

St. Leo's Catholic Church 2017 Young Neighbors In Action application

Gallup, NM June 24 to July 2, 2017

Please read the following carefully before applying:

What is it?

YNIA is a Catholic social justice program organized by the Center for Ministry Development. An intense, weeklong service experience provides a mix of direct service, community building, prayer opportunities for learning and dialogue, cross-cultural sharing, and recreation. Young Neighbors helps participants experience how poverty and a lack of respect for human dignity impact the lives of real people. Young Neighbors offers participants the opportunity to change their perspectives so that they can change their world.

For more information on Young Neighbors In Action, please go to <http://www.cmdnet.org> and click under "Young Neighbors In Action."

Who can apply?

Current high school youth, 9th through 12th grades. ** 20 youth will be accepted to the program based on the application process. **The \$50.00 first payment is due with the application.**

Why the application process?

Applications are accepted this year to ensure that the participants and their parents understand what YNIA is all about. Youth who are concerned with helping their fellow human being and want to take it the next level is an important part of YNIA. Selection will be based on the first twenty applications received, answers to the essay questions, your reference recommendation, past YNIA experiences you have had and past service experience. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry holds the right to deny any applicant due to: violations of past YNIA participation, behavior deemed damageable to the program and / or poor reference.

How does it work? What will we be doing?

- Up to 20 eligible youth and four adult leaders will travel to the Young Neighbors' site and join a group of 75 teens from other schools/churches for the week long service experience
- **No two Young Neighbors sites are exactly alike.** Although programming is similar at each site, the program location, work opportunities and the communities that we enter into help guarantee that each event is a unique experience. Below are the three basic types of service that a Young Neighbors team might be a part of...
- **Clean-up, paint-up, fix-up, construction, and repair**
Examples: yard work for ill and needy individuals or families; landscaping, planting, weeding at shelters or in community gardens; neighborhood clean-up or graffiti-removal; minor home repairs; scraping and painting; major renovation or construction projects with Habitat for Humanity and similar groups.
- **Regular involvement in children's and family programming**
Examples: helping with summer tutorial and recreational programs; assisting with day camp or daycare programs for infants, toddlers, young children and pre-teens; helping out at children's and/or family centers; serving as aides for migrant Head Start programs; working with developmentally disabled children, youth, or young adults; organizing arts and crafts, and Bible School programs; working at orphanages and children's homes.
- **Providing direct assistance to those in need**
Examples: cooking and serving meals in soup kitchens and shelters; working with food banks and clothing shops, Catholic Charities, and St. Vincent de Paul; helping out in homeless shelters or family abuse centers, Catholic Worker Houses, and AIDS hospices.

- **Almost** every site offers the chance to both meet people and work on a concrete task, how these pieces balance out will differ from one site to the next. While the three types of work sound quite distinct, work sites often end up offering a combination of these different kinds of work.
- Teams that **come together** to *Young Neighbors*, also **work together** during the week. Participants are assigned to a single work site for the entire program week. Large teams may be divided up and sent to several job sites. Teams have the opportunity to express their work preferences from a list sent out in advance of the service week.
- The experience includes a connection to faith through prayer, liturgy, and other evening programming at the retreat center

What does it cost and what does that cover?

- The cost to cover expenses per youth is **\$525.00 total, (\$395.00 for registration plus \$130.00 for van rentals)**. (There is usually a \$10.00 fee for t-shirts if the team desires. YNIA Expenses cover the cost of:
 - Meals while at the program site (meals while traveling to and from the site city are participant's responsibility)
 - Lodging
 - Transportation (vans)
 - T-shirt, water bottle
 - Journal, writing materials
- Not covered are meals to and from the program site.
- **Fundraising is available!** Do not let the cost of this event scare you. Typically, if you participate in all the fundraisers, you will be able to fundraise the majority of this expense!
- **The payment schedule is as follows**
 - Immediately with Application - \$50.00 (non-refundable and paid by the participant)
 - Feb. 20th - \$150.00 (refundable up to March 14)
 - April 20th - \$200.00 (refundable up to May 14)
 - June 1st - \$125.00 (non-refundable)

Don't forget **FUNDRAISING is available** and the majority of youth that fundraise, make enough to cover most of their costs. (The initial \$50.00 is the responsibility of the participant)

What is the application Process?

