

TEMPLATE: SYNOD JOURNEY PARENT/YOUTH INFO MEETING



This template is provided as a guide to help you plan an informational meeting for parents and youth who are interested in the Synod Journey and/or ELCA Youth Gathering. As you plan, consider the parents and youth who will be at your meeting: *What information do they already know because they have had several children already attend the Synod Journey? What information will you need to spend more time explaining because this a first experience with a larger church event? What concerns do you anticipate, and how can you address those? What will excite this group?* A helpful parent/youth info meeting will paint a picture of what the youth will experience and why you are offering this opportunity, give clear expectations pre-and post-trip of both youth participants and their parents, clarify deadlines and paperwork needed to register, answer questions, and generate excitement for the preparation and event to come!

Welcome

Devotion & Prayer

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” -Ephesians 2:8

Explain the ELCA Youth Gathering & NE MN Synod Journey

- ELCA Youth Gathering
 - Tri-annual event
 - 30,000 youth & their adult leaders gather for 5 days of faith formation, worship, study, service, and relationship building
 - **The mission of the ELCA Youth Gathering is faith formation in teens.** This is a chance to grow in faith, experience new things, have fun and be challenged in an intentional Christian community. This is not a vacation.
 - 2018 Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas
- NE MN Synod Journey
 - This is a year-long journey for youth and adult leaders from the Northeastern Minnesota Synod to prepare them for the ELCA Youth Gathering
 - 350-450 youth and adult leaders from NE MN Synod attend
 - Longer experience; leave the Saturday before the ELCA Youth Gathering begins, service events, worship, fun activities in communities along the way
 - 2018 Synod Journey Servant Event city will be Galveston, Texas
 - Tentative Schedule, Housing and Transportation
- Impact of Gathering & Journey
 - Why our congregation is investing in this opportunity for you: Transformative, faith formation experience!
 - Invite youth or adult leaders who have participated in the Synod Journey and/or Gathering to share their experience and the impact it's had on their lives.

Dates

- NE MN Synod Journey: Saturday, June 23 – Monday, July 2, 2018
- ELCA Youth Gathering: June 27 – July 1, 2018

Expectations

- This is a big commitment!
- Journey Itself: Intense schedule
- Financial and time commitments should not be taken lightly
- Year-long commitment includes:
 - Bible Study, Meetings, Trainings, Fundraisers
 - Participants will be called to consider questions of faith and life and wonder about the ways God is active in their lives

Who should go?

- Youth and adults who want to grow in their faith.
- This event is open to youth in grades 9-12 in the fall of 2017
- Adult leaders must be 21 years old by June 23, 2018
- How adult leaders will be chosen

Cost

- Synod Journey Fee: \$1250 per participant (youth and adults)
- Additional costs (recommended budget):
 - 18 Meals not included: \$200 per participant
 - Offering: \$20 per participant (two different sites)
 - Tipping (restaurants, housekeeping, etc): \$20-\$30 per participant

Fundraising Opportunities and Expectations

- How money will be divided
- Parent and youth participation expectations

Discuss the Covenant

- Why we covenant with each other
- Cell phones and digital devices policy, dress code, and Synod Journey expectations
- Additional expectations of your congregation
- Consequences if covenant is not followed

Timeline

- Participant Worksheets and Deposit are due: _____ *(Make deadline no later than September 10 to allow you to process paperwork and track down incomplete forms.)*
- Dates for fundraisers
- Dates for group meetings
- Payment #2 Due: _____ *(Make no later than January 15)*
- Payment #3 Due: _____ *(Make no later than April 15)*

Questions?