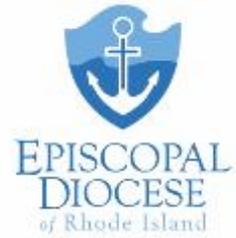




Episcopal Youth Event '17

July 10-17, 2017

On the campus of the
University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma
Open to youth currently in 9th – 12th grades, or equivalent



Our Diocese will be bringing a group of high school students and adult mentors. Participants will be chosen with an application process.

Applications are due into the Diocesan office by January 3, 2017



What is the Episcopal Youth Event?

EYE is a triennial event for the entire Episcopal Church (pronounced E-Y-E). About 1000 people (high school students, their adult mentors, and Bishops from around the church) come together and live on a college campus for a little under a week. Time is spent in worship (amazing, awesome and very memorable worship), large group presentations (to see a past one, go here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtMaFGcNau8>), small group discussions on the presentations (youth lead), workshops on a variety of topics (from meditation to outreach to AIDS in the life of our church to knitting, and everything in between), and a lot of time hanging out and meeting people from around the world. Here's a great video from the Diocese of California to help you learn even more about EYE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbzKNxO0gvs>.

Why would a you want to go?

It's excellent! You can meet people from all over. You'll get to know people who share your beliefs and also some who's disagree with your views, but with whom you can discuss differences and still be friends. You'll be able to take part in HUGE and EXCITING liturgy (people can volunteer as acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers). You'll take part in a mission activity where you'll be helping people and serving God. You may even learn some new things, grow and change as you broaden your experience and watch God move in others (and in yourself). And you'll be able to sleep in a college dorm and experience college cafeteria food (ok, maybe not a selling point, but still an experience!).

Why would you want your teenager/parishioner to go?

As small as Rhode Island is, we don't get to know that many other Episcopalians, especially others our own age. This is one time where they will be SURROUNDED by them. This is also an opportunity to serve others – being part of an intentional Christian community.

Cost:

The cost of the conference is \$350.00 and air fare will be approximately \$650.00. All meals and accommodations are included in the conference price as well as transportation to and from the airport. We know that this more than most people can afford, so we will be holding fundraisers and will receive some funds from the Diocese.



Who should apply?

While we encourage everyone to apply, we will be bringing a delegation of diverse young leaders who represent the breadth of our diocese. We will be choosing people through an application process to ensure that the selected youth who are ready to experience the greater church and her diversity, and who also demonstrate capacity to bring home what they have experienced and learned to share with their peers and members of our diocese. Please note that our diocese has never had to turn away people, as we have never filled our delegation.

We hope to have a diverse group of faithful, mature high schoolers, along with adults enthused about learning with them, and empowering and equipping them to be disciples in the world. All members of our delegation will need to be able to handle travel, to speak up in groups, to have the language to share their own faith journeys, and to be trustworthy in honoring the covenant for behavior required of all participants.

Why is the application deadline so early?

Yes, **applications are due by January 3, 2017**, but we don't leave for another 6 months. Why? 1) Because the event registrations will close when the spots are full. As the event registration opens in January, we want to be sure to get spots. 2) Travel needs to be arranged, as we'll be flying to Oklahoma.

Why do adults who want to go need to apply?

I've had a few adults tell me through the years that they are interested in EYE, so I want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to apply. EYE will be a working ministry experience for adult mentors. It's a tough job, because mentors need to be disciplinarians, friendly, spiritual, easy to get along with, and able to go with the flow when problems occur, along with helping find solutions and making decisions. We will be discerning the make-up of our delegation in terms of both youth and adults. I know that we have many amazing people in our Diocese, but I want to make sure that we chose the right ones for this difficult but very rewarding task.

I hope you will consider applying (or giving this to a young person who is interested). Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

The Rev. Grace Swinski, Deacon
2017 EYE Registrar, Diocese of Rhode Island
graceswinsk@gmail.com 401.749.7905

3. What gifts would you bring to the Rhode Island delegation attending EYE?

4. **You will be expected to come back and share this experience with your congregation, deanery and diocese** (an article for the newsletter, video presentation, or spoken presentation). Would you be able to do this, and what platform would you possibly use?

5. What do you hope to learn, do, or share at EYE?

6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

APPLICANT AGREEMENT: I understand that if I am chosen to go to EYE, that I must abide by all rules. I am expected to attend all scheduled events during EYE, and that I will be asked to attend a mandatory orientation to prepare me for the event. I also understand that I will be part of a group needed to raise funds for EYE.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parental/Guardian Information and Consent to Apply (only for youth applicants)

I give my permission for my child to apply to attend the Episcopal Youth Event. I understand that my child will need to commit to raising some of the funding for the event. I also understand that all participants will have choices of programming to attend and my not be supervised for short periods of time and believe my child will be trustworthy in honoring the covenant for behavior required of all participants. I also understand that if my child breaks any of the rules they will be sent home at my (parent/guardian) expense.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return to: The Episcopal Diocese of RI
275 North Main St., Providence RI 02903
Attention: EYE application/ Rev. Grace Swinski