- STUDENT APPLICATION FORM completed
- one reference form in sealed envelope
- PARENT RECOMMENDATION FORM



St. Leo's YNIA 2017 Application

NAME _____ GRADE _____

EMAIL _____ Phone _____

Address _____

(only use the space available on this paper.)

1. This year's theme is "Anointed to Serve," and is based on Luke 4:18: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." What does this theme mean to you?

2. What distractions keep you from serving Jesus and others?

3. For a more complete and positive experience, cell phone use will be limited. How can one's cell phone affect someone when forming and strengthening a faith community? At what times would you need your phone during a YNIA service trip and for what purpose?

4. In your own words, write ONE PARAGRAPH on the back of this paper on how will you take what you learn and experience at YNIA and apply it to your daily life when you get back.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION

- Application form with \$50.00 initial payment
- Recommendation form in sealed envelope
- Parent Recommendation Form
- **When you are accepted to the trip, you agree to make the payment due by the due date and attend a YNIA preparation session at a time to be determined in the late spring / early summer.**

Signature _____ date _____

PARENT RECOMMENDATION FORM

TO BE FILLED OUT BY YOUTH:

Youth's Name _____

TO BE FILLED OUT BY PARENT:

Parent name _____ Contact Number/Email _____

To the Parent:

The YNIA Mission Program is for youth who have had a moderate level of experience working with those that are different than them. It requires a high level of maturity, adaptability, and ability to work well in groups. Please answer each question as full as possible. The youth will also be volunteering with people that may elicit strong emotions of feeling deep compassion for those in need. Our goal is to empower the young women and men on this trip to be able to handle all aspects of the mission work. Youth will be interacting in organized local programs that serve the underprivileged, elderly, and those with special needs. We appreciate the time and care needed to complete this application.

- 1. Please give an example of a situation where your daughter / son exhibited extreme compassion for someone in need:**

- 2. Please explain your daughter's / son's ability to work well in groups and be flexible. Give a specific example where she worked well in a group:**

- 3. Please describe a situation where your child has had an interaction with people that were of a different cultural background than your child.**

Because of the nature of this program, your child will have limited time with their cell phone. This is to provide your child the opportunity to better serve the community they are working in. Limited phone activity has also been beneficial for participants to limit distractions during programming and community building during the week. Participants will have access to their phones during the evening hours and are highly encouraged to call home regularly during the week. Each adult leader will have a cell phone on their person for emergencies and to receive phone calls from parents.

As a parent of a YNIA participant, I have read this application and I understand the nature of the YNIA program. I agree to ensure my child has made the payment amounts by the due dates.

Parent signature: _____

date: _____

Young Neighbor In Action REFERENCE FORM

*** NOTE TO THE YOUTH: YOU MUST FILL OUT THE TOP PART OF THE FORM BEFORE GIVING IT TO A REFERENCE.

Participant Name _____

To the reference: the above mentioned youth is being considered for participation in YNIA Mission Program. This program will send our youth out to work with underprivileged children, the elderly, or individuals with special needs. Please evaluate the youth using the below form. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please return the form directly to the youth in a **sealed envelope** with their name on it.

Please rate the youth in the following areas:

AREA	Superior	Above Average	Average	Fair	Poor
Level of Maturity					
Ability to be flexible					
Shows compassion for others					
Respectful					
Personal Motivation					
Communicates effectively					
Ability to work in a group setting					

Below please write a short paragraph explaining why the above youth would be a good candidate for the YNIA Mission Program

Reference Signature _____ Date _____

Capacity in which you know the Youth _____