

Guidelines for the Regional Youth Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California – Nevada

The Mission of RYC

The mission of the CCNC-N Regional Youth Council (RYC) is to foster personal and spiritual growth in both RYC members and the youth of the region. The RYC seeks to encourage developing leadership skills and to promote integrity through ethical decision making. The RYC will serve as role models and leaders to the Chi Rho (6-8 grade) and CYF (9-12 grade) youth of the region by creating and implementing programming for these age groups.

RYC Policy and Procedures

- Youth must be enrolled in grades 9-11 at the time of application.
- Youth should be supported throughout their application process and time on RYC by their home congregation.
- RYC shall consist of 8-12 youth and have at least 2 adult representatives in addition to the Director for Youth Ministries. Diversity in gender, race, nationality, and class will be encouraged and appreciated.
- The term of service for youth will span from acceptance to RYC until their graduation from high school.
- The term of service for adult RYC will be two years. If the adult member seeks a second term, that person must re-apply and be accepted by the RYC. After serving two terms of two years, the adult must take a two year break before re-applying again.
- New RYC members begin serving at the beginning of first meeting after the CCNC-N's Annual Meeting each spring. Outgoing RYC members term ends at the end of CCNC-N's Annual Meeting.
- New RYC members, both Youth and Adults, must attend the Annual Meeting in April of the year elected.
- RYC applications will be distributed at Mid-Winter and FebCamp. Earlier applications can be gotten from the Director for Youth Ministries. Deadline for application will be the third Saturday of March and selection will be done by the end of March to early April. RYC selection will be handled by all current members of RYC including the adult members.
- Each year, a moderator and vice moderator will be chosen from among the older members of RYC. The vice moderator will become the moderator the following year with RYC approval. The vice moderator will take the place of the moderator in that persons absents.
- The moderator will take on extra responsibilities within RYC by working with the Director of Youth Ministries. They will be in charge of making sure minutes for each meeting are taken, keeping conversation on task during meetings, and serving as a role model for all RYC members. The moderator will submit a report of the activities of the RYC to the Ad Ministry Council.
- The moderator will find members to represent the RYC in the following committees; Outdoor Ministries, Annual Meeting, Ad Ministry Council, and any other committee which are required by the Region.

Covenant of the RYC Youth

- All RYC members will be held accountable to the RYC policies and procedures and covenant by each other, the CCNC-N Regional Minister and the Director of Youth Ministries.

- All RYC members are representatives of the CCNC-N region and are also asked to abide by all CCNC-N policies. (i.e. adult background checks, boundary trainings, staff training, event covenants, cyber policy)
- RYC members are representatives to the region from their home congregations. As such, members should be active participants in the life of their church by regularly attending worship, Sunday school and youth programming, if available. Members are also encouraged to expand their leadership experiences within the congregation by serving on the deaconate, as worship leader, or on ministry teams, where such opportunities exist.
- RYC members are asked to demonstrate good character through speech and behavior at all regional events and as representatives of the region. The use of drugs, cigarettes, weapons or any kind, or alcohol at any regional event is prohibited.
- RYC encourages the growth of personal faith through spiritual practices and personal renewal/ self care.
- RYC members commit to attending all RYC meetings and regionally sponsored youth events. Members agree to participate fully in these activities by lending their creativity, energy, and time to the work of RYC.
- RYC members seek to encourage the growth of youth programming, but more importantly, they seek to encourage personal and spiritual growth in others. RYC members help to foster community at youth events by being inclusive.
- RYC membership does require extra monetary commitments. Members are asked to subsidize much of the outside purchases, like t-shirts, although most costs are covered.

Termination of an RYC Youth or Adult

- In the event that an RYC member cannot fulfill the covenantal agreements, then the Regional Minister and Director of Youth Ministries will make the decision about the removal of the individual's membership from the group.
- The use of alcohol or cigarettes by underage youth, or the use of illegal drugs by any RYC member, is not accepted. Any violation of this aspect of the covenant will result in immediate dismissal from RYC.
- Attendance at regional events and RYC meetings is also important. If a member accumulates two unexcused absences, then they will be immediately dismissed from RYC. An unexcused absence is one in which the RYC member misses or comes late or leaves early from a meeting without contacting the Director of Youth Ministries two weeks prior to the meeting date.
- Termination of an RYC member (youth or adult) will be by an majority vote of the RYC youth, RYC adults, Director of Youth Ministries and the Regional Minister.
- A letter of resignation should be written if you can no longer serve on RYC. This letter should be addressed to the Director of Youth Ministries for CCNC-N and should be written no later than one month before resignation.