

# Acteens Basics

## What is Acteens?

Acteens® is a missions organization for girls in your church who are aged 12–17 or in grades 7–12. Through Acteens, teenage girls in your church can have opportunities to grow in their relationships with God and their peers. Acteens learn to look beyond themselves and become actively involved in missions and ministry.

## Who can be an Acteen?

Any girl, aged 12–17 or in grades 7–12, who wants to participate can be a member of Acteens. Church membership is not required.

## Who leads Acteens?

Both adults and Acteens members are responsible for leading the work of the group.

- Acteens leader—Each Acteens group needs an adult leader who is responsible for leading the group in preparing for, doing, and assessing the work of Acteens. As needed, other adults may assist the Acteens leader in leading the group and/or in mentoring Acteens members.
- Acteens members—According to their maturity and ability, Acteens members may plan and lead their missions experiences.

## What about Acteens meetings?

Acteens groups usually meet weekly; however, some groups meet less often. Your group can choose to meet at a time and place that best suits your activities and schedules.

## Where do leaders get their ideas?

The resource for leading Acteens is *Acteens Leader*<sup>1</sup>. This quarterly resource includes planning helps, activity sheets, and content for Acteens meetings.

## What other resources do Acteens need?

- *The Mag*<sup>1</sup> is the colorful, monthly magazine for teenage girls that helps them learn about and be involved in missions in the real world.
- *The Mag Supplement Kit*<sup>2</sup> is an annual resource that contains promotion tips, recruitment ideas, banners, posters, clip art, and much more.
- *MissionsQuest*<sup>2</sup> is the individual achievement plan for Acteens.
- WMU planning year book for the current year<sup>2</sup> is an essential annual resource that gives a preview of study materials and special projects for the year, plus a list of Acteens resources and information about WMU ministries.
- The interactive Acteens Web site is found at [www.acteens.com](http://www.acteens.com).
- Other materials for youth, such as ministry idea books, spiritual growth helps, and Acteens identity items are available. Order a free WMU® Materials Catalog through WMU Customer Service, 1-800-968-7301 or [www.wmustore.com](http://www.wmustore.com).

## What happens in a meeting?

During a meeting, Acteens participate in missions experiences related to praying for missions, doing missions, learning about missions, and developing a missions lifestyle.

The experiences embrace these six elements of Acteens: biblically-based, action-oriented, relationship-based, learner-focused, accountability-based, and missions driven.

An introduction is designed to draw the girls into the missions experience. The experience presents the core content of the lesson in a variety of ways that engage Acteens according to their learning styles. The conclusion helps clarify and apply what the girls are learning and is followed by a prayer experience that includes the missionary prayer calendar.

Some meetings may be devoted to working on the individual achievement plan called MissionsQuest™ or to planning special projects.

Leaders can encourage girls to develop their leadership skills by guiding them to participate and accept leadership according to their age and experience.

## What else do Acteens do?

- **Ministry projects:** Some ideas for ministry projects are found in *The Mag* and *Acteens Leader*. Other projects may develop in response to needs in your community. Sometimes Acteens will work with your youth minister to include all youth in a ministry project.

- **MissionsQuest:** Acteens can go beyond the basics by participating in this individual achievement plan that will help them become more confident, courageous, and creative as they see Christ's vision for a lost and hurting world. There are six levels to MissionsQuest. A corresponding award is available upon completion of each quest.

- **Special events:** Associational and state Acteens events provide opportunities for girls from several churches to meet together for camps, retreats, or other activities.

- **Blume:** This event is familiar to most people as the National Acteens Convention. The next Blume will take place July 10–13, 2007, in Kansas City, Missouri. Blume is open to all teenage girls in grades 7–12. A new track specifically designed for collegiate young women will be offered at this event.

- **Acteens Activators:** Your Acteens group may apply through your state WMU office to participate in these volunteer missions projects in the United States. Assignments are coordinated with WMU's Volunteer Connection<sup>SM</sup>.

- **Acteens Activators Abroad:** Girls serve in international volunteer projects, coordinated through your state WMU office and WMU's Volunteer Connection.

- **Acteens Interns:** This short-term volunteer program for individual junior and senior Acteens is cosponsored by national WMU and state WMU offices.

<sup>1</sup>Available through WMU Customer Service, 1-800-968-7301 or [www.wmustore.com](http://www.wmustore.com).

<sup>2</sup>Available through WMU Customer Service (1-800-968-7301 or [www.wmustore.com](http://www.wmustore.com)) or LifeWay Christian Resources.