Lutheran Youth Organization

2026 Adult Leader Packet

This information packet for the weekend is designed for you as an adult leader to use as a reference and was put together by your LYO Board of high school youth from across the state. This weekend is going to be a whole lot of fun, and we need your help to make it as fun as possible!

PS: We also know that there is a lot of information here. Here are some bullet points we want to make sure to highlight—more details can be found later in the document. We ask that you please familiarize yourself with it.

- Please be on time
- Please be discreet with phone use (especially for our adult chaperones!)
- Please be respectful to leaders up front
- Don't clump—sit with your youth!
- Please hold your group accountable and respectful. Encourage participation and attention. We invite you to review the group covenant before you come with your ENTIRE group.
- We need your help during Free Time to watch all of us. Please keep an eye out for any behavioral issues or other concerns.
- Name Tags—please wear them and make sure your group wears them. This is especially important as we will not be the only people present in the hotel space
- Positive Attitudes ALL Weekend make a HUGE Difference—we feed off YOUR ENERGY!
- Dietary Needs—You should have tickets for those who were reported to have needs ahead of time.
- Pizza Saturday Night— we order it for you (only cheese).
- After Candlepower—Youth need to stay in their rooms. If we find youth outside of their rooms after this time, we will direct them back to their rooms. Vending machine runs need to be completed before candlepower begins.

Adult Leader Expectations

Throughout the course of the weekend, we are going to need each of you as adult leaders to lead by example positively. The youth are going to get as much out of this weekend as they choose to get out of this weekend and anything that you can do to help this weekend be great for them is much appreciated!

- **Please be on time—** We have put a lot of time and energy into planning and prepping for this weekend and we hope for everything to run as smoothly as possible. If you and your group are on time, things will run a lot more smoothly!
- **Please be discreet with phone use—**We want you to be able to take as many pictures on your phones as you can! BUT, we know when you're not using your phones to take pictures! (It's really obvious to us.) If we're asking all of our peers not to have cell phones for this event, and we see you using your phones, it sends a mixed message. If you need to make a call, respond to a text, check or send an email, or even post a photo on FaceBook, please do so outside of the main meeting rooms or during times when it is appropriate to have phones.
- **Please be respectful of leaders up front—**We know that many of you are seeing friends for the first time in a while—just like we are. If we (the youth) are being asked to participate in songs or to listen to a speaker, we would appreciate it if you would do the same. Having a lot of adults carrying on conversations in the back of the room or out in the hall if the doors are open is distracting and kind of unfair to us. A lot of the people who are up in front would appreciate the respect of *everyone* in the room, not just the youth that you brought with you. If you need to have a discussion with another adult, please do so away from the meeting space that we're in.
- **Come sit with us—**Over the last few years, we've noticed that adults like to gravitate toward the back of the room. We would really like to encourage you to join us. You can sit with youth from your youth groups, or you can sit with random youth, too! We appreciate it when you show an interest in things with us!
- **Please hold your group accountable—**We really appreciate it when the adults for a congregation help to make sure they are being respectful during the times that others are talking and leading. Your example goes a long way to helping us all see how we need to be acting throughout the weekend.
- **Free Time—**During free time, it would be super helpful for us if we all worked as a team to, for lack of a better term, "corral" all 400+ of us youth. Having 400+ of us running around the halls isn't what we want to have happen. If you're comfortable with it, we would like to invite you to keep every youth accountable for their actions during free time, not just your own youth.
- **Small group Time—**This is one of those times when you are welcome to chat with your fellow adults if you are not a small group leader. Feel free to pop in on some

small groups so you can see what they are doing, but please be aware that there are some small groups that end up feeling uncomfortable when adult leaders pop in for a visit. If you feel like this may be happening, we ask that you please respect the dynamics of that small group so that each youth can get the most out of their small group experience!

- **Name tags & bracelets—**Since we're a large group of teenagers in one building—which also has other teenagers that aren't with LYO in it—we are going to ask that everyone with LYO wear their name tags anytime that they are out of their individual hotel rooms. That includes meal times and free times, please. This is important as we are such a large group, and for our safety, we need to know who we are amongst the other guests!
- **Congregational choice theme dinner—**Every year, our Saturday night dinner is a wacky and wonderful occasion! We encourage congregations to come up with their own unique theme and dress up! Many congregations go all out! Some themes have been: tie dye, Barbies, Rainbow, or different decades!
- **Dance—**We absolutely love the dance night at LYO. It's likely one of the highlights for many of your youth, too. This dance is unlike most of our school dances because it's a whole lot more fun since most of us don't care if we're awkward. We need your help to keep our dance this way by:
  1) Participating and supervising us during the dance. Have fun with us! 2) Following the rules about opening appropriate doors. 3) Wearing name tags even though it may not be cool.
- **Stay positive and smile!—**We know that you may be tired at times this weekend, and so are we. Unfortunately, being tired often corresponds with being cranky or even complaining. If we can all spread positivity this weekend, we'll have a lot more fun!

