



LIFE TEEN

Leading Teens Closer to Christ

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC CHURCH**
INFORMATION PACKET

WYATT WENTRCEK

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

909 Main St.

Kerrville, TX 78028

830-896-4233 ext. 233

wwatt.wentrcek@notredamechurch.cc

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NOTRE DAME LIFE TEEN

Youth Leadership Council

What is the Youth Leadership Council?

Notre Dame's Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is a commitment made by a group of students who possess a servant's heart to dive deeper in their faith and living it out in service to the parish community. The council is comprised of 8 different positions, all with different important tasks to complete. This leadership opportunity is for those young people who want to have a voice in their church.

YLC is a much larger commitment than just regular attendance at Life Teen. As such, the decision to join the Youth Leadership Council should be thoroughly thought through and prayed over with the students' parents. YLC should be considered a top priority for members and missing meetings and activities should not be taken lightly.

YLC Mission Statement

The Youth Leadership Council desires to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and express the Catholic faith in our world today. Together, the participants of the YLC will seek to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of the young persons in the parish and to draw teens into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of Notre Dame Catholic Church.

YLC Vision

The Youth Leadership Council will *call forth, affirm, and empower* the diverse gifts, talents, and abilities of the young church to aid in comprehensive youth ministry. The YLC will provide a voice for the teens of Notre Dame through: reviewing current practices and vision of the program, recommending future practices, inviting teen integration into the parish community, assisting in the development of new youth centered programs and activities, and initiating service projects according to Christ's command. They will gather the needs and concerns of their peers within the parish and be their advocate.

"The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity, and the joy that is so characteristic of you!"
(Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2013, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

YLC Membership

The council will be comprised of a minimum of 8 students. The leadership council representatives must be members of the parish and regularly attend Life Teen and other youth ministry events/programs.

Current students will be given an opportunity to apply and may also be nominated by the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, adult volunteers, or Pastor based on the following qualifications:

- Potential leadership ability
- Desire for spiritual and personal growth
- Emotional, mental, and spiritual maturity
- Respect for peers and adults
- Willingness to serve humbly and sacrificially
- Commitment to the Notre Dame Youth Ministry program

At the end of the catechetical year, each member of the Youth Leadership Council – along with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry - will prayerfully discern whether they are being called to serve another year on council.

YLC Expectations

Youth Leadership Council Members will be expected to uphold the following:

- Be an incoming 10th grade student or higher, currently enrolled in the Life Teen program and have attended the previous year's Life Nights with minimum absences
- Be COMMITTED to your relationship with Christ and Youth Ministry here at Notre Dame
 - Fulfill their Sunday Obligation of attending Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
 - Commit to regular prayer, reading scripture, personal worship and evangelization
 - Be willing to share your faith and God-given talents without hesitation or reservation
 - Demonstrate polite, Christian behavior as you will be a representative of not only the Life Teen program, but our parish
- Demonstrate a high level of commitment and responsibility to the mission of the YLC
 - Attend all scheduled YLC meetings
 - Maintain on-going communication with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry
 - Be diligent, dependable and faithful in individual areas of responsibility
 - Use your God given gifts to carry out the mission of the Church
 - Support, encourage, and hold each other accountable for duties and tasks
- Find areas of need in youth ministry and offer suggestions for improvement
 - Always publicly support and protect the youth ministry, its leaders and decisions. Address any frustrations and concerns privately with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry
 - Diffuse gossip, rumors and conflict among their peers
- Participate wholeheartedly in games, activities, and discussion. YLC members should not be "sitting on the sidelines."
 - Be the first jump up when it's time to get organized...Any game can be fun if you want it to be
 - Look for students not participating and pull them in.
 - Clap, cheer, scream, and sing...when appropriate
 - Prepare and lead aspects of youth meetings, including prayer, icebreakers, skits, music, etc.
- Intentionally build relationships with students from any school and welcome those attending Life Teen and other youth ministry events
 - Make newcomers feel welcome and try to remember their names. Say "hi" and let them know they are noticed the next week.
 - Follow-up with students who have missed more than two weeks of Life Teen
- Creatively find new ways to attract more teens to youth ministry
- Serve in additional parish ministries (liturgy, music, Good Shepherd, CFF, Edge, etc.)

In addition:

- Members are not required to, but highly encouraged, to actively participate in the 5:00pm Sunday mass in ministries such as lector, altar server, Eucharistic ministers, choir, or usher.
- Members are asked to attend all outside activities such as the Fall Retreat, Confirmation Retreat (Juniors and Seniors Only), Inspiration Tour, and CHWC.

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."
1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

YLC Meetings

The Youth Leadership Council representatives will meet with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and adult mentors on a quarterly basis (ex. August, November, February, May)

The Youth Leadership Council will conduct their meetings in a prayerful manner which will include beginning meetings with readings from Sacred Scripture engaging in periods of quiet meditation and faith sharing. They shall conduct themselves in love as Christ loves the Church (John 13: 34-35).

“The Church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your youthful ideas, in order to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people’s hearts and the structures of society in order to create a civilization of true justice and love.” (From a speech by Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day, Denver, 1993)

Life Teen Youth Council Positions

President - responsible for leading the council at every meeting through a (previously planned, approved, and typed) agenda. Must also attend Adult Core Team meetings as the youth liaison. Will greet students as they walk into Life Teen, announce all announcements at the end of each Life Night, and is expected to organize at least one community service project (with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry’s approval and supervision) that the entire Life Teen ministry can participate in.

Vice President - responsible for being the President’s second in command. Should the President be unable to perform any of their duties due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, the Vice President must be able to step in. VP will greet the students as they walk into Life Teen and hand out any flyers (if necessary) at the end of Life Teen. Also expected to schedule student volunteers for service projects (Parish Beautification Days, Fall Festival booth, SVdP Food Pantry, etc.)

