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Dear Reference,

Thank you for agreeing to provide a reference for _____.

To help you in your assessment of the applicant and his/her fit for Youth Encounter's Team Ministry program we would like to briefly describe the experience.

Youth Encounter's mission is to strengthen the church through the Christian faith, ministry and leadership of its youth. One way we achieve this mission is through Youth Encounter's Team Ministry Program. Participants are called from all areas of the U.S. and other countries to join Youth Encounter in its ministry with the church worldwide, with youth, families and with the community.

Team Ministry is a year of full-time, relational ministry either on a Community Based or a Traveling Ministry Team. It's an experience that brings many rewards and with that a number of challenges. The most challenging aspect for many of its participants, particularly on a traveling team, is working in community with teammates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Added to this is the challenge of meeting new people and staying with different host families every day. Community Based teams offer a bit more normal lifestyle but even a Community Based team has its challenges; as most youth workers know, the demand on time is often overwhelming.

When placing team members together, we want to ensure that each team has the ability to relate to all sorts of people. Therefore, the team members we place together will be quite a diverse bunch coming from different places, different life experiences, different denominational backgrounds – and they all bring with them their own unique personalities.

The team commitment is for a full year – a full year of meeting new people, living in community, faith sharing, and in the case of traveling teams, a full year of travel. It demands flexibility, maturity, teamwork, passion for ministry and a desire (or at least a willingness) to be stretched.

I hope this helps you as you discern the applicant's strengths and how he/she might fit this program. For more information you can call me or check our website at www.youthencounter.org.

Thanks again for your valued contribution.

Working for Christ,

Mary Bull
Director of Recruitment