

# Acteens Leadership Basics

## What is Acteens?

Acteens® is a missions organization for girls aged 12–17 or in grades 7–12.

## Why does my church need Acteens?

- Acteens offers teenage girls opportunities to grow in their relationships with God and their peers.
- Gender-specific organizations provide a healthy learning environment, particularly for teenaged girls.
- Acteens helps girls learn that they can be a part of God’s work in the world.

## 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.
- Teenage girls can participate in Acteens individually or as a group.

## Who leads Acteens?

- Acteens leader—Each Acteens group needs an adult to facilitate group missions experiences. Other adults may assist as needed.
- Acteens members—According to their maturity and ability, Acteens members may plan and lead their missions experiences.

## Where do leaders get their ideas?

*Acteens Leader* (quarterly) contains ideas for leading Acteens:

- personal Bible study material
- plans for weekly missions experiences
- contemporary mission stories
- monthly overviews
- plans for Acteens groups who meet once a month
- reproducible activity sheets
- missionary prayer calendar
- group ministry project ideas
- seasonal items such as Christmas in August and National Acteens Panel application

## What magazine do Acteens use?

- *The Mag* is the colorful, monthly magazine that helps teenage girls learn about and be involved in missions in the real world.
- *The Mag* includes weekly devotions, missionary “bytes,” cultural trivia, a weekly prayer calendar, and other interesting articles.
- *The Mag* includes features written by Acteens from around the country.
- *The Mag* is designed for any teenage girl, even if she is not a member of Acteens.

## What about Acteens meetings?

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

## What happens in a meeting?

- Acteens participate in missions experiences related to praying for missions, doing missions, learning about missions, and developing a missions lifestyle.
- Some meetings may be devoted to working on MissionsQuest™ or to planning special projects.

## What else do Acteens do?

### Ministry Projects

- 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 their youth minister to include all students in a ministry project.

### Special Events

- Associational and state Acteens events allow 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.

## **MissionsQuest**

- This individual achievement plan helps Acteens become more confident, courageous, and creative as they see Christ's vision for the world.
- Acteens can work on one of the six levels of MissionsQuest either individually or as a group.
- Corresponding awards are available for each quest.
- *Leading the Quest* is available for Acteens leaders.

## **Acteens Activators and Acteens Activators Abroad**

- High-school aged Acteens can participate in Acteens Activators missions trips in North America.
- Girls in tenth grade or above can participate in Acteens Activators Abroad international missions trips.
- Activators applications are due to your state WMU by December 1. (Deadlines vary by state.)
- Contact your state Acteens leader for more information. For her contact information, go to [www.acteens.com/important/stateconsult.html](http://www.acteens.com/important/stateconsult.html).

## **Acteens Panelists**

- Six outstanding Acteens are selected each year to serve as National Acteens Panelists.
- National Acteens Panelists speak at Acteens and WMU meetings and write for *The Mag* and [www.acteens.com](http://www.acteens.com).
- Many states have Acteens Panelists, too.
- National Acteens Panel applications are due to national WMU by December 1.
- You can download a National Acteens Panelist application and reference form from [www.acteens.com](http://www.acteens.com). Applications are also included in *Acteens Leader*.

## **Other Opportunities**

- Many states have opportunities for older Acteens to serve as interns or camp staff. Go to [www.acteens.com/important/stateconsult.html](http://www.acteens.com/important/stateconsult.html) to contact your state Acteens leader about these opportunities.
- Many Baptist colleges offer scholarships for Acteens. Go to [www.acteens.com/showme/](http://www.acteens.com/showme/) for more information on specific scholarships.

## **What resources do Acteens groups need?**

- Every adult leader needs *Acteens Leader*.
- Every Acteen needs *The Mag*.
- Every Acteens group needs the annual *The Mag* Supplement Kit, full of promotion tips, posters, clip art, and much more.
- MissionsQuest resources include MissionsQuest participant books, awards, and *Leading the Quest*.
- The WMU Year Book previews study materials, special projects, resources, and WMU ministries.
- The Acteens Web site is at [www.acteens.com](http://www.acteens.com).
- *In Daily Pursuit: Following Christ for Life* challenges Acteens to understand and live out the spiritual disciplines.
- *ChristLight: Reflecting the Image of Christ in the Real World* is a 40-day devotional guide especially for teen girls.
- *The BIG Book of Ministry Ideas for Students* contains dozens of creative ideas for ministry projects.

These and other resources are available from WMU Customer Service. To order, visit [www.wmystore.com](http://www.wmystore.com) or call 1-800-968-7301.

## **How do I start?**

- Order copies of *The Mag* and *Acteens Leader*.
- Download a sample of the Acteens curriculum from [www.wmu.com/start/acteens/](http://www.wmu.com/start/acteens/).
- Talk with the leaders and teenage girls in your church and community to schedule Acteens meetings.
- Contact your state Acteens leader for training information. (For contact information see below.)
- Attend training sessions at the WMU national event. For information, call (205) 991-8100.

## **Questions?**

- Contact your associational Acteens consultant. Call your local Baptist association for her phone number.
- Contact your state Acteens leader. Go to [www.acteens.com/important/stateconsult.html](http://www.acteens.com/important/stateconsult.html) for her address and phone number.
- Contact the Student Team at national WMU at (205) 991-8100 or [acteens@wmu.org](mailto:acteens@wmu.org).

A PowerPoint presentation of this information is available for download at [www.acteens.com/important/acteens\\_leadership\\_training.ppt](http://www.acteens.com/important/acteens_leadership_training.ppt).