

VIRGINIA SYNOD ELCA - "AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST"

Winter Celebration

OUR WEEKEND EVENT FOR 9TH - 12TH GRADERS

Eagle Eyrie Retreat center, LynchBURG, VA

Weekend 1 - Jan. 25-27, 2008

Weekend 2 - Feb. 1-3, 2008

ABOUT WINTER CELEBRATION:

Winter Celebration is a gathering of several hundred youth and adults for large group and small group experiences with lots of worship, singing, and faith sharing. There is also a big chunk of free time on Saturday when we have our "Talent Show" and time late in the evening to relax and talk with the other youth from your congregation. The same event is offered on two successive weekends so that no one will be turned away due to full registration.

- Congregational groups may choose which weekend they want to attend.
- Be sure to indicate on the inside which weekend you're registering for.
- Each youth participant may attend only one weekend.
- Small group leaders and advisors may attend both weekends if they choose.
- Congregations can send one group each weekend if they desire, as long as they are accompanied by adult advisors!
- If you have questions about the event or the registration procedure, contact Dave Delaney or Debbie Worley at the Synod Office (540-389-1000; delaney@vasynod.org; worley@vasynod.org)

Find out more about Eagle Eyrie at www.eagleeyrie.org!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Winter Celebration 2008 is open to all youth who are in 9th-12th grades. Each youth must register as a member of a congregation, and there must be one adult attending for each five youth, who will be responsible for those youth.
 - **COST: \$140** per person (**Early Registration Discount** if registrations are postmarked before Dec. 17 - \$130 per person). **Checks** should be made payable to "Virginia Synod, ELCA" The registration fee must accompany the registration form. →→ **congregations are encouraged to provide scholarship assistance !**
 - **Small Group Leaders, Co-Leaders, and Assistant Leaders** attend for free except for a **\$25.00 processing fee**.
 - Adults who are NOT serving in small group leadership roles should pay the **full registration fee** and will participate in an adult small group unless they have signed up for a "Youth Leader Training" small group (see insert).
 - MAIL CHECKS AND REGISTRATION FORMS TO: Winter Celebration Registrar, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153. **PARTICIPANTS / PASTORS / PARENTS / YOUTH LEADERS / TREASURERS!!!**
On each check that is sent for Winter Celebration, please indicate whose registration the check is for, and if you send one large check from the congregation, please attach a list of everyone who is being paid for and what amount is being applied to their registration fee.
 - Once your registration form is received in the Virginia Synod Office, you will receive a confirmation letter with a map to Eagle Eyrie, information on where to go once you get there, and a list of things to bring and not to bring. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN EVENT CONFIRMATION LETTER BY JAN. 14TH, PLEASE CONTACT THE SYNOD OFFICE (540-389-1000) RIGHT AWAY.
 - **REGISTRATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED BY MAIL AS LATE AS FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 2007.** Starting Jan. 14th, please contact Dave Delaney (Synod Youth Ministry Director) at delaney@vasynod.org or 540-389-1000 (office) or 540-529-6893 (cell) before submitting registration materials.
 - **Winter Celebration begins** on Friday evening, Jan. 25/Feb. 1 with check-in from 6:30-8:00 pm (we start the event at 8:30) at Eagle Eyrie and **ends** on Sunday, Jan. 27/Feb. 3 at noon. **ATTENDANCE FOR THE ENTIRE EVENT IS REQUIRED!**
- OUR SYNOD POLICY IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER IS AT OUR WEBSITE www.vasynod.org

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AT WINTER CELEBRATION:

- Registrants will participate fully in all activities and events of Winter Celebration, including meals and Cabin Conversations at night.
- **All participants will attend the FULL EVENT**, from 8:30 pm on Friday to noon on Sunday, and remain on the grounds of Eagle Eyrie through the event.
- No drugs (except prescribed or other required medications), alcohol, tobacco products, or weapons will be brought to the event.
- DO NOT BRING radios, CD/Tape players, iPods, TVs, video games, computers, or other electronic devices to the event. *If you need a CD or tape player for the Talent Show, we can provide one or you!* **CELL PHONES** must be left in your room/cottage and may only be used during free time. This applies to adults as well as youth unless special permission has been obtained from the event director.
- Cabin Conversation / Curfew / Lights Out will be conscientiously observed. **ALL EVENT PARTICIPANTS MUST BE IN THEIR ASSIGNED COTTAGES FOLLOWING THE END OF THE EVENING'S ACTIVITIES!**
- Youth or adults who are not able to meet these expectations may be asked to leave the event.

