

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR THE DIOCESAN YOUTH BOARD

1. Each parish may submit only one young person for discernment as a Diocesan Youth Board member.
2. Each candidate must be a Catholic who is a freshman, sophomore or junior in high school.
3. The maturity level of the board members will strongly affect their ability to perform their duties as a Diocesan Youth Board member. Each parish is asked to decide if there is a young person from the parish who possesses the maturity and skills to adequately represent the parish and the Diocese and then submit that name.
4. The young person must have a strong commitment to the work of the Diocesan Youth Board and also have the means to participate fully in the activities of the Board (i.e., access to transportation, a schedule that will allow for evening meetings, weekends, etc.). If they need to have a job, members of the Diocesan Youth Board should have part-time jobs that allow for flexible scheduling.
5. Each young person must complete the application form.

To be considered for Youth Board, mandatory attendance is required for the following:

- Applicant/Parent Meeting - Thursday, May 6 at the Catholic Center
- Christian Leadership Institute. If you have not attended you must be able to attend this year from June 24 - June 30, 2010
- Youth Board Overnight – August 9 - 10

6. **The Parish Youth Director must sign the application form. This signature assures the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry that the Parish Youth Director believes that this young person is capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of the position.** Please realize that we need the Parish Youth Director and the young person to understand the candidate's responsibility to attend monthly Youth Board Meetings and other activities as appropriate. If the advisor or the candidate is aware that he/she cannot make this commitment, that person should not apply and the Parish Youth Director should not sign the application form.
7. The young person must have a recommendation from a PEER who can speak about the applicant's commitment to being on the Board, their understanding of youth ministry, their skill level and their concern for others with whom they work.
8. The young person must have a recommendation from an ADULT who has worked with them in the parish youth ministry program for at least one year. This adult cannot be a parent or relative of the applicant.
9. The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 23, 2010.**
10. The application, peer recommendation, and adult recommendation forms should be sent to Jennifer Belock, Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14203-1250.
11. **Need more information?** Potential applicants who have questions or would like more information may also contact the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (716-847-8789 or jbelock@buffalodiocese.org). We will put you in touch with current youth board members who will be happy to answer your questions.
12. **There will be a Mandatory informational meeting for all applicants and their parents on Thursday, May 6, 2010 from 7-8:30 P.M. at the Catholic Center, 795 Main Street in Buffalo.** This is an excellent opportunity for the young people and their parents to ask questions, hear information, and further consider the responsibilities of the Diocesan Youth Board.

Diocesan Youth Board

Job Description

- Purpose:* 1. By empowering teenagers to be advocates for the young Church, the Diocesan Youth Board seeks to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Church.
2. The Diocesan Youth Board works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person in the Diocese.

Qualifications: Each young person should be a person of faith, with a dedication to their peers and their Church. Enthusiasm for youth ministry is a must. The Diocesan Youth Board requires a commitment of time and energy, along with a desire to grow and learn throughout the year. The abilities to communicate clearly and work cooperatively in a group are necessary for the success of the Board. Attendance at the Christian Leadership Institute, Youth Board Overnights and one of the Senior High Retreats is required.

Roles & Responsibilities:

REPRESENTATIVE

- ◆ To officially represent the youth of the Diocese.
- ◆ To represent the Board at athletic competitions, fundraisers, and other activities sponsored for and conducted by parish youth groups.
- ◆ Board members are expected to live by Catholic values in all aspects of their lives.

PARTICIPANT

- ◆ To become part of a faith-filled group that works effectively together by actively participating in Youth Board meetings.
- 1. The Diocesan Youth Board will meet at least once every month and sometimes attend other Diocesan meetings.
- 2. Board members will participate in several Youth Board Overnight programs.
- 3. Two unexcused or four excused absences are grounds for dismissal from the Youth Board. Please review the meeting, training and event dates that you receive at the Applicant/Parent Meeting carefully. If you know that you will miss two or more, we ask that you reconsider participation.
- ◆ To participate in programs sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- ◆ To encourage others in the Diocese to participate in Diocesan, Vicariate and parish activities.

ADVOCATE

- ◆ To speak for the needs of young people, especially young people from minority groups, special concerns, and rural communities, at Board meetings and with the staff of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- ◆ To encourage young people to live their Catholic values by communicating through personal contact, the Western New York Catholic newspaper, and special mailings.
- ◆ To participate, when directed, in the Diocesan Pastoral Council or special interest groups.

FACILITATOR

- ◆ To help the youth of the Diocese to exchange information and learn from each other on a regular basis.
- ◆ To share information, plans, ideas and concerns among parishes and between parishes and the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- ◆ To establish consistent, regular communication with parish youth and/or adult leaders in your community.
- ◆ To report about activities in your community at each Diocesan Youth Board Meeting.
- ◆ To communicate and work with the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry staff.

ORGANIZER

- ◆ To plan and implement activities of the Diocesan Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- ◆ To assist in planning and implementing activities among parishes or vicariates and coordinate those plans with the Diocesan Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
- ◆ To coordinate any activities and meetings in your vicariate.

Diocesan Youth Board Application – 2010-2011

Must be submitted to the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry by April 23, 2010.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Birth Date _____

Parish _____ School _____ Current Grade _____

Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____

PLEASE NOTE:

To be considered for Youth Board, mandatory attendance is required for the following:

- Applicant/Parent Meeting - Thursday, May 6th 7pm-8:30pm at the Catholic Center
- Christian Leadership Institute. If you have not attended you must be able to attend this year from June 24 – June 30, 2010
- Youth Board Overnight – August 9-10

1. How long have you been involved in your parish youth ministry program? _____

2. List any parish leadership roles that you have held:

3. List your participation in Diocesan activities:

4. List your involvement in community organizations/community service:

5. List your extracurricular school activities and the time commitment for each:

6. Do you have a part-time job? ___Yes ___No How many hours per week? _____
If you currently do not have a job, do you plan to get one during the next year? ___Yes ___No

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7. There is a considerable time commitment needed to fulfill the duties of the Diocesan Youth Board. Please comment on your ability to create the time needed to serve on the Diocesan Youth Board.

8. Please express how being a part of a parish youth group and participating in Diocesan activities has affected your personal and spiritual growth:

9. What personal gifts and talents will help you to be a valuable member of the Diocesan Youth Board?

10. How do you hope to personally benefit from your involvement with the Diocesan Youth Board?

Required signatures:

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parish Youth Director _____ Date _____

Applicant _____ Date _____

Diocesan Youth Board Adult Recommendation

Must be submitted to the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry by April 23, 2010.

The applicant must have a recommendation from an ADULT who has worked with them in the parish youth ministry program for at least one year. The adult who completes this form cannot be a parent or relative of the applicant.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Parish _____

Applicant's Name _____

1. Please state how the young person has been a leader in the parish and any potential that you have seen:

2. Please describe ways in which the young person's faith has affected his/her life:

3. Youth Board members need to be good communicators with both youth and adults. Please assess this young person's communication skills:

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4. What special skills/talents does this young person possess that will help him/her fulfill the duties of the Diocesan Youth Board?

5. What challenges/struggles/weaknesses will this young person have to face as a member of the Diocesan Youth Board?

6. Please check one:

- I highly recommend this applicant.
- I recommend this applicant.
- I recommend this applicant with reservation. Comments:

Signature _____ Date _____