summer mission experience.**

# Meet the team



## Jason Royce, Director

Jason leads our work here at Souster Youth, setting the vision and direction of our charity. He has over 20 years of youth ministry experience and is in high demand as a thinker and speaker on a variety of aspects of youth work ministry. He'll help steer you through the theological development stream.

## Anna Freij, Psychological Health Lead

Anna trained as a counsellor at the renowned Metanoia Institute and went on to study wellbeing at a postgraduate level. She leads our work in improving the social and emotional wellbeing of young people in local secondary schools, and if you pick this stream you'll have the opportunity to learn from Anna.



## Tim Sandford, Schoolswork Lead

Tim has worked with young people for over 15 years in a variety of roles including as a maths teacher, youth worker and schools worker. He'll help guide you through the schools work ministry stream, coaching you on topics such as public speaking and delivering thought provoking lessons in schools that transform lives.

## Bex Hunter, Drop-in Lead

Bex has a wealth of experience in drama and the performing arts. She's worked in schools, youth clubs and prisons, for organisations such as Youth For Christ and Junction42. Bex leads our Drop-in work here at the Souster Youth Hub and will help support you in the youth work ministry stream.



## Megan Wild, PA/Office Manager

Megan keeps all the plates spinning here at Souster Youth and you'll find her in the office most days. She is also Jason's personal assistant. Megan's background is in business administration and she's one of those strange people who quite enjoys a good spreadsheet!



# How does it work?

The programme runs from September 2024 through until the July 2025, with the optional addition of a summer mission experience in August. We ask that you are able to commit to the whole year, term time.

We are aware that each person's circumstances are unique and we want to be as flexible as possible to adapt to your needs. For example you may wish to work some hours alongside the year to earn income and we fully support you in that. **Accommodation for the year is not provided.**

If you choose the full-time option, you'll be with us four or five days per week. If you choose the part-time option, you'll be with us two and a half or three days per week.

Each person's schedule is unique but the hours will usually be between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. It is essential that Mondays are kept available, as this is when the team meetings (morning), the Youth Ministry Training (evening), and the Development Days (daytime), all take place.

The SY Development Year is a voluntary experience. You are not obligated to fulfil any prescribed hours. We think you'll get the most out of the year with a regular, sustainable weekly pattern. We will work with you to create a manageable schedule that helps you grow and enjoy the year.

# Key dates 2024/25

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5PM, 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

## RESIDENTIAL DATES (TBC)

2<sup>ND</sup> — 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPT

INTRODUCTORY RESIDENTIAL (CHELLINGTON)

4<sup>TH</sup> — 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPT

SOUSTER TEAM RETREAT (TURVEY)

22<sup>ND</sup> — 24<sup>TH</sup> NOV

NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY WEEKEND (BIRMINGHAM)

8<sup>TH</sup> — 10<sup>TH</sup> JAN

SOUSTER TEAM RETREAT (TURVEY)

3<sup>RD</sup> — 5<sup>TH</sup> MAR

MID-YEAR RESIDENTIAL (CHELLINGTON)

16<sup>TH</sup> — 18<sup>TH</sup> APR

SOUSTER TEAM RETREAT (TURVEY)



# Get in touch



## Ready to apply?

Visit [sousteryouth.org/sy-development-year](http://sousteryouth.org/sy-development-year) to download an application form.

Email your completed form to [hello@sousteryouth.org](mailto:hello@sousteryouth.org).

## Got questions?

Web: [www.sousteryouth.org](http://www.sousteryouth.org)

Email: [hello@sousteryouth.org](mailto:hello@sousteryouth.org)

Phone: 01832 735999

Find us: The Souster Youth Trust  
30 Market Road  
Thrapston  
NN14 4JU



The Souster Youth Trust  
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