



youth + family ministry
DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD, ELCA

The Lutheran Youth Organization, or LYO, is the high school youth leadership program for the Delaware-Maryland Synod.

Youth are organized into one of six teams to live into their God-given gifts and sharpen their skills for service in our synod, their own congregation, and the surrounding community. Each team is mentored by two to three gifted adults, and led by one primary young person selected by each team at the beginning of each year.

Teams of the LYO:

- The Worship Team engages in learning about different worship experiences and practices, and then translates this learning into leading young people and adults in worship and praise during the synod youth events. The team also provides leadership for developing a prayerful and spiritual life of young people in the LYO and synod. *Young people for this team might be interested/gifted in visual arts, graphic design, drama, and public speaking, among other areas.*
- The Music Team engages in preparing for and leading the assembly in song through a variety of musical styles and methods at the synod youth events. Using a variety of vocal and instrumental methods, the team works to excel in their musical presentation as it connects to the wider worship and large group experience. *Young people for this team might be interested/gifted in singing, playing instruments, composing music, and sound engineering/mixing, among other areas.*
- The Service & Outreach Team engages in learning and participating in different service and outreach opportunities, and then brings some of these same opportunities to the synod youth events for practice and engagement. *Young people for this team might be interested/gifted in paying attention to the immediate needs and root causes of suffering and injustice in the world, among other areas.*
- The Fellowship & Hospitality Team engages in learning and practicing methods of fellowship and hospitality in the Church and community, and then brings these practices to the young people of the synod through music, games, food, and conversation. *Young people for this team might be interested/gifted in building relationships and community, helping others feel welcome, and looking out for those on the fringes of the group, among other areas.*
- The Small Group Team engages in training to effectively lead small groups of their peers in Biblical and topical discussions during the synod youth events. Young people on this team also engage in the curriculum-development process for the programming of events and retreats. *Young people for this team might be interested/gifted in helping facilitate discussion with their peers, teaching, and writing, among other areas.*
- The Elementary Team engages in learning about ministry with elementary age students (specifically grades 3-5) and preparing for and leading a one-day event in the winter and an overnight retreat in the spring for elementary aged students. Young people on this team also work with the other LYO teams to provide leadership to children in the congregations of our synod. *Young people for this team might be interested/gifted in working with elementary-aged students and interested in working with*

others to share their faith in creative ways. Note: Members of this team do not attend FreeRide, RoadTrip, or Transformers as leaders, but may attend RoadTrip as participants.