

ADULT COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES

We are delighted to gather, share, celebrate and grow as the church of Jesus Christ! Large groups bring with them an air of excitement and enthusiasm which helps make learning and sharing fun. Counselors help enable learning and sharing while minimizing behavioral concerns.

One adult counselor (minimum age 21) is required for every 7 youth attending the Gathering. There is good reason for this. It would be impossible and unwise for the Gathering staff to assume sole responsibility for the behavior of such a large group of young people. Furthermore, adult counselors are uniquely positioned to provide the personal guidance, attention and direction which is so important in helping youth get the most out of the Gathering experience.

Listed below are the adult counselor responsibilities at the Synod Youth Gathering:

1. Attend adult counselor orientation: This brief session will (a) introduce you the event staff and other counselors; (b) orient the counselors to the gathering itself; (c) instruct and aid counselors in their role and (d) review procedures in dealing with problems.
2. Have a positive attitude! The counselors positive attitude helps youth to appreciate the event, to conduct themselves responsibly and to manage the moments of frustrations
3. Maintain common standards. Our registration for the event is a commitment to abide by the Youth Gathering Covenant. This is our stand and applies equally to every group and to both youth and adults. Each counselor is responsible for the conduct of his or her church group.
4. Know where your kids are. The way the gathering is set up, there is a lot of "free time" where the kids can interact with each other, go swimming, etc... Counselors are to help their youth spend their time in meaningful ways. Plan to get everyone up in the morning and be involved with all aspects of the Gathering - "NO WALLFLOWERS ALLOWED!"
5. Have "Candle Power". On Friday and Saturday night at 11:30, get together with your kids and have everyone share highlights of the day, what they learned in workshops, how they think the Gathering is going, what they will take home with them and apply it to your church, and what's on the schedule for the next day. Ask questions like, What affected you most today? How can we take back what we learned to our congregation? What are you going to do with what you learned? What's your fondest or funniest memory of today? You get the idea.... If you would like a more structured time, we also have quick Bible Study materials that you can use to get started.
6. Enforce curfew. Although we have a security person who will be watching the halls and the hotel has it's own security force, it is still our responsibility to make sure all our kids are in their rooms by immediately after candle power and quiet by 12:30 a.m. (lights out)
7. On Sunday morning, adults are asked to inspect the rooms where their kids have stayed to make sure there is not a giant mess or damage to the hotel. Once we inspect, hotel staff will also inspect to make sure we didn't miss anything. Please be checked out of your room before worship on Sunday morning.

Thanks again for serving the students of your church by being here with them this week-end! It's folks like you who make all the difference!

"I come among you as one who serves."

- Jesus