



The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Youth Department

The Youth Department (YD) consists of twelve high school youth chosen by their peers at our annual EYC Convention to represent the Episcopal Youth Community in the Diocese of Alabama. There are 6 members-at-large and 6 district representatives who make up the elected youth members of YD. The department also includes 6 adult advisors and 2 Chaplains appointed by the Bishop, as well as the Diocesan Missioner for Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries.

YD serves to create opportunities for Diocesan-wide fellowship among the youth community by implementing welcoming, engaging, and formational events throughout the year, including Diocesan or District Day, Christmas Conference, EYC Convention and Rites of Spring. In addition, YD supports other youth events through peer leadership and servant ministry, such as Happening, Awakenings, Special Session, Sawyerville Day Camp, Foothills Day Camp, Young People Paint Birmingham, and additional leadership roles that evolve

YD represents the youth of the diocese with seat, voice and vote at the monthly Diocesan Council (bishop's vestry) meetings. Additionally, YD sends 2 youth delegates with seat, voice, and vote to the annual Diocesan Convention.

The Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator invites YD members to assist with parish visits and other such presentations, workshops and events around the diocese and within our province.

Serving on YD is a one-year term for the youth, and a member can be elected to serve a maximum of two years. YD is an incredible leadership opportunity, but it is also a demanding servant ministry. YD members are expected to be fully present for meetings and events and to live into the spirit of the ministry through hard work, leadership, and discipleship, and by exhibiting behavior at all times and all places that lifts up the ministry and does not bring the work of the YD into question.

Eligible candidates for Youth Department are:

- 9th – 12th graders
- confirmed Episcopalians (or plan to be confirmed within the year)
- residents in the diocese of Alabama (at large members) or within the district in which they are running to represent
- able to fulfill the duties of attending Diocesan Convention, each of the monthly YD meetings, special events hosted by YD, their respective district meetings, and staying active in their local EYC

Running for YD requires prayerful and careful consideration of what is required, weighing all other commitments and being intentional about choosing what can be fully committed. The YD requirements and commitment should be discussed with parents/guardians before a youth decides to run in order to make sure the requirements of getting to and from Birmingham each month for the meetings and the other duties required can be fulfilled.

Candidates for YD need to prepare and record a brief "speech" (2 minutes) on HOW and WHY this call to serve on YD is being felt, including local parish involvement, related experience, personal attributes, and time availability that can be emailed to the EYC Convention Coordinator two weeks prior to the event. All candidates who are nominated must accept their nomination before being added to the slate. The YD district reps will be elected during the first business meeting and the YD at-large members are elected during the second session.

While all YD members work together to accomplish our common goals, it is important to note that those interested in being considered as the YD Chair should only run for at-large membership. The chair will be selected by the YD members at the planning retreat from the at-large members. YD district reps are the primary organizers and points of contact within their respective districts. Again, all members are leaders and play a vital role to the success of the department as a whole. In addition to choosing a chair at the retreat, members will also make a decision through consensus who will serve in roles such as PR, Outreach, Program, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, or simply want to discuss any of this further, please contact Jen Manning or a current member of the Youth Department.

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