

# **St. Aloysius Youth Ministry Program**

## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

The purpose of the High School Youth Group is to foster faith formation, fellowship, catechesis and service among the High School students of Saint Aloysius Parish. The High School Youth Group meets every Sunday night after 5:30 Mass. Sunday Night Meetings include ice breaker games, skits, music, faith and food! The center of each Sunday Night Meeting is a talk by one of the members of the Young Adult Core Team about particular aspects of the Catholic faith. The regular Sunday Night Meetings alternate Sundays with Formation Night and Fellowship Night. Formation Nights are nights of prayer, praise, and worship. During Fellowship Nights members of the youth group and YACT split up between boys and girls for Girls Night and Guys Night. Fellowship night builds community between the high school girls and boys in a fun-filled environment. Past fellowship nights have included: game nights, sporting competitions, and video game tournaments. The High School Youth Group also offers varied opportunities for service ranging from local projects to international mission trips.

## **HIGH SCHOOL PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

The Parish School of Religion (PSR) program has seen tremendous growth over the past five years. The students involved in the PSR program have not only become more involved in parish sacramental life but also in the high school youth ministry programs. In an effort to continually grow and change, we have assessed the traditional HSPSR programs assets and weaknesses and have found that the combined HSYG and HSPSR meetings have been hugely popular with teens in the program, as are the major event requirement, and service component. In the past HSPSR has conflicted with HSYG events limiting PSR students' opportunity to be involved in the youth group. After consulting with teens, parents, and members of the YACT, we have decided to take the best of the HSPSR program and continue to build on that, while dropping the components that have been largely ineffective. Therefore, we are incorporating the HSPSR program into the HSYG program for next year. PSR students will be expected to attend all HSYG Sunday night meetings, one major event, and participate in the program's service component.

## **YOUNG ADULT CORE TEAM**

The Young Adult Core Team (YACT) is a group of young adults committed to building up youth of St. Aloysius Parish through leadership, mentorship, catechesis, service, faith formation, and fellowship. YACT members plan and facilitate High School Youth Group Meetings, as well as coordinate and chaperone special events throughout the semester.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR YACT MEMBERSHIP

### Membership and Junior Membership

- You must be 21 years old to become a YACT team member.
- High School graduates under the age of 21 are invited to participate in the YACT program as a Junior member.
- Junior members cannot be considered chaperones on any High School or Junior High events.
- All team members are required to complete a Background Check with the State Police.
- All team members are required to attend the Diocesan Child Protection Training Program.

### Application Process

- If you are interested in becoming a member of the Young Adult Core Team, you must submit a written application to the Youth Director. Applications are available at [www.aloysius.org](http://www.aloysius.org) or at the Parish Office.
- Applications must be accompanied by a resume and two letters of recommendation.

## YACT TRAINING

Training is an essential element to Young Adult Core Team program. YACT has two training and planning retreats annually as well as ongoing training throughout each semester. The training program materials include Father Trey Nelson's *To Be a Pilgrim Companion*, the USCCB's *Renewing the Vision*, USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. YACT is under the direction of Katie Austin, a second year law student at LSU.

**Katie Austin** has been involved in youth ministry for ten years. After moving to Baton Rouge in Fall 2005, Katie played an integral part in the creation and direction of the Young Adult Core Team at this parish, which plans and facilitates the high school youth group. She is actively involved in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and has most recently conducted a workshop at the Diocesan Youth Conference entitled "Not Just Nuns: Women's Role in the Church." Originally from Lafayette, LA, she trained and led the Lafayette Diocesan Retreat Team for four years and was a member of St. Thomas More High School's Campus Ministry team. After graduating from Tulane University in Marketing and Business Law, Katie worked for *Southern Living Magazine* in Birmingham, AL, and coordinated the Junior High Youth Ministry program at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Katie has studied Mediation and Dispute Resolution at SMU and intends to pursue a Masters in Theology after completing her J.D.

## **JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

The Junior High Youth Group has monthly meetings for seventh and eight grade students focused on faith and fellowship. In addition to monthly meetings, the Junior High Youth Group participates in the Diocesan Youth Rally, a Lock-In with St. Thomas More, service projects, and other fun activities.

## **SAINT ALOYSIUS LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The Saint Aloysius Leadership Team (S.A.L.T.) is a ministry team of high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors that plan and lead the Junior High Youth Group Program with a team of Junior High Parents. S.A.L.T. provides an opportunity for high schoolers to be trained in the leadership skills required for youth ministry: faith formation, large and small group facilitation, organization, collaboration, and coordination. Modeled after the St. Aloysius Young Adult Core Team program, S.A.L.T. members will have an opportunity to learn and grow in the Catholic faith through leadership, while Junior High Youth Group members gain the benefits of getting to know strong high school Catholic role models. Members of S.A.L.T. will be expected to attend S.A.L.T. summer training program and retreat, monthly Junior High Youth Group Meetings, monthly team planning meetings, and two Junior High Youth Group special events throughout the semester ( i.e. Junior High Lock-In, Christmas Caroling, Service Projects, etc.) The 2007-2008 SALT team will be coordinated by Jennifer Sibille in conjunction with the Junior High Parent coordinators, Brad and Heidi Smith.

