

HOUSING

ACCOMMODATIONS

Galveston: We will be housed at the Texas A&M University Galveston Campus residence halls. Facilities include lounges, sand volleyball courts, access to the athletic center and outdoor swimming pool, and plenty of green space. The dining hall is within walking distance of our building. The residence halls will be air conditioned. **At this time, Texas A&M does not provide linen service, so each participant will need to bring a pillow, sheet, and light blanket for sleeping. In addition, participants will need to bring a towel for showering & swimming.**

Houston: Housing will be assigned by the ELCA Gathering following registration in January 2018. We will be housed together as one group and will be bussed in to the Gathering sites. The Synod Journey plans to hold our buses for this purpose.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Two online Housing Request Forms must be filled out with your registration. Our Synod Housing Policy (see next page) will apply during this trip.

Galveston: Housing is in quad-occupancy dormitory suites.

- Each suite has two bedrooms with 2 twin beds and a shared bathroom.
- Texas A&M does not allow adults to be housed in a room with youth.
- We need to maintain quad occupancy in these rooms to keep our cost as low as possible:
 - Expect that youth will be housed with youth from another congregation.
 - Expect that adults will be housed with adults from another congregation.

Houston: Housing will be in typical hotel style rooms.

- To keep costs as low as possible, rooms need to include 4 people.
 - Participants from smaller congregations or groups who have overflow numbers will be combined to assign 4 people to a room.
- You can request 5 people per room, if one person wishes to bring a sleeping bag and sleep on the floor, but due to contracts and hotel room configurations a fifth person in a room is not guaranteed. Because of the length and intensity of The Synod Journey, we do NOT recommend 5 people per room.

Please be aware that room configurations may change, depending on the property we are staying at. **We reserve the right to re-configure room assignments to fit our housing contracts and comply with the synod Housing Policy.** You will be given a final housing assignment list one month before the trip.

SYNOD HOUSING POLICY

- No adult leader will be assigned to a room with only one youth.
- No adult leader may share a bed with a youth.
- The only exception to this policy is in the event that an adult leader is housed with his/her son/daughter. Only family members may share beds.

What does this mean for adult leaders?

First of all, it means protection. In the climate of this day and age, we want to be proactive in setting the boundaries for you, so you are not put in an awkward position as you enter a room during The Synod Journey. It is also a protection for youth in the extremely rare case that improper behavior may occur.

On a practical level, it means adults need to bring a sleeping bag and sleeping pad on The Synod Journey. Even if it appears that you will have a bed to yourself, please bring a sleeping bag. Last minute cancellations and room combinations with other churches may change your rooming configuration. It is up to you whether the adult or a youth sleeps on the floor, however it is recommended that the adult be given the bed space.

For rooms where there are 2 youth and 1 adult, it is expected that the youth will share a bed.

Keep in mind...

- In cases where group size or gender breakdowns leave one or two youth assigned to a room, youth will be assigned to share a room with youth from another church.
- To the best of our ability, each congregation's participants will be housed in close proximity to each other – especially when housed with participants from other congregations.
- When choosing adult leaders, it is best (when possible) to have an even ratio of male and female adults according to the gender make-up of the group.

*****A note about housing requests:*** We recognize that housing is often a great concern for youth. When you make your housing requests, know that we will make every effort to accommodate those requests. If your congregation has specific concerns or housing needs, we ask that you contact Catherine Anderson (218-724-4424, ext. 124) directly to discuss those needs more fully.