

Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Extraordinaire
“SPYCE”
Mission Statement and Bylaws
2015– 2016

We, the members of Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council, believe we are called to bring youth and adults together to build and strengthen the faith, fellowship, and mission of youth in our Presbyterian community.

Therefore we, as the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council, covenant to:

- Plan and implement a Middle School Rally and a High School Retreat for the Presbytery, providing a safe, welcoming and fun filled atmosphere while providing an opportunity for spiritual growth for all attendees;
- Model Christ to guests and fellow council members alike by words and actions;
- Be an encourager to one another in good and bad times;
- Share God’s love and presence in our lives;
- Pray without ceasing for the youth council;
- Be an encourager to fellow SPYCE members, keeping in mind how important your words are; be constructive, not destructive;
- Be enthusiastic and attentive;
- Do our best in everything as excellence honors God.

I. GENERALS OF SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY YOUTH COUNCIL

1. Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council will meet as follows:
 - Friday, August 14 (5:30 pm)-Sunday, August 16 (1:00 pm), Planning/Kickoff Weekend
 - Sunday, September 13, 2:00-5:00 pm, Planning Meeting
 - Saturday, September 26 (1:00 pm)-Sunday, September 27 (5:00 pm), Middle School Rally
 - Saturday, December 5, 12:00-4:00 pm, optional Christmas gathering
 - Friday, January 8 (5:30 pm)-Sunday, January 10 (1:00 pm), Senior High Retreat planning
 - Sunday, January 24, 2016, 2:00-5:00 pm, Planning Meeting
 - Friday, February 6 (right after school)-Sunday, February 8 (1:00 pm), Senior High Retreat
 - Date TBD, Spring Planning Meeting/Senior Farewell

Meeting dates may be changed at the discretion of the adult leaders of the youth council. Except in the case of increment weather, changes will be made at least 10 days prior to the original scheduled meeting.

2. Youth council members will be notified of upcoming meetings at least 10 days in advance by a posting on Facebook, an e-mail to both the members of the council and to the parents of the members of the youth council. The posting and e-mail will include the meeting date, the beginning and ending time of the meeting, the place where the meeting is being held and as many details as possible regarding any special activities taking place during the meeting.

3. The Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council will organize and provide leadership for two Presbytery gatherings each year – one Middle School Rally held the second Sunday in October and one Senior High Retreat held the first full week-end in March (Friday – Sunday).

II. ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL

1. Application Process

- a) Youth interested in serving on the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council may obtain an application from the Presbytery website www.shenpres.org. Applicant must be an active member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the Shenandoah Presbytery. Applicant must also be endorsed by their home church session and must have parental/guardian permission to apply/serve in the youth council.
- b) Applications must be received by June 30th. After reviewing all applications, accepted applicants will be notified by July 10th. New members will be welcomed at the kick off/planning week-end in August.
- c) Applicants will be reviewed on the following criteria: service to home church and community, character, commitment to Christ-like living, experience and extracurricular activities, special skills and gifts, and ability to work with others.

2. Makeup of Council

- a) The Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council will be comprised of 19-21 youth and 4 or more adults. A “youth” is considered to be a high school student in the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at the time of service on the council. An “adult” is considered to be at least 21 years of age at the time of service on the council.
- b) The Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council will continually strive to achieve a gender and ethnic balance in its active membership. In addition, the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council will strive to achieve a balance of church representation from across the presbytery. The ideal situation will be viewed as no more than 3 youth on the council from a single church. However, this will depend on quantity and quality of all applications received.
- c) The Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council will operate with a steering committee which will consist of one male youth member, one female youth member, and at least two adult leaders. The youth members must be in grades 11 or 12.

III. EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH AND ADULTS ON COUNCIL

1. Members of the Shenandoah Youth Council are required to attend all scheduled council meetings, the Middler Rally, and the Senior High Retreat. Members who have three (3) unexcused absences or four (4) excused absences will not be allowed to apply for another year of membership. Absence to the Middler Rally and Senior High Retreat will count as two (2) absences.
2. Any member of the council, youth or adult, who is unable to attend a meeting or retreat must

submit a written request for an excused absence to the steering committee at least three days

prior to a meeting and two weeks prior to the Middler Rally and Senior High Retreat, except in emergency situations. In the case of an emergency situation, an adult leader on the steering committee must be notified by phone. Absences as a result of emergency situations will be classified as “excused”.

Other excused absences can be one of the following:

- Personal sickness;
- Sickness/death of family member;
- Church youth group or other significant church activity;
- Other absence requests will be reviewed by the steering committee and determined as “excused” or “unexcused”.

IV. Responsibilities of Council

1. Responsibilities of Steering Committee

- a) set time and place of meetings,
- b) Create agendas for each meeting, providing copies for members at each meeting,
- c) Conduct meetings in a timely fashion,
- d) Secure persons to share devotions at the beginning of each meeting, and arrange to have snacks available for each meeting,
- e) Appoint someone to take minutes of each meeting and send an electronic copy to each member and also to Kerry Foster at _____ for the Presbytery to keep on file,
- f) Promote the youth council at the March retreat and invite any interested youth to obtain an application from the Presbytery website,
- g) Acknowledge graduating seniors and any other members who will be leaving the council in the spring,
- h) Assign council members the duty of creating promotional brochures and sending to all churches with registration form at least two months in advance of each retreat,
- i) Appoint two council members to serve as retreat directors for the middler rally and the high school retreat,
- j) Assign other pertinent duties to council member as they arise.
- k) Establish rules for retreat and be sure they are relayed to the retreat directors for proper communication to council members and other retreat attendees.

2. Responsibilities of Retreat Directors

- a) Lead council members in the following retreat committees and assure work is being carried out as planned on a timely basis. Also attain any supplies/equipment needed for:

Registration/Food/Advertising - Name tags, assignment of attendees to small groups, plan menus, create welcome posters, retreat schedules, and other communications for the retreat.

Recreation – All planned recreation including icebreakers for opening of the retreat. In addition to attaining all needed supplies this committee will be responsible for clean up after all recreational activities.

Energizers – Plan, coordinate, seek leadership and secure music for energizers.

Skits – Work with keynoter to develop skits and other ways to enhance keynotes. Seek council members to participate in skits.

Music/Technology – Choose music for group singing, secure overheads, projector, and sound system

Worship – Work with keynoter to plan retreat worship service. Also seek council members to provide leadership during worship service

- b) Each retreat will have no less than two youth retreat directors. These individuals will be selected by members of the council at the August kick off/planning week-end. Retreat directors will oversee the planning and implementation of each retreat as outlined in Section IV, 2a.
- c) At each retreat youth council members will be assigned in teams of two to lead small group.
- d) Work with adult leaders to organize a detailed clean-up procedure at the conclusion of the retreat, using everyone on the council. Follow up with adult leaders to see that all clean-up has been done and then grant dismissal to all council members
- e) Arrange “patrol” on nights of retreat to make sure all attendees are in their rooms at curfew/lights out time.
- f) Knowledge of **ANY** rule violation needs to be brought to the attention of the adult leaders of the council.

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I have received, read, and understand the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Bylaws. I will respect and obey to the best of my ability these bylaws set the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council.

Signature

Date

Print Name