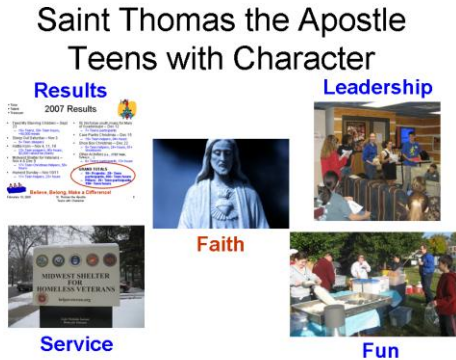


# St. Thomas the Apostle Teens with Character

## What is St. Thomas the Apostle Teens with Character (STATWC)?

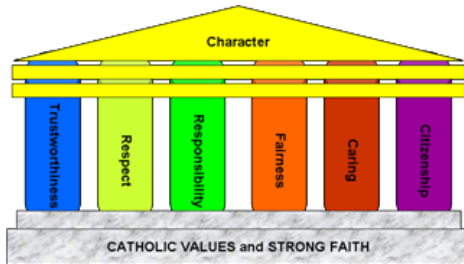


STATWC is a faith based teen program designed to develop and nurture character in its members. The program's foundation is based in Catholic values that are complemented with opportunities to develop leadership and provide service in a results oriented structure that is fun and inviting.

## What are the STATWC program's objectives (summarized)?

1. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
2. Develop leadership skills in teens
3. Balance fun and effort in faith formation
4. Encourage active parish teen participation
5. Recognize the efforts and results of parish youth

## How is STATWC related to the nationally renowned Character Counts!?



St. Thomas the Apostle Teens With Character

STATWC structurally enhances the six pillars (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship) of Character Counts! by providing a strong faith based foundation for supporting the pillars.

## What do STATWC teens do at Pillar Meetings?

Teens meet at monthly Pillar Meetings to define one of the six pillars and develop strategies for strengthening that pillar of their character. Teens may also sign-up to participate in service projects that benefit the community and develop their self-esteem.

## What do STATWC teens do outside of Pillar Meetings?

In addition to completing service projects as general members, Service Project Leaders and Pillar Meeting Leaders meet additional days during the month to plan and coordinate upcoming service projects and plan and develop materials for upcoming Pillar Meetings. Leadership training also occurs during the summer months.

## What other small group leadership roles are offered for teen's participation?

Additional tasks and roles that support the larger program include the Communication team responsible for messaging (promotion, media, and web), Scripture team, and the strategic planning team (mission, goals, etc.).

## What has the STATWC program accomplished?

The STATWC program kicked off in September 2007 and by the end of

## St. Thomas the Apostle Teens with Character

August 2009, 180+ active teen members had completed Servant Leadership:

- Skills development experiences totally over 2,800 teen hours (968 (2008) + 1,858 (2009))
- 33+ service projects, totally over 2,800 additional teen hours (1,332 (2008) + 1,470 (2009))

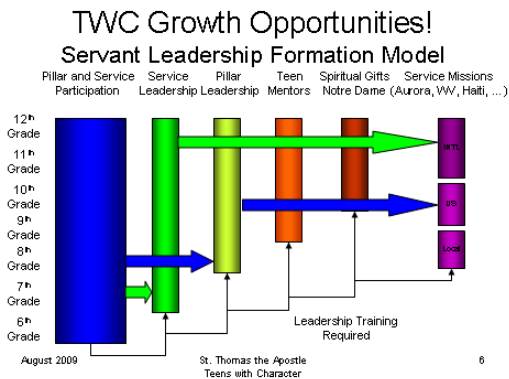
A sampling of service projects completed includes:

- Feed My Starving Children
- Kettle Korn (Those in Need)
- Sleep out Saturday (Homeless)
- Midwest Shelter (Vets)
- Harvest Sunday
- Care Pantry Christmas
- Care Pantry Easter
- Hesed House Eye Clinic
- DuPage River Cleanup (ecomission)

### What leadership opportunities exist in STATWC for teens?

The program provides teens with an opportunity to participate and lead Service Projects, Pillar Meetings, Teen Mentoring, and Leadership Training, development, and presentation.

### How is teen leadership developed in the program?



STATWC facilitates servant leadership formation for several roles within the program including Service Project Leaders, Pillar Meeting Leaders, Teen Mentors, formal spiritual gifts training at Notre Dame University, ultimately resulting in leadership in mission projects.

### What resources are used in the program?

STATWC uses best in class sources to develop its servant leadership curriculum including the Bible, Character Counts!, Fish Philosophy, USCCB, and more.

### How do teens get involved?

Any St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church teen (6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) is eligible to become a STATWC member. Teens are encouraged to contact the STATWC facilitators at [twc@stapostle.org](mailto:twc@stapostle.org) and/or attend a service project or Pillar Meeting with a friend. Pillar Meetings for 2009-2010 include (7pm in St. Thomas gymnasium): Sep 10, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 17, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 15, and May 8.

### How can adults get involved?

Adult opportunities abound as drivers, mentors, role models and more. Email the STATWC facilitators at [twc@stapostle.org](mailto:twc@stapostle.org) for additional information.

### Where can I obtain additional information?

Email [twc@stapostle.org](mailto:twc@stapostle.org) with inquiries or check the St. Thomas the Apostle website: [www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org) -- search: STATWC