

# Youth and College

## General Assembly/ Mission Trip

Join with other youth and college students from around the Presbytery of Arkansas this summer to experience one of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s most important events — the biennial General Assembly — and to serve our brothers and sisters in the St. Louis/ Ferguson, Missouri area! We have a unique opportunity this year ... the General Assembly is within driving distance of Arkansas! This doesn't happen very often, so we want to take advantage of it and give our young people a chance to experience this special gathering of Presbyterians! We hope to give them a taste of our connectional church, let them see how our church polity works, and get to participate in some of the very special gathering opportunities of our national church family. Since we will be staying in Ferguson, Missouri, which has been in the national spotlight in recent years for racial tensions, we will have an intentional focus on learning about and entering into conversation about race and faith—nationally, and within our own communities. We will also spend a day doing service in the area. And in the midst of all of this, we plan to have a ton of fun, enjoy the St. Louis area, and grow together in faith and community!

**Who can go?** Any current 10th–12th grader or college student in the Presbytery of Arkansas! Churches can send a group of students, or students can register on their own.

**When is it?** June 15–21, 2018. We'll depart (likely from Little Rock, but it will depend upon where most of the participants are from) early afternoon on Friday, June 15 and arrive in Ferguson that night. We'll return (probably to Little Rock) late in the day on Thursday, June 21.

**Where is it?** The General Assembly will be taking place in St. Louis. We will be staying at First Presbyterian Church in Ferguson, Missouri. For more info, check out <https://ga-pcusa.org/>

**How do I register?** Registration will be done by application as space is limited. Applications (plus \$100 deposit, which will be returned if not accepted into the trip) will be received until February 15. Applicants will be notified by February 28 of their status. The balance of the trip fee is due March 30, 2018.\* Only those students who are paid in full by March 30 will be fully registered.

**How much does it cost?** \$250. That includes transportation, any GA registration fees, a t-shirt, meals and housing, and a fun activity. Meals while traveling (2 dinners) will be out of pocket. A \$100 deposit (non-refundable) is required to secure your spot. Deposit will be returned if not selected for the trip.

**Are there any trip expectations?** Yes! Participants will be expected to continue in service to the larger church for the year following the trip, either by serving on the Presbytery's Youth Advisory Team or another Presbytery committee, or in another way in a local congregation, campus ministry, or Presbytery ministry. Participants will also be expected to participate in a report to the Presbytery during the Oct. 19–20 meeting at Ferncliff.

**How do I pay for this?** We strongly encourage local churches to help individuals fund their trip, whether that be through a fundraiser or from budget funds. Many churches pay for 1/3 or 1/2 of the trip cost. Individuals should discuss this with their Pastor, Educator, Youth Worker, or Clerk of Session. Some scholarship money is available through the Presbytery. Please do not let cost keep you from joining us on this trip! For more information about scholarships, please contact Rachel Cowan, Adult Moderator of the Youth Advisory Team at [rcowan@yahoo.com](mailto:rcowan@yahoo.com).

**Who chaperones the trip?** Adults (23 or older) selected by the Presbytery's Youth Advisory Team. This year's trip Trip Advisors will be Theresa Spragins from First Presbyterian, Conway (Trip Leader), Rev. Brian Brock from Central Presbyterian, Russellville, and Julianna Whitson (College Leader) from First Presbyterian, Prairie Grove. Adult Advisors work hard before, during, and after the trip to ensure a safe, fun, and faith-building experience for all. Adult chaperones are required to complete a background check through the Presbytery.

**How will we get there?** We will be traveling in church-owned vehicles.

**How many spots are there?** We have space for 15 youth/college spots and 3 adults spots. A waiting list will be kept if needed.

**Questions?** Contact Trip Theresa Spragins ([theresa@fpconway.org](mailto:theresa@fpconway.org)).

\*No refunds can be made after March 30 unless we can find someone to fill your spot — we will have already have secured housing, registrations, activities, etc.. If you must drop out of the trip after March 30 and we can find another youth to fill your spot (every effort will be made, but no guarantees!), we will refund your trip fees, minus your deposit. Thanks for understanding!

# Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Summer Trips

## 2018 GA/ Mission Trip Personal Information Form

Mail to:  
Presbytery of Arkansas GA Trip Application  
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.  
Little Rock, AR 72227  
With \$100 deposit and application  
by February 15, 2018

YOUTH AND COLLEGE GENERAL ASSEMBLY/ MISSION TRIP

JUNE 15-21, 2018

CURRENT 10TH-12TH GRADERS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

\$250

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ College or Campus Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  M  F

Participant cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size (adult sizes): \_\_\_\_\_

Participant email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

*To be signed by the participant:*

- Yes, I am excited to attend a Summer Trip with the Presbytery of Arkansas! I agree to be open and welcoming to new experiences, people, and faith; to be an engaged part of the group; and to have fun!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant signature Date

*To be signed by the parent/ guardian (if youth) or by College Student:*

- Yes, I want my son/ my daughter/ myself to be a part of one of these amazing, faith-building trips!
- Acknowledgement of Financial Policy.** I understand that a \$100 deposit (non-refundable, unless my application is not accepted) is due with this application form and that the balance of trip fees is due by March 30, 2018 (only those paid in full by March 30 will be registered). I understand that no refunds can be made after March 30 unless we find someone to take my/my son/my daughter's spot. I understand that if I/my son/my daughter must drop out of the trip after March 30 and we can find another youth/college student to fill my/his/her spot (every effort will be made, but no guarantees!), I will receive a refund for trip fees paid, minus my deposit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Guardian or College Student signature Date

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Please respond to the following:

What excites you about this trip?

What is your involvement in your local church, presbytery, campus ministry, or other church-related group?

How do you expect that this trip will grow you as a leader in your church or strengthen your faith?

Why is understanding our Presbyterian polity important?

How would you like to fulfill your expectation of service to the church (Presbytery, local church, campus ministry, etc.) the year after the trip?

How does your faith impact you as you are making decisions — for yourself, your family, a group you are part of, or within the church?

## Other Stuff You Might Want to Know About Presbytery of Arkansas' Summer Trips

### Who is sponsoring these trips?

The Youth Advisory Team of the Presbytery of Arkansas. The Presbytery will handle all registration details, arrange transportation, and provide Adult Advisors (21 or older for Middle School trips; 23 and older for Sr. High trips).

### What is the Youth Advisory Team (YAT)?

The Youth Advisory Team is made up of youth (10th–12th graders), college-aged students, and adults who care about young people and about Youth Ministry. The Youth Advisory Team plans events and trips, which are open to all youth in the Presbytery. If you are interested in serving on the YAT, or if you have questions, please contact the 2017–2018 YAT Moderator, Rachel Cowan, at [rscowan@yahoo.com](mailto:rscowan@yahoo.com).

### How is registration handled?

For financial and logistical reasons, space on this trip is limited and will be filled by application. The application deadline is February 15. Applications received after February 15 may be accepted if spots are still available, but are not guaranteed. A Waiting List will be kept if needed.

### What happens after I register?

Applicants will be emailed after February 28 with their status. If no confirmation email is received, please contact [theresa@fpccconway.org](mailto:theresa@fpccconway.org). Closer to the date of each trip, participants will receive more information about the trip, including forms that must be filled out and returned.

### How can my church encourage youth to attend?

Please make sure information about these trips gets into the hands of the Youth Ministry team at your church! Churches are encouraged to consider paying a portion of the trip fee for those youth attending from your church. You are also encouraged to support your youth in prayer before, during, and after the trip!

### Who do I contact with questions?

Contact Trip Leader Theresa Spragins at [theresa@fpccconway.org](mailto:theresa@fpccconway.org).

### How do I find out more about Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Ministry Offerings?

"Like" our Facebook Page!

[www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry)

Watch the website:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

You'll find information there to keep you updated about these trips and other offerings by the Presbytery!