

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS and COVENANT

For The NE MN Synod Journey to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

The Synod Journey is a diverse group of 450 individuals from approximately 55 congregations. As we spend the year together as one community, growing together in faith and fellowship, it is important that we establish guidelines and expectations for all to follow. The following are the expectations that the NE MN Synod has for all participants on our Journey. Please take time to review these before registration so there are no misunderstandings. You are encouraged to read "Expectations and Covenant Explanations" found under "Registration Forms" at www.nemnsynod.org/SynodJourney for more information.

As we live together in Christian community...

Pre-Gathering

- Attend monthly (or more, depending on your group) preparation meetings for the Synod Journey. These meetings will include group building, Bible studies, Gathering details, etc.
 - While we understand that illness, family emergencies and schedule conflicts will arise, all participants - youth and adults - are expected to make these meetings a priority.
- Turn in, fully completed, all forms and payments to your Primary Adult Leader in a timely manner.
- Be active in the life of your congregation through worship, youth group activities, etc.

During the travel portion of the Synod Journey, June 23 – July 2, 2018:

Love Others

- Be on time for all bus departures, worship services, and activities.
- Use language and behavior that reflects that we are a people of Christ.
- Be respectful of all youth participants and adult leaders. Listen to and follow what all adult leaders ask you to do.
- Adhere to "lights out" times. We will be working and playing hard – you and those around you need adequate sleep! Know that "lights out" also means silence so others can sleep.
- Always tell your adult leader where you are going.
- Girls will remain in girl's rooms, boys will remain in boy's rooms. The only exception to this is if an adult is present in the room. Public displays of affection (hand-holding, arms around each other, kissing, etc) should be appropriate and kept to a minimum.
- Wear appropriate clothing at all times. Logos, captions, and appearance should reflect the spirit of The Synod Journey. As a sign of respect for others and for our safety, we ask that clothing cover all underwear (including bra straps, sport bras and boxer shorts) and no belly buttons show. Swimsuits should be modest. T-Shirt will be provided for certain program days during The Synod Journey. At other times, t-shirts will be given for participants to wear if clothing is deemed inappropriate.
- Be respectful of all staff and property we encounter on the journey (bus, hotel, servant project, NRG Park, etc.) You are responsible for any damages that may occur as a result of your actions or those around you. This includes damages in your room, even if they were not inflicted by you!

Love Yourself

- Use of tobacco, illegal drugs, and/or alcohol is strictly forbidden. Youth found using, in possession of, or in the presence of these will be sent home as soon as possible at your parent/guardian's expense. Adult use of cigarettes should be limited and away from the group and sleeping rooms.
- Cell phones and digital devices must be turned off or in airplane mode during Community Time or when asked by an adult leader, so participants can be fully engaged in the experience and with each other. Parents are asked to NOT call their youth, but to let youth call parents at designated times. In emergency, parents should call the Primary Adult Leader or synod staff.
- Isolating electronic devices such as iPods, mp3 players, and hand-held video games can only be used with adult leader permission while in your hotel room or on the bus.
- Always be in groups of three or more. This is for your safety!
- Participate fully in all activities. Come with an open heart, ready to learn and grow.

We Love You

- Adult leaders are available for any and all questions. If you are in doubt if you should or should not do something, ask!
- Adult leaders will work as a team to ensure your safety and to make this a meaningful experience, and will support each other's decisions.
- Adult leaders have your best interest in mind as we make decisions that affect you. There is always a sound reason behind our decision, based on your welfare – not just to say “no.”
- If an expectation listed in the covenant is broken, adult leaders will take these steps to restore community and trust in the group*:
 1. The adult leader will discuss the offense with the participant and give the participant a warning.
 2. If the offense re-occurs or an additional offense occurs, the adult leader will talk with other appropriate adult leaders (other group leaders, bus captains, etc) to determine an appropriate consequence. The participant will meet with the adult leaders to discuss the offense and the consequence. If appropriate, the discussion will also include the congregational group.
 3. If the offense re-occurs a third time and/or an additional offense occurs, the adult leader(s) will meet with synod staff and appointed synod leaders to discuss appropriate consequences. The participant will meet with synod staff and the adult leader(s) to discuss the consequence.

*Although not our first choice, adult leaders and synod staff reserve the right to skip steps 1 and 2 above, and send a participant home at the participant's expense if the need arises. (For example, if the participant is a danger to him/herself or to others, or other offense of a serious nature.)

- Adult leaders will hold you in prayer throughout The Synod Journey and ELCA Youth Gathering.

We have read and understand the listed expectations for the NE MN Synod Journey to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. We covenant to live together in Christian community, and agree to abide by the listed expectations. We understand that failure to abide by these expectations may result in being sent home at our own expense.

Church: _____

City: _____

Adult Leader Signatures:

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

Youth Participant Signatures:

1. _____

11. _____

2. _____

12. _____

3. _____

13. _____

4. _____

14. _____

5. _____

15. _____

6. _____

16. _____

7. _____

17. _____

8. _____

18. _____

9. _____

19. _____

10. _____

20. _____

It is our deepest prayer that The Synod Journey to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is a fun and meaningful experience for you. We thank you in advance for helping to make this happen by following these expectations!