This is a registration form for *(please check one)*:

- Winter Celebration I - Jan. 25-27, 2008
- Winter Celebration II - Feb. 1-3, 2008
- Both weekends (adults and staff only)

Questions? Contact Dave Delaney - delaney@vasynod.org or 540-389-1000

REGISTRATION FEE: \$140 (\$130 if postmarked before Dec. 17th)

After Jan. 11th, please call Dave Delaney in the Synod Office before sending in a registration form.

Check one: _____ Youth participant _____ Adult

Check one: _____ Male _____ Female **WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?** _____

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

YOUR PHONE: (_____) _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YOUR CONGREGATION: _____

CONGREGATION LOCATION: _____

PASTOR'S NAME: _____

For both youth and adult participants: "By my signature, I agree to abide by the stated expectations of this event."

(← See the expectations for Winter Celebration on the opposite page)

Other notes or instructions for the event registrar:

ADULTS - Choose one of the following: (see insert for explanation of Youth Leader Training groups)

- I will also serve as a small group leader or co-leader (\$25 only)
- I will also serve as an assistant small group leader (\$25 only)
- I would like to be in one of the "Youth Leader Training" groups (\$140)
 - Track 1
 - Track 2
 - Track 3
- All adults who do not choose one of the above options will be in a small group of adults for the weekend (\$140)!**

Circle your t-shirt size (all sizes are adult)

XS L

S XL

M XXL

-or-

No shirt, thanks

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM AND REGISTRATION FEE TO:

WINTER CELEBRATION REGISTRAR, PO BOX 70, SALEM VA 24153

be sure to complete both sides of this form!!! →

PERMISSION AND MEDICAL FORM

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS. FOR THOSE UNDER 18, A PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED

Name of Participant: _____

Youth under 18

Adult 18 or over

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____

Policy / Contract Number: _____

Allergies / Disabilities / Special Medical Conditions, Food Needs, or other concerns of which event leaders should be aware:

Medications: _____

I give permission to be treated if I am unable to answer: *(please sign:)* _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ (relationship: _____)

Daytime phone: (_____) _____

Nighttime phone: (_____) _____

Other phone: (_____) _____

Secondary Contact person: Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Daytime phone: (_____) _____

Nighttime phone: (_____) _____

Other phone: (_____) _____

Parents / guardians of youth participants must complete this section:

- (Name of Youth) _____ has my permission to participate in Virginia Synod Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg VA, Jan. 25-27, 2008 / Feb 1-3, 2008
- I have read and understand the stated expectations for Winter Celebration and will support event leaders in the administration of these event expectations.
- In the event I cannot be reached at the numbers above, I give permission to have the above participant treated at an appropriate medical facility as deemed necessary.

(signature of parent / guardian)

(Date)

Virginia Synod ELCA - "Ambassadors for Christ"

Training for Adults Who Work with Youth in Congregations Winter Celebration 2008

Level 1 - Exploring the Synod's Vision of Youth Ministry

This will be a time where adults who are relatively new to Youth Ministry can come together to learn a basic congregational approach. We do not concentrate on the "nuts-and-bolts" of managing local youth ministry or leading a synod event small group, but on the things that should undergird that ministry: our understanding of the gospel, the church, the dynamics of faith in the lives of adolescents. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of how the needs and gifts of young people intersect with the needs and gifts of the church, how this forms a solid foundation for congregational youth ministry, and how they can obtain additional resources for structuring local youth ministry.

Level 2 - Exploring your gifts as an adult leader of youth

This track is designed to give adult youth leaders a chance to explore their own spiritual gifts in order to better understand what they bring to the task of youth ministry in the congregation. As part of the process participants will discuss and reflect upon their own faith life and faith history as well as try to develop a cohesive understanding of what the gospel means for them personally. By the end of the weekend adults should have a better understanding of how God has equipped each of them personally to help youth fulfill their spiritual needs and better serve the church. Those who sign up for Level 2 should have already participated in the Level 1 training.

Special Topics: Sharpening Small Group Leader Skills

Sometimes we have an abundance of small group leaders at Winter Celebration, which allows us to structure a group where the entire task is to discuss how one goes about leading small groups. This is not an opportunity for beginners, but for *experienced* small group leaders to exchange insights they have gained through the years of leading small groups, using the Winter Celebration Small Group guide as an example. We will also have someone recording the words of wisdom that get shared here and making those insights available as the voice of experience for other leaders in the Synod youth ministry community. Some of our best leaders may receive an invitation to be part of this group, but if you would like to be part of it, please indicate so on your registration form.

*What about training for adults who want to lead a Winter Celebration small group *for the first time*? → There is no specific training program for new small group leaders, but newcomers to small group leadership who want to have some preparation can request to be paired as an assistant to an experienced Small Group Leader for the duration of the event. We have found that this "on the job" training is by far the best way for people to become acquainted with the synod's model for group leadership.*