



# What Can I Do To Make a Difference? I'm just a Consultant...

As a Consultant for your Ward, you may wonder why people aren't asking you for help. Maybe they don't realize what amazing tasks you are capable of which will enrich their lives immensely. As a Consultant, we are able to help people accomplish many tasks.

## What are we able to accomplish?

Patron	HAVE A TFHC ASSIGNED TO HELP THEM	Family Search login?	Free Family Search - LDS as a member?	Been taught the Consultant Planner?	Is signed up for Partner Access?
Investigator	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
New Members	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Members	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Patron	Free LDS FS able to view ordinances	Reserve Names	Print Names	Get Limited Use Recommend
Investigator	NO	NO	NO	NO
New Member	YES	YES	YES	YES
Post 60 Days	YES	YES	YES	YES

More and more, Ward Mission Leaders and Mission Presidents are realizing the priceless value of Ward Consultants in the conversion process. They can be the first friend in the Ward that a person being taught has. The secret sauce to convert retention is friendship.

The Temple and Family History Leader assigns a Consultant to the person being taught. He or she goes out with the full time Missionaries and gathers basic information to help the person build a tree to create a fan chart or tree for their wall, even before the person is baptized.

The Consultant has a free Ancestry account and this can quickly build a tree of 200-300 in as little as two days because it is so user friendly. As they build it together, the Consultant links it to Family Search. Here is a link to a step by step video on how to link a tree from Ancestry to Family Search called, "[I built my tree in Ancestry, now what do I do?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=At-Omog4WBI)" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=At-Omog4WBI>)

Then, the consultant introduces the person being taught to Family Search. At that point, he or she can download the GED from Ancestry onto a memory stick and upload the first four generations to Family Search. They can work to build the tree until the Missionaries take **both** of them to the Temple on about the 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson. I've seen their eyes brighten at the thought, "I have names! I can do this! I can help my family be together forever!" It's like a lightbulb goes on in their mind and completely illuminates their soul. They radiate happiness because of the Consultant's efforts and the thought that they are empowered. The baptism quickly ensues.

Now, the Bishop and Relief Society President or Elders Quorum President assigns a ministering brother or sister and the three of them become great friends continuing to work in Family Search. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offers its members the opportunity to participate in Partner Access. This is about \$900.00 of member access websites which come at no cost to the member of the church. The consultant can now take that GED.com on a memory stick and help the new member set up Partner Access in their account. Each of the Partners will ask if they want to upload a ged.com file. Once that is in place, the original tree can be deleted.

With the new person's helper number (last 5 digits of member number) or an invitation from the Consultant Planner, now the Consultant can oversee the progress and troubleshoot various areas of the tree for optimal success and growth. Working with the person before baptism is key because the optimal time for maximum convert retention is 60 days from baptism to the Temple with their own names. This has been stressed by the Brethren in several of our meetings. Of course, those people who have not made that date are still worked with and encouraged to go to the Temple. No one is exempt from being able to receive the blessings of this work at the hands of a willing Consultant.

The Consultant should call all the members of the ward and ask for the opportunity to review the tree. A simple email is sent from the Consultant Planner and from that vantage point, they can work with all members, new and established. Some Consultants are timid about doing this. They shouldn't be. To quote Mitch Wasden, a Family Search employee, "To sit back and expect the ward members to call you, is like standing outside the Ward building with a sign that says, "FREE BAPTISMS!" and expecting hoards to storm the doors." It's just not going to happen. Consultants need to be proactive in their approach.

You also have a new chance to expand your horizons and become a leader in your community by serving in your Stake Family History Library one night per month, learning everything you can from your Stake Temple and Family History Consultant. Then, the Stake can use your expertise one day to man a booth or teach a class at a Stake Family History Fair. With genealogy being the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest hobby in the world now, the opportunities for missionary work and goodwill in the community are endless.

Think outside the box! Print out that chart above and place one next to your computer so you always know what tasks you can perform, then make calls to effect a mighty change in the lives of others. Your training is free and available 24 hours a day! You can sign up today at [thefhguide.com](http://thefhguide.com) and you will be blessed with the most comprehensive training that Latter-day Saints and the general public can access. Your part in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is crucial and important. We appreciate you!

TAGS: Ward Mission Leader, Mission President, Temple and Family History Leaders, Stake Temple and Family History Consultants, Temple and Family History Consultants.