

COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP ROLES:

The Winchester Unitarian Society Religious Exploration program for children preschool through grades eight is a family teaching cooperative. This means that all families with children in the program are expected to contribute their leadership to a class or program. We have several areas in which you can serve this ministry to our children – your own and others. The cooperative roles and expected time commitments are listed below. In general you will be asked to commit

10-12 hours each year in direct leadership, preparation/coordination time. If you are new to the congregation, we invite you to take a year to explore our faith and this community before participating.

Sunday morning leader: Join a team and lead a group of children (preK-K – Chalice Children, 3rd&4th, We Believe, 5th& 6th, Neighboring Faiths) on Sunday morning. You will be provided with materials (curricula), support from the church staff, and an opportunity to deepen your own understanding of Unitarian Universalist values, beliefs and covenants. Teaching teams sign up for either the fall or winter/spring session. Teaching teams of 4-6 people are assembled, and the “term” is divided between you; you are asked to coordinate your calendars with each other to ensure leadership every week. You will each be responsible for **co-leading 6 Sunday sessions**. The sessions take place during the worship morning after the Time for All Ages or Children’s Chapel. Religious Education sessions are an hour long. For each hour session, plan on about an hour of prep time. If you wish to take advantage of teacher trainings or meetings with the religious educator, those are encouraged, although not required.

Spirit Play Leaders: This Montessori style Religious Education class is offered to the 1st and 2nd graders at the church Sunday mornings this year. You are asked to take either the role of Storyteller (lesson leader) or Gatekeeper (greeter, group support) for sessions. If you have not led a Spirit Play class, the preparation time commitment is slightly higher, since you will be required to participate in a Spirit Play training. Training for Spirit Play leaders is arranged via the Religious Educator. The organization of teaching teams is the same as described above.

All Program Sunday leaders: Holiday Weekend Sundays are all program mornings designed to teach by doing. Examples of past programs are included in the descriptions below. We are encouraging our children to participate in caring ministries to social action (past examples include a blood drive, mitten tree, empty bowls painting and banquet, walk for Hunger) events, service work at the congregation (bulb planting, leaf raking), or cooperative learning (environmental detectives, cooperative game days). Program content is provided, (you don’t have to make up something!) and members of the teaching teams will provide support. You will be expected to prepare by contacting the religious educator for logistical needs, receiving and reviewing materials and content for that day’s program and the Religious Education hour on the day of the event. You will be expected to co-lead or arrange a replacement co-leader on your behalf for **5 Sundays**. In 2011-2012, All Program Sundays are on October 9th, November 27th, February 19th, April 15th and May 27th.

Our Whole Lives Leader: This comprehensive sexuality education program is a significant commitment to the cooperative and will require many more hours of contact and preparation time, as well as a weekend training in September or January. The class for 7th graders meets weekly most Sunday (late afternoons) between October and April, although it will not meet on holiday weekends. You will be a member of a four person teaching team, taking primary responsibility for a quarter of the classes, and expected to be present for at least half of the sessions. (In order to maintain continuity, most leaders prefer to be present for as many sessions as personal schedules allow).