



LYO Board Elections

Your new SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board will be elected at the Senior High Youth Gathering. This is an amazing opportunity for youth to serve their church, synod and community while growing in faith and leadership skills. Please encourage youth from your congregation to run for this board. It is a rewarding learning and faith building experience.

The LYO Board is responsible for planning and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings and representing the voice of youth on a synod level. The LYO board is a leadership team that requires leadership skills, maturity, a significant investment of time, and a desire to grow in and share one's faith. Board members receive training to grow in their skills and accomplish their assigned tasks.

Youth from your congregations in grades 9-11 are eligible to run for thirteen one-year LYO board terms. The 13 elected youth will choose their own officers during LYO training. After the gathering, the LYO board will choose 2 additional board-appointed members to increase diversity on the board.

Serving on the LYO board involves a time commitment of attending LYO training in the summer, 2 weekend meeting/retreats, and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Gathering. Dates for these commitments are printed on the LYO application form.

On the back of this sheet you will find an LYO application form. Forms received by **February 26** will be printed and distributed to gathering participants to aid in the election process. All youth who run for the LYO board will need to fill out a form, but **only those received by February 26 will be printed.**

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Hausken, 507-430-2273 or sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org.

How have you seen God at work through your service on the SW MN Synod LYO board?

Thoughts from past and current LYO members . . .

I've seen God through the entire LYO experience. This new family that has been given to me has changed my life immensely. The work we do through the board is truly a blessing to all those involved. God has blessed each of us to have a unique and truly wonderful experience through this board. God is absolutely everywhere and LYO has opened my eyes to be able to see that.

- Cole Woltjer, Willmar, MN

I have seen God at work through my LYO service especially when at the Jr. High Gathering, seeing the people high-fiving and saying "God loves you!" and then watching it spread throughout the place. And at school on that following Monday there was someone who had gone to the gathering who was giving high fives and saying "God loves you." It was cool. I told him so too.

- Oliver Thul, Balaton, MN

I see God in every aspect of LYO! I know it sounds cliché but I see the light of God shine through everyone so brightly. One of my favorite parts is seeing the way God works through us. It's so reassuring knowing that we are all there for the same reason. We are one team, one body, one big family. It's the best relationship I have ever had. God is working through each and every one of us and I am incredibly blessed that I am a part of this amazing organization.

- Tori Raths, Willmar, MN

I see God work every gathering we do, I love seeing the smiles on the youths face when they arrive at the gathering and during, it is awesome to see how appreciative they are, and because I know that the people on the LYO are there to support me through whatever, and whenever!

- Harper Groves, Buffalo Lake, MN

Application Form
Candidates for Southwestern Minnesota
Lutheran Youth Organization

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Following are the meeting dates the 2015-2016 LYO board is committed to attending and serving. If you know you will be unable to attend more than one meeting or will not make your participation in the LYO board a priority, please consider letting someone who is able to make the commitment and be present for more meetings have the chance to serve on the LYO Board. Thank you.

LYO Training June 12-14?, 2016, September 10, 2016; November 17-20, 2016; January 20-21, 2017; March 3-4?, 2017

You may fill out and mail or email this form or submit it online at /www.swmnelca.org/youth_family

Online applications are preferred.

Name _____ Gender _____ Birth date _____ Grade _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____ Do you check it? _____ Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____ Do you text? _____ Parent's Name(s) _____

Home Congregation and Town/Location _____

1. In 30 words or less, please state why you are interested in serving on the LYO Board. (What motivated you to apply? What do you hope to accomplish for youth in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod by serving on the LYO Board?)

2. In 30 words or less, please state some strengths, gifts, abilities or perspectives you would bring to the LYO Board.

3. In 30 words or less, please state any activities have you been involved with at school, church and in your community that may give you experience that would help you serve on the LYO Board.

Written applications to be printed for the Gathering will only be received until **February 25, 2016**.

All candidates must fill out an application before voting takes place on March 6, 2015.

Please submit online or send to: LYO Secretary Chloe Halvorson, 208 SW Robbins Avenue, Willmar, MN
16halvoch@willmar.org 320-220-1364. Chloe will contact you via email or text to let you know she has received your application.

If you do not hear from her, please contact her to make sure she received it.