

HELPING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRAD PREPARE FOR POST SECONDARY



As a youth leader, you are probably excited (and maybe anxious) for your soon-to-be high school graduates, especially if they're moving away from home to go to school in September.

This resource is a quick-glance review of how you can be supporting your high school graduates as they move from secondary to post-secondary studies. You can find other resources at cboqyouth.ca/t101.

The Renegotiating Faith report reminds us that a grad is 4x more likely to connect with a new faith community if the sending church helps make that connection.

MONTHLY CHECK-IN IDEAS:

OCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Does the grad have a mentor? If not, who could be a suitable choice? ❑ Has your grad visit the Ontario University Fair (October 21-22, 2023) (ontariouniversitiesevents.ca) and/or the Ontario College Fair (Oct 18-19, 2022) (ontariocollegefair.ca) – If circumstances allow, go with them to visit. 	
NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Has your grad applied for college or university? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Ontario college application deadline: February 1, 2024 ▸ Ontario university application deadline: January 15, 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Has your grad identified other individuals who can help them prepare in different ways (e.g. financially, spiritually, mentally, academically) in the coming months? ❑ Have they researched where they plan to live (if they're moving away)? Residence / Off-Campus / Staying at Home?
DEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ For students with exams this month, encourage and support them as these marks may be crucial in their admissions. ❑ What scholarships is your grad researching and/or applying to? Some possibilities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School (both high school and prospective campus) scholarships 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Scholarships in different workplaces (including parents' workplaces), organizations, etc. 3. Federal, Ontario and Quebec Grants 4. cboqyouth.ca/scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Who has your grad asked to pray for them?
JAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ For students with exams this month, encourage and support them as these marks will be considered for possible early acceptance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Explore what they're excited about and/or worried about as they anticipate their undergraduate studies.
FEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ What possible obstacles does your grad anticipate in this last half of school? ❑ How is your grad looking to balance maintaining friends/family back at home vs making new connections at college/university? ❑ What questions does your grad have that you may not be able to answer? Who can they turn to? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Consider having a list of post-secondary students you know personally to be available to answer questions for your grads. ▸ Check out some previous Q&A panels we've hosted online at cboqyouth.ca/t101. ❑ As a church, have you discussed ways to celebrate your class of grad(s)? This is a good time to start planning.

MAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Has your grad visited, or are they planning to visit, their prospective campuses, whether in-person or online? (If not, and if circumstances allow, go with them to visit.) ❑ Do you know any contacts either in a campus group or church nearby their campus? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ If so, have you made that introduction between your contact and your grad? ▸ You can also connect them personally to someone at that campus via cboqyouth.ca/t101connect
APR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Review with your grad what outstanding tasks remain between now and August. (If they're not sure, now's the time to identify those.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Assuming they begin receiving letters of acceptance, help your grad evaluate their criteria in finalizing a school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Help them determine what alternative steps need to be planned in case no schools send letters of acceptance. (One possibility is with cboqyouth.ca/gapyear or other gap year programs.)
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Determine what other questions your grad has as they move toward graduation and beyond. Who could they discuss those with? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Help them identify what other supports they'll need preparing for school, including in areas of spiritual formation, mental health, academic support, financial planning, physical wellness, etc.
JUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Have a "commissioning" church service or youth ministry celebration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Invite grads to express their appreciation/gratitude to those who have impacted them to this point. (e.g. family, relatives, teachers, etc.)
JUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Help them identify areas of closure with the completion of high school. 	
AUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Have your grad/frosh review their preparation checklist to ensure all final details are settled. ❑ Do they have a contact person at their destination (e.g. with a church, campus group, etc.)? If not, suggest they connect via our digital connect portal at cboqyouth.ca/t101connect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Have a group of church members pray regularly for the frosh.
SEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Check in to find out how they're settled into their new homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Has each one connected with a new faith community?
OCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Have 1-2 adults send a care package (e.g. with appropriate treats, encouragement cards, etc.) to each of your frosh. 	