



Catholic Community of St. Thomas More Junior High Youth Council Guidelines and Application 2019-2020

Want to make a difference in our parish youth ministry? Interested in developing your leadership skills? Thanks for your interest in STM Junior High Youth Council. Please read the following vital information.

What is Junior High Youth Council?

A group of no more than 15 youth in grades 6-8, representing the interests of all junior high youth at St. Thomas More, wanting to continue learning about and growing in their Catholic faith as young disciples of Jesus Christ. The length of office is one year, beginning in July 2019, and continuing through June 2020.

Responsibilities and Expectations

Participation:

JYC members should be able to attend a majority of the JYC meetings during the year. JYC members should **actively participate** in youth ministry events and activities at STM, as well as in other ministries and events of the parish.

JYC members should attend Mass and youth ministry sessions regularly.

JYC members should actively participate in other activities such as service projects, social activities, and special events and lead by example.

Youth Council Training:

Each JYC member should attend youth leadership development activities, including the JYC Retreat August 17-18, 2019. (Location TBD)

Other Diocesan leadership events will be announced to JYC, and participation is encouraged if possible. These include "how-to" seminars, small group training and leadership mentorship.

Hospitality:

Each JYC member is a designated representative of Youth Ministry and the parish of STM. In this role, the JYC member should be welcoming, friendly, and courteous to everyone, especially his/her peers. Occasionally, JYC members will be called upon to be "ministers of hospitality" during youth ministry functions such as retreats, social activities, service projects, etc.

Administration:

1. Planning: Suggesting ideas for community, parish, deanery, diocesan activities, researching expenses, resources needed, locations, dates, times, etc. for such activities.



2. Coordinating: Providing support to catechists, clergy, adult volunteers, their youth peers, and especially one another as JYC members during any situation or gathering of STM Youth and beyond into their school communities.
3. Implementing: Being present at activities, assisting in facilitating events, and providing constructive feedback for improving programs, events & activities.

Leadership:

1. JYC members will have the opportunity to elect officers, schedule the facilitating of group meetings and responsibilities, and accountability requirements accordingly.
2. JYC members will lead activities for large group sessions, including skits, small groups, and prayer services. Each activity must be rehearsed ahead of time, and presented to JYC before presentation to a large group.
3. Each JYC member is expected to support the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, the Director of Youth Ministry and all adult team members through leadership by example, leadership by suggestions, and servant leadership (following Jesus' example of leadership).

Guidelines of Appropriate Behavior:

Each JYC member is expected to set an example of appropriate Christian behavior for other youth ministry peers. This includes all youth ministry activities, as well as parish functions, diocesan youth ministry events, and community/school settings. This includes

1. Weekly attendance at Mass and active sacramental life.
2. Living a life as a witness of Christian hospitality, love and care for all people.
3. Willing to share your faith through example of moral decision-making.
4. Developing a strong prayer life and commitment to live out our baptismal call.
5. No use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or sexual activity.
6. Careful discernment of relationships and friendships, using a Christian example for behavior
7. No use of profanity or inappropriate language
8. Respect for opinions, property, and time of others.



Meetings:

Regular JYC meetings occur on Sundays (approximately every other week) during the school year. Meetings begin at 5:00pm with dinner/snacks and socializing, and continues with business and responsibilities. Meetings end at 6:15pm.

Teens who are members of the youth council are required to be registered for our youth ministry program.

Occasionally, outside work will be required to prepare for an upcoming event. Small groups may meet outside of regular times to accomplish the necessary project.

Also, social occasions are scheduled for JYC members; attendance is certainly not required, but it is fun to socialize with your JYC friends.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT

Parents and Guardians: JYC will need your commitment to their continued growth in their faith as well. As parents and guardians of JYC Youth, we will need you to remember you are your child's first catechist and teacher. Families should attend Mass regularly, and be an example for your child in how to continue practicing your faith in the hectic schedule many families face today. We will attempt to hold at least one Family Retreat during the year, and welcome your ideas for specific events once JYC Planning begins in July.

APPOINTMENT TO JYC

Any Junior High Youth (grades 6-8) enrolled in faith formation at St. Thomas More may apply to be on JYC by submitting the attached application to the Coordinator of Junior High Youth Ministry on or before May 5, 2019. Please be sure all forms are thoroughly completed and signed by youth and parents or guardians as indicated. Once applications have been reviewed, each applicant will be called for an interview Coordinator of Junior High Youth Ministry and possibly prior JYC members.

Please fill out the form thoroughly; incomplete forms will not be considered. After the application is reviewed, each applicant will be interviewed. The purpose of the interview is

1. To fully explain the responsibilities of JYC membership
2. To assess the time and talents of each applicant
3. To give the applicant the opportunity to ask questions and provide time for general introductions and conversations.

Need More Information / Have Questions?

Contact Kelly Browne, Coordinator of Junior High Youth Ministry
Phone: (919) 942-6238 E-mail: kbrowne@stmchapelhill.org

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12





JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICATION

Name:

Do you have a nickname you prefer to be called? If yes, what? _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip:

Phone (_____) _____ E-Mail: _____

School: _____ Grade 2019-2020 _____

Have you ever served on a youth council or youth leadership team? Yes No

If yes, what is one of your favorite experiences from serving on those councils or teams?

And if yes, what is one of your least favorite experiences from serving on those councils or teams?

What gifts and talents would you like to develop or strengthen as a member of JYC?

In what ways are you involved in parish life outside of youth ministry?

JYC meets approximately every other week on Sunday at 5:00pm.

Do you have conflict with that meeting time? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Is there one thing you would like to see accomplished, for yourself or for the group during your term on JYC? (Service project / trip / etc.)



Please read and complete the following:

Youth Applicant:

I have reviewed the expectations of Junior High Youth Council, and hereby submit my application. I understand the responsibilities and will fulfill these to the best of my ability. I also understand that if I am unable to do so, I may be asked to step down from my position, so that I do not jeopardize the efficiency and effectiveness of Youth Council. I realize that I am here because of God, my creator, to serve Jesus Christ and His family, with the strength and support of the Holy Spirit.

Youth Applicant Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian

I have reviewed the expectations of Youth Council, including the "Family Support" section, and have discussed the importance of commitment with this youth. I realize my involvement may be required for JYC events and activities throughout the year, I will assist in the JYC faith journey as possible, and I support this youth's application.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Please return completed applications to:

Kelly Browne, Coordinator of Junior High Youth Ministry

- Deliver them in person during an upcoming youth ministry faith development session.
- E-mail them to kbrowne@stmchapelhill.org
- or deliver or mail to the parish office:
St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Office of Youth Ministry
940 Carmichael Street
Chapel Hill, NC. 27514