



Montgomery County FCA Character Coach Ministry

WHAT IS A CHARACTER COACH?

CHARACTER COACHES are an extension of the FCA campus ministry. Character Coaches seek to impact athletes and coaches for Christ by serving local teams and being a Godly influence. A Character Coach can serve any athletic team on a campus by being present at a percentage of practices and games, hosting a voluntary pre-game meeting with the team, and maintaining communication with the Head Coach and local FCA staff.

WHY IS A CHARACTER COACH NEEDED?

One of the most important roles coaches play in preparing players for competition and life is to give them a chance to develop good character.

We expect a game plan for coaching the X's and O's of our sport. What isn't always clear is how to coach character. Over time we have seen an ever-growing gap develop between coaching the fundamental aspects of a specific sport and the development of quality character. Character Coaches exist to fill this crucial gap in developing the complete athlete.

CHARACTER COACH VS. CHAPLAIN

When discussing the role of a Character Coach it is important to know the difference between a Character Coach and a Chaplain. Both roles are critically important but distinctively different. Which role you play with a team is determined by the audience.

CHARACTER COACH

- Non-Religious Faith Based
- The goal is to teach character/leadership qualities
- Coaches can make it mandatory

CHAPLAIN

- Faith Based
- The goal is to provide spiritual guidance and direction
- Coaches must make it optional



CHARACTER COACH ESSENTIALS AGREEMENT

- Volunteer Application- those interested in working with coaches, athletes, huddles, and at camps will fill out a MLA application/background Check authorization.
(<https://mla.fca.org/apply>)
- Orientation- Volunteers will be given a comprehensive orientation on the standards, policies, and practices of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- Work under the direction of local FCA Staff, and have a plan for communication and accountability.
- Character Coaches should only discuss faith in meetings, where students voluntarily attend or when asked a question by a student one-on-one.
- If a student shares about an abusive or illegal situation, it must be reported to the administration.
- All one-on-one meetings and counseling appointments must be done in public view.
- Know FCA's social media guidelines
- Student's Rights:
 - a. Read Student Rights Handbook. (<http://fca.org/quick-links/student-rights>)
 - b. Know the students' rights to express their faith at school.
 - c. Know the rights of Volunteers to participate in religious Clubs, team devotions, team bible studies, pre-game meals, attend practice, etc.



MOCO FCA Prospective Character Coach

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please list the 4 schools closest to your home or work:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Do you have 1 day during the week where you available between 3- 6 PM?

YES _____ NO _____ If yes, what day?

At this point, what is your current interest? Level 1, 2, or 3?

_____ Level 1: Serve where needed from time to time or be a Guest speaker

_____ Level 2: Serve with one particular team and potential speak 1-4 times to a team during a season.

_____ Level 3: I'm all in! Connect me with a coach and team.