Secretary - responsible for taking notes during every meeting and typing up a summary to be distributed at the next meeting. Also responsible for sitting at sign-in table at Life Teen on Sundays to greet students and accurately take attendance. Must update the “Youth Bulletin Board” in the social center at least once a month.

Prayer Leader - responsible for opening and closing meetings in prayer. Also allotted 10-15 minutes each meeting to lead in a unique prayer time (such as a lectio divina, mediation, chaplet of divine mercy, etc.) Will also lead Life Teen in prayer on Sundays before talks (or responsible for finding a volunteer prior to Life Night.)

Historian - responsible for taking (and gathering) pictures from Life Teen and all outside activities, except for the confirmation retreat. Must assemble a scrapbook by the end of the school year. Must also put together a picture slide show presentation for the last day of Life Teen to share with the group.

Social Coordinator - responsible for creating the theme and coming up with activities for each social night. Must present ideas to the council for approval. Will oversee execution of social nights as well (with supervision of Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Core Team as needed.)

Teen Takeover Coordinator - responsible for creating the theme and coming up with activities for each teen takeover night. Must present ideas to the council for approval. Will oversee execution of teen takeover night along with all members of the YLC.

Confirmation Liaison - must be enrolled in the upcoming school year’s confirmation class. Responsible for taking pictures at class as well as the confirmation retreat and contributing to the confirmation pages of the year-end scrapbook.

Notre Dame Life Teen - Youth Leadership Council (YLC)

Nomination Form (to be completed by an adult)

To nominate a high school teen to the Youth Leadership Council for Notre Dame Catholic Church, please complete the form and return it to Wyatt in the YFM Office via:

- Email: wyatt.wentrcek@notredamechurch.cc
- Postal Mail to Notre Dame Catholic Church (Attn: Wyatt Wentrcek) 909 Main St. Kerrville, TX 78028
- Hand it to him personally in a sealed envelope.

Wyatt may contact you confirming that he has received it and may ask you some follow-up questions. Your response will remain confidential; please do not return this to nominee.

Name of Student You Are Nominating - _____

Describe your relationship to/experience with this student.

How long have you known this student? _____

How would you rate his/her ability at the following?

	<i>Low</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
Involvement in peer relationships?	1	2	3	4	5
Involvement in adult relationships?	1	2	3	4	5
Emotional maturity?	1	2	3	4	5
Teachable spirit and open to correction?	1	2	3	4	5
Following through with commitments?	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to be a team player?	1	2	3	4	5
Honesty and integrity in conduct?	1	2	3	4	5
Spiritual maturity?	1	2	3	4	5
Willingness to serve peers?	1	2	3	4	5

What are this nominee's greatest strengths? Weaknesses?

Do you have any concerns regarding this student being a spiritual leader in ministry?

Your Name: _____ Date: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Signature: _____

Notre Dame Life Teen - Youth Leadership Council (YLC)

STUDENT APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in the YLC. Please complete the application and return it to the Youth Ministry Office.

All information will be kept completely confidential.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

General Information

Name _____ Date _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____ School _____ Grade _____

Parent Name _____ Parent's Phone _____

Have you ever served on the Life Teen Youth Council? Yes No

If so, when? _____ What position? _____

Hobbies and Interests

How do you like to spend your free time? What do you do for fun?

In which of the following areas are you gifted and/or have training, interest or experience? This is not necessarily an indication of what YLC position you would like to hold.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sing | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama/Acting | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play Instrument
which one?
_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Setup/tear down | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lector/Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead games/activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Service/Work projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality/Greeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
_____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | |

Church and Ministry Experience

How long have you been attending Youth Ministry (Edge/Life Teen) at Notre Dame? _____

Do you attend Mass weekly? (Circle one) Yes No

Which Mass do you most often attend?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday 5:00pm | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday 9:15am | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday 5:00pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday 7:45am | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday 11:00am | |

What other ministries are you involved in at church?

Let Us Get to Know You

How is God working in your life right now?

Name the person/people who have had the greatest influence in your relationship with Christ and describe how.

Describe your spiritual journey and relationship with Christ today? What are your struggles (we all have them!)? What's going well in your prayer life?

How often do you spend time with God by reading Scripture?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture? What's that? | <input type="checkbox"/> I rarely read my Bible. | <input type="checkbox"/> I feel comfortable speaking to others about the Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know where my Bible is. | <input type="checkbox"/> I read my Bible weekly. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know the books of the Bible. | <input type="checkbox"/> I read my Bible daily. | |
| | | |

What is your personal vision for youth ministry at Notre Dame? Do you have ideas on how the YLC, Adult Core Team, and Coordinator of Youth Ministry can best serve students?

Please list the reasons why you would like to join the Youth Leadership Council.

What do you hope to accomplish by serving on the council?

Which of the YLC Positions do you have the most interest in? (Please see descriptions on prior page)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Takeover Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Coordinator | |

Why do you believe you are most suited for this position?

Why is it important for you to serve others?

Are there areas of the parish where you would like to see more youth involvement? If yes, where and why? If no, how do you see youth involved in the parish?

Please list any known days/dates when you would be unavailable to attend meetings/activities (i.e. family trips, sports practices, theater performances, etc.)

I understand the requirements to be on the Notre Dame Youth Leadership Council and I have filled out this application honestly and to the best of my abilities.

Student's Signature _____ **Date** _____

I understand that my child is applying to be on the Notre Dame Youth Leadership Council and I will make every effort to support and encourage their involvement in YLC and other Youth Ministry activities.

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."
1 Timothy 4:12*