**Jennifer Sibille** was born and raised in Lafayette, La. As a high school senior, Jenn was selected to be a member of her high school's newly-formed Faith in Action Team (FIAT) that planned and coordinated retreats for middle and high school students, and organized the school liturgies and LifeNights. As a member of FIAT, Jenn chaired the 8th and 9th grade retreats. After graduation, Jenn attended the University of Southern Mississippi, receiving a degree in Psychology. At Southern

Miss she was a member of the Catholic Student Association and competed as a four-year letter-winner of the Women's Tennis Team, serving as team captain her senior year. Jenn became involved in St. Aloysius Youth Ministry after moving to Baton Rouge in 2005. She is currently serving as the Logistical Coordinator of the Young Adult Core Team (YACT), assisting with both the high school and junior high programs. This past year Jenn planned the St. Aloysius Freshman Retreat and helped to coordinate the Junior High Lock-In, the HSYG Fall Retreat, JH and HSYG Meetings, as well as Girls' Night. Jenn is currently a second-year law student at the LSU Law Center.

## How Can YOU Get Involved?

### Service Projects

- For more information please contact Cristina Cappello: [cristina.cappello@us.army.mil](mailto:cristina.cappello@us.army.mil)
- Arrange service projects
- Collect permission slips from teens
- Make transportation arrangements, if necessary
- Take note of teens' hours for service awards

### Publicity and Communication

- Coordinate mail outs for monthly newsletter and reminder postcards.
- Calling teens and parents to remind them of upcoming events and deadlines.
- Contribute to monthly Aloysius Alive articles, Catholic Commentator articles
- Responsible for seeing that someone takes photos or videos at all major events throughout the year
- Design and maintain current web page of all events including photographs from previous events, current newsletter and permission slips

### Conferences and Retreats: Logistical Coordination

Retreats are planned and staffed by YACT and S.A.L.T. However, much logistical planning must happen in order for these experiences to take place. Conferences include: Diocesan Youth Conference, Abbey Youth Fest, Junior High Youth Rally, Junior High Lock-In. Retreats include: YACT Fall and Spring Planning Retreats, S.A.L.T. Summer Training Program, S.A.L.T. retreat, HSYG Fall Retreat, and Springtime Girls Retreat and Guys Retreat.

- Secure location for retreats
- Collect permission slips and money
- Arrange for transportation and chaperones
- Work with Retreat Staff in procuring any and all supplies

### WEEKLY EVENTS

- **Meet me at Mass: Wednesdays 6am, Drivers needed!**
- **Sunday Night Meetings: Food Coordinators**
  - Assure food is available for every meeting (order pizza, other food, or arrange parishioners to provide.)
  - Assure beverages are purchased, delivered, and iced down for every meeting

- Call parent volunteers before every meeting to remind them of their commitments (serving, bringing desserts, monitoring doors).
- **Formation Night and Fellowship Night: Your attendance is welcomed!**

### SUMMER EVENTS

- **Summer Softball: Coaches Needed!** Teams are co-ed and consist of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Summer Softball is a fun league with minimal practices required. Estimated 7-8 games during June and July. Kids play other church groups on Monday evenings only (6-8pm)
  - Call team members to confirm attendance the week prior to a game
  - Organize post game socials when home team
  - Any paperwork required for preparation.
- **Summer Trips: Logistical Coordination**
  - Lake Charles Mission
  - Catholic Leadership Institute
  - Incoming Freshman Fun Trip
  - Steubenville on the Bayou
  - Virginia Mission
  - Organizing permission slips and payments
  - Coordinating transportation and chaperones

### DINNER THEATER

- **Dinner Theater Decorations:**
  - Plan, secure, and work with teens on decorations such as table centerpieces, stage props, and room décor
- **Dinner Theater Entertainment**
  - Plan entertainment for evening
  - Secure aspects
  - Set –up
  - Auditions and rehearsals
  - Acquire spotlights, sound, lighting, videography, and stage help
- **Dinner Theater Food**
  - Plan menu for evening
  - Acquire food
  - Acquire cooks and servers

- Work with St. Aloysius cafeteria personnel for reserving cafeteria and cafeteria worker
- **Dinner Theater Ticket Sales**
- Organize all publicity and ticket sales

**Thank you for your continued support of our  
Youth Ministry Program!!**

**For more information about the High School or Junior High Youth Group please  
contact the Office of Youth Ministry or any of the coordinators:**

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