

My Role in the Association: Mission Friends Consultant

Thank you for serving as the Mission Friends® consultant in your association! Your association is unique in the leadership, churches, and ministries. Your specific tasks might be different from consultants in other associations. There are some general responsibilities that are similar, though, as you serve to nurture missions discipleship for preschoolers within churches in your association. Consider these responsibilities to fulfill your role in the coming year.

- Begin all you do with prayer. Ask the Lord to guide you in each task for the coming year. Ask Him to use your work to energize churches as they lead preschoolers in missions discipleship.
- Know the basics of Mission Friends, and be able to share about the value to churches in offering Mission Friends. Be able to tell of the impact of Mission Friends on preschoolers' lives and within the church.
- Be familiar with the curriculum pieces for Mission Friends. Help leaders know the resources available for teaching Mission Friends.
- Be knowledgeable of supplemental resources which would be of help to leaders in teaching Mission Friends. This includes print resources, downloadables, wmu.com/preschool, facebook.com/WMUPreschool, and pinterest.com/MissionFriend. Be able to explain the use of resources.
- Equip leaders by providing sessions for Mission Friends leaders at associational WMU training events. Promote state WMU training events and invite new leaders to attend with you. For leaders who are not able to attend a training event, suggest the online preschool courses offered through Develop training at ChristianLeaderLearning.com.
- Contact churches in your association that do not have Mission Friends. Your association's office or associational WMU director may be able to provide a list of churches for you. Set a goal for the number of churches to contact each month. Ask how they involve preschoolers in missions (such as missions offerings, collecting supplies for ministries, etc.). Be prepared to give suggestions for including missions. Ask, *How can I help?*
- Download the Mission Friends starter pack to share with churches that are interested in starting Mission Friends. Offer to meet with leaders to walk through the resources and answer any questions. Give suggestions for adapting Mission Friends to meet the church's needs.
- Encourage leaders in churches with Mission Friends. Plan something you will do each quarter to offer support to leaders: send notecards, plan an appreciation fellowship, or give the Teacher Appreciation Certificate available in [Free Downloads](#) on the Mission Friends website.
- Tell the stories of Mission Friends in your association. If a Mission Friends group does something fantastic, share this in your association's newsletter or website.

- Offer suggestions to Mission Friends leaders of ways their groups can be involved in ministries within the association or in a state missions partnership. Are there items for Mission Friends groups to make or collect?
- Make a Mission Friends display table at your association's annual meeting. Use a tri-fold display board for a backdrop, or simply use a decorative chalkboard with "Mission Friends" as the heading. Use bookstands to display current materials. Provide your contact information.
- Work with your associational WMU leadership team in planning activities and projects within the association. Communicate ideas with Mission Friends leaders in churches and other preschool leadership in your association.
- Be sure to use *WMU Missions Guide for Associational Leaders* as a reference throughout the year as you carry out your responsibilities.
- Questions? Contact your state WMU office or send a message to preschool@wmu.org. We are here to listen and offer assistance.