

19th All-American Council

“For the Life of the World” – The Youth Program

Goal

Provide a spiritually enriching experience for the youth, ages 5-18, from across North America who attend the youth program during the 19th All-American Council (AAC) in St. Louis, Missouri, Monday, July 23 – Friday, July 27, 2018.

Objective

Engage the youth and teens to explore the AAC theme of ‘For the Life of the World,’ and encourage them to be empowered to live as Orthodox Christians in today’s challenging secular world.

Format

The five-day program will include core activities and experiences based on the four pillars of the OCA’s Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries:

- **Worship**
A teaching liturgy and daily morning/evening services
- **Fellowship**
Daily excursions to local sites decided upon by the youth in a [survey](#)
- **Service**
Volunteering in a social responsibility project at FOCUS North America’s local center
- **Education**
Discussions and lessons on the sacramental life of the church

The AAC youth program will be segmented into four age groupings:

- K-2
- 3-5
- 6-8
- 9-11

Each day will begin with prayer, following by a morning education sessions. Over the course of the approximate 2.5 – 3 hours, two sessions will be held for each age group.

The education sessions will focus on A) specific topics relating to the AAC theme, engaging with the youth in discussions, Q&A sessions, role-playing scenarios and B) other hands-on activities.

The afternoon sessions will be held off-site, exploring various sites around St. Louis.

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Su 7/22 Equal to the Apostles, St. Mary Magdalene

- 9 am Hierarchical Liturgy
- 7 pm Parents + kids meeting for Q&A
- 8 pm Staff meeting (mandatory)
- 8 pm FOCA dance for the kids
- 8 pm Crash room (optional)
- 10 pm Compline (*for families*)

Mo 7/23 Pochaev Icon of the Mother of God

Theme of the Day: A Sacramental Life: Offering Ourselves to God

- 8:15a am staff arrive
- 8:30 am parent + kids meeting for Q&A (*for those who arrive late on SU or early MO*)
- 8:45 am Check-in
- 9 am Opening Prayer (for all)
- 9:10 am Icebreaker + Educational Program I: (*in four age group segments*)
A Sacramental Life: Offering ourselves to God.
Exploring the liturgical text “Thine Own of Thine Own” and what it means to be an Orthodox Christian – looking to the Theotokos as an icon/example for us to emulate in our lives.
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Education Program II: (*mixed ages*)
Workshop/activity/roleplaying, preselected from 3 different tracts – reading, serving, singing, etc.
- 12:30 pm Lunch – pizza in hotel
- 2 pm Off site Activity (to be decided by youth survey)
- 4:30 pm Return to the hotel
- 5 pm Vespers w/main AAC
- 6 pm check-in (to parents)
- 7:30 pm Service at the Opening of a Sacred Council
- 8 pm Address of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
- 10 pm Compline (open for families)
- 10:30 pm Confessions

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Tu 7/24 Ss Boris and Gleb / St Christina of Tyre

Theme of the Day: The Eucharist: Giving Thanks to God

- 7 am Akathist / Sitka Mother of God (*optional*)
- 8:30 am staff arrive
- 8:30 am parent + kids meeting for Q&A (*for those who arrive late on MO*)
- 8:45 am Check-in
- 9 am Education Program III: Teaching Liturgy
Proskemedia, 3rd Hour and Liturgy (*youth participation by reading, singing, serving, and learning about each part of the liturgy from a "narrator"*)
- 11:30 am Lunch
- 12:30 pm Discussion / Follow-up re: liturgy, Q&A.
Closing remarks by kids + counselors
- 1 pm Off site Activity (to be decided by youth survey)
- 4:45 pm Return to hotel
- 5 pm Vespers w/main AAC
- 6 pm check-in (to parents)
- 8 pm Crash room for teens
- 10 pm Compline (open for families)

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We 7/25 Dormition of Anna, the Mother of the Theotokos

Theme of the Day: The Fruits of the Spirit: Who is My Neighbor?

- 6 am Liturgy (*optional*)
- 7 am Akathist / St. Anna Icon (*optional*)
- 8:30 am staff arrive
- 8:45 am Check-in
- 9 am Opening Prayer
- 9:05 am Educational Program IV: (*in four age group segments*)
The Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22): love, joy, patience, self-control, peace, forbearance, kindness, faithfulness, goodness and how they relate to the gospel for the Sunday of the Last Judgment (Matt 25:31-46): Hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, imprisoned
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Liturgical Music (*mixed ages*)
- 11 am Education Program V: (*mixed ages*)
Workshop/activity, preselected from 3 different tracts – iconography, architecture, banners, etc.
- 12:30 n Recap of workshop learning summary
- 1 pm Off site Activity (to be decided by youth survey)
- 8 pm Return to the hotel
check-in (to parents)
- 8:30 pm Crash room for teens
- 10 pm Compline (open for families)
- 10:30 pm Confessions

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Th 7/26 St Jacob, Enlightener of the Native Peoples of Alaska

Theme of the Day: What Does a 21st Century Orthodox Christian Look Like?

- 8:30 am All-AAC hierarchical liturgy
staff arrive (*immediately after liturgy concludes*)
Youth check-in (*beginning 15 minutes after liturgy concludes*)
Lunch with Metropolitan and hierarchs (*beginning 30 minutes after liturgy concludes*)
Service project (making sandwiches for FOCUS) w/Metropolitan and hierarchs
- 1:30 pm Break / snack
- 1:45 pm Education Program VI: Future of the OCA Youth program – a discussion led by the youth, offering input, ideas, plans, expectations, desires related to the topic of: *What will make you feel connected to each other and the church when you go home?*
- 3:30 pm Departure / snack on bus
- 4 pm Transfer to FOCUS/Serbian Church
- 5 pm Meal Service @ FOCUS center (teens)
Youth @ Serbian Church (block party + snack)
- 7 pm Banquet at Serbian Church (2 blocks from FOCUS NA center)
dinner, dancing, music, karaoke
- 10 pm Compline in Serbian church
- 10:30 pm Return to hotel
- 11 pm Arrive at hotel / check-in

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Fr 7/27 St Panteleimon, the Greatmartyr and Healer

Theme of the Day: Coming Down From Mt. Tabor, Heading Home...

- 6 am Liturgy (*optional*)
- 7 am Akathist / Tikhvin Icon (*optional*)
- 8:30 am staff arrive (*mandatory*)
- 8:45 am Check-in
- 9 am Opening Prayer
- 9:10 am Final Prep for presentation (*in four age group segments*)
- 9:30 am Presentation to AAC at-large, with video/photo highlights
- 10 am Education program VII: Final Challenge
- 11:15 am Break
- 11:30 am Education Program VIII: Wrap-up
- 12:30 pm Check-in (back to parents)
- Youth program concludes

Departures