Adult Leader Meeting Times

Intro Adult Leader Meetings 8:55-9:15pm Friday Night

The Adult Leader meeting will be the same meeting happening twice, adults will be split in A or B groups to manage having eyes on participants! Please make sure you attend.

Congregational Check-in #1

Throughout the LYO Weekend this year we are going to be having a few different times when we want each congregation to check in with you as their leaders. These will usually take place before the free times that happen throughout the course of the day on Saturday.

For this congregational check in we would like you to please make sure that you have an accurate headcount of your youth and please…

- Reiterate your expectations of your group for the upcoming Free Time that will follow their lunch meeting.

- Remind anyone interested in being part of the Synod Band or the NC Synod Youth Gathering Band that there is an interest meeting at 11:25 a.m. in the Board Room.
- Remind anyone interested in applying for the 2023-2024 LYO Board to meet in the conference room (near the bathrooms) at 1:15 p.m.

It's up to you if you want to eat lunch as a congregation or not. Lunch is served starting at 12 noon.

Congregational Check-in #2

For this congregational check-in in we would like you to please make sure that you have an accurate headcount of your youth, and please make sure to vote for your favorite video before sending them to free time with these reminders...

- Reiterate your expectations of your group for the upcoming Free Time.
- During this time, everyone who has a themed outfit of some kind is encouraged to "get ready" for dinner
- Remind everyone that following dinner, they will have a brief amount of time to change out of costume if they want to in order to get ready for the dance later that evening.
- Name tags are REQUIRED for dinner and the dance!!

We would like to encourage you to eat as a congregation for the dinner.

2026-2027 LYO Board Application Process

The application is an online Google Form that has a few basic questions. This is a blind process, so it's very important that they take the questions seriously. Two graduating seniors, two Young Adult Resource Persons (YARPs), and one adult advisor rank the applications, and the top eight are chosen. One position is the Synod Council youth representative, which is a 2-year position. Applicants MUST be able to attend the summer retreat or they are unable to serve because of the sheer amount of planning that happens at the summer retreat.

2026-2027 NC Synod Band

We need singers and musicians and motion leaders! It doesn't matter what instrument you play! An informational meeting will be taking place in the board room at 11:25 a.m. on Saturday for anyone interested in more information.

Please note that this does involve a time commitment. There will be a "Rehearsal Lock-in" (date TBD) for everyone that is part of this band and also a "Run-Through" (date TBD) that are both mandatory in order to be part of this band.

Food & Dietary Needs Ticket Explanation

We know that the food has not always been the best, but we hope that with the new systems we have in place that it will be a little easier to get food while it is still warm.

Patience is the key here. We know it's hard to be patient when you are hungry, but if you could model patience and help your youth remain calm as we wait for food to come to your tables, it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

If you reported dietary needs in advance, you should have received a ticket for each participant for both lunch and dinner if their dietary need requires a different meal. Not all dietary needs require a different meal. There will be a station (which we hope stays in one location) that will have all dietary needs alternatives. You must take your ticket to the station to receive your alternative meal.

Please note that if we did not know about your dietary needs before today, we will do everything we can to make sure you have something to eat, but you will need to be patient with us, please! Thanks!

Candle Power (separate sheets)

Each night of LYO this year we really wanted to extend the focus of our theme, *Keeping Up With the Lutherans: The Church Has Left the Building*, and what better way to do that than by having a Candle Power devotional time as a congregation to end the evening. You can find a scripted Candle Power for both evenings on a separate sheet. You can do your own thing, or follow the script, but if you could tie whatever you do into our theme for the weekend, we believe that our peers will get a better overall experience from this weekend.

At the Saturday night Candle Power, we will have pizza provided for your congregation group by us!

Schedule (separate sheets)

The schedule is something that we will do our best to honor. Our goal is to be on time with everything that we do, but we know that sometimes things don't go as planned. If this happens, please work with us as we try to catch up on our time or as we adjust the schedule to make it all work out!

Schedules are posted around the main floor of the hotel and also available on the website, and given to adult leaders.

Who do I ask for help?

Registration, meals, hotel things: Lexi Barnhill, NC Synod Events coordinator

Programming, youth concerns: Cassie Overcash, Assistant to Bishop, CYF

Young Adult Program: Mark Hustedt, NC Synod Young Adults Coordinator