



2015 - 2016 Registration for Teen Program (6th - 12th grade)

(Thanks for registering your children separately. That way we can group children in programs and classes. Confidential-not for publication or distribution)



Child

Name: _____ Nickname: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Family Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Gender: Male Female

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Age as of September 2015: _____

School Attending: _____ Grade in School: _____

Date of Baptism (if applicable): _____ Denomination: _____

Parent / Guardian

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address (if different from above): _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact and Medical Information

Emergency contact person (a parent / guardian is expected to be on church property when child is in class and worship).

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Allergies (health, dietary and etc.): _____

Health Concerns (that we should be aware of): _____

Should we be aware of any learning challenges that your child faces? Yes No

If yes, please specify: _____

This child learns best by... _____

Please list activities that may conflict with participation and regular attendance that we should be aware of:

Media and Photo Release

I hereby give permission for this parish to use my child's photograph (without their name) in parish _____ publications, on the parish website and in news releases in regard to any parish sponsored activity. Parent's Initials _____

Journey to Adulthood program (in the national literature) is a well-endorsed Episcopal youth program. There are three components. Importantly, the first two components are two years each so that students can “travel together” for an extended period of time. That said, any child who moves into the parish during a two year cycle and is in the appropriate grade can join any of the programs.

- The *Co-ordinator* of the Teen Program is Rhonda Wishart (860) 928-4999 who primarily works on logistics, scheduling and organizing all aspects of the program.
- We typically have 2-4 *leaders* for each segment of the program who volunteer for 2-year stints. Often leaders “cycle” back some years later as they discover that it’s a lot of fun (as well as preparation & work).
- The *Teen Program Committee* helps support the work of the Coordinator and leaders.

Rite-13 - Young people enter Rite-13 when they are anywhere from 11 to 13 years old. (The young person should turn 13 sometime during the two-year duration of this program. (12 is probably the preferred age.) When they turn 13, this event is celebrated in the church with a service loosely modeled on the Jewish bar mitzvah. We usually do the Rite-13 Ceremony 3-4 times during the course of the two year program. This usually works to cover all the birthdays during that time.

- The two years of Rite-13 are fun. The Rite-13ers play a lot of games, laugh a lot, learn a lot. Perhaps more than anything else, all activities are geared to build community, to establish trust and safety, to remind young people that this is their church, and that they are safe and welcome within it.
- A lot of time is devoted to the great stories of Holy Scriptures and their validity in our day.
- This program deals with prayer, with the ways we see and encounter God, with possessions and their importance in our life, with trust in God on our faith journey together.
- Every effort is made to keep the process experiential, with a hands-on and “hearts-on” focus.
- Rite-13ers go on trips that are usually local.

J2A (Journey to Adulthood) - Perhaps the difference between the Rite-13 years and the J2A can best be summed up by describing the first evening activities. In Rite-13, the young people meet in the home of a leader. They have a cookout. They run all around the yard, play, laugh, chase, while the leaders cook hot dogs and hamburgers and clean up at the end. In J2A, the youth arrive at the church to find no leaders, but a series of signs directing them to the kitchen where they find the ingredients and recipes for a dinner. The young people prepare and serve the meal and clean up, without any assistance from the leaders.

- The J2A program covers community building, choice-making, prioritizing, sexuality (not sex-ed) as part of our identity, relationships and especially, recognizing God in one another and in the world. The J2A program can be summed up by saying, “being human, male or female, is a gift but becoming an adult is earned”.
- At the end of the two year program, the J2A group is given a course in preparation for Confirmation. Participation in Confirmation is an optional mature decision made by spiritually-equipped young people. It is not considered a rite of passage or an exit ritual, but rather a chance for the individual to confirm that which was said for them at their Baptism.
- After the completion of the 4th year (after Rite-13 and J2A) the young people make a Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimages done have been to: South Dakota, Wyoming, Toronto and South Carolina. It doesn’t matter where they go as long as they are going somewhere that is not familiar and that they go in search of their own encounter with the Divine. This is not a sightseeing expedition, nor a mission trip or even a service opportunity. Young people go on pilgrimage to be open to God’s presence away from the “normal” stimuli of their families, cell phones, TV, and etc. The Pilgrimage is fairly inexpensive as trips go. Currently the young people fund-raise a third of the money, the families supply a third and the church, a third.

YAC - Following their return from pilgrimage, the young people are re-introduced to the congregation as Young Adults in the Church. From this point on they are in charge of their own program. Their advisors are there to assist them in Bible Study, development of service projects, outreach and ministry. They participate regularly in the worship and generally take an active part in the life of the congregation. All this takes place in the loving and supportive community that will listen to them, learn from them, allow them to serve in meaningful capacities, and allow them to succeed and fail, celebrating their successes and lovingly correcting their mistakes. They generally meet monthly with their advisors at church, at the local coffee spot or at a leader’s house.