

AFFIRM

A YOUTH MINISTRY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

SESYOUTH.ORG/AFFIRM

Staff Applications Accepted Until December 20 / Participant Registration Opens February 1

WHAT IS AFFIRM?

Affirm is an awesome one week, one-of-a-kind Lutheran camp experience serving youth grades 6-12 who live in the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA (Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama) for over 50 years!

Our missions is to create a safe community where all are welcome. We will: be fed daily by worship and communion; equip young people to be leaders; foster discipleship; be grounded in our Lutheran theology.

AFFIRM offers 10 units where youth can grow their relationship with Jesus and explore the gifts God has given them. Units are aligned by grade and age appropriate content consisting of small, large and whole-camp curriculum. Each year we live out the units through the lens of a new camp-wide theme.

WHERE, WHEN, HOW MUCH?

AFFIRM currently convenes on the campus of The University of West Alabama in Livingston, AL. AFFIRM is typically held the 3rd full week of June (on National Youth Gathering years it moves up a week).

The complete cost is \$425/participant. While there is no sibling or group discount, need-based scholarships are available from the Synod. Complete a Synod Scholarship application and submit it with your registration. Also, be sure to ask your AFFIRM Ambassador about scholarships from your home congregation! There is no cost for AFFIRM's volunteer staff.

Cost includes: Lodging, all meals from Sunday dinner to Friday breakfast, an event T-shirt, and all program costs.

SOUNDS GREAT - WHAT'S NEXT?

> **PRAY** about this with your youth. What are they excited about? Are they nervous about anything? Which unit will you pick this year? How might their faith grow?

> **TALK** to your AFFIRM Ambassador (youth director, pastor, AFFIRM staff, past participants or parents). As part of our commitment to serve each youth and provide the best experience, we require each participant to receive a pastor's endorsement, so you'll want to talk to them, too.

> REGISTER AT SESYOUTH.ORG/AFFIRM

Registration is completely digital this year! You can submit forms online, sign-up multiple participants and pay your deposit in one sitting.

If digital isn't your speed, a paper registration packet can be found on the website, or ask your congregation's AFFIRM Ambassador for a printed copy.

Registration must be received/postmarked by May 1. Registration is considered complete when all forms, information, and a \$200/participant deposit are received.

COOL, BUT I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS!

First, visit our website at sesyouth.org/AFFIRM.

You are also welcome to reach out to our volunteer admin team and we will respond as soon as possible!

Jonathan Awtrey / Director of Community
Jennifer Dunn / Director of Operations
Emily Gantert / Director of Registration

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UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Effective in 2019: Exodus, Science & Faith, and Bridges will begin a 'Micro Unit' rotation, meaning that each summer one of those three will max-out at 12 participants. Also, grades for Shepherds and Revelations have shifted. Please contact us if you have any questions!

GENESIS / completed 6th + 7th grade first time attendees

Genesis (a new creation) is a high energy, fun, "feel good" unit, designed to help participants see that they are special and unique children of God who can have fun being Christians. They will be able to see how fellow Christians can work together to share the Good News. They will see themselves as God's work of art, created to live the Good Life through Jesus Christ and the Church.

LIMIT / 70 youth

MISSIONARIES / returning who completed 7th + 8th graders

Missionaries explore who we are as members of the body of Christ, how service and servanthood is a central part of our faith, and how to recognize our unique gifts and use them to create change. We approach service through a theology of accompaniment, walking alongside each other and all God's people regardless of the barriers that usually divide us. We put our faith into action by going out and doing service projects.

LIMIT / 60 youth

JOURNEYS / completed 8th - 9th grade

Journeys will provide youth with the opportunity to be led to the intersections where their lives will meet Christ's in a radical new way. The Gospel story will come alive as youth engage in creative communication and small group activities. Youth will leave with a better knowledge of Jesus' journey and what meaning it has for their lives.

LIMIT / 40 youth

SHEPHERDS / completed 8th – 9th grades (formerly 9-10)

Shepherds is an introduction to Christian Leadership. The Shepherd is the one who tends to and cares for the group. This unit will help individuals identify leadership styles and skills through discussions, games, community outreach, etc. This enables them to develop a greater understanding and confidence in their role as leaders.

LIMIT / 60 youth

REVELATIONS / completed 9th - 10th grade (formerly 9-11)

Revelations is an experiential lab in daily living. We seek to discover revelations and creative insights to help Senior High youth identify the many forces -- both good and bad-- which influence their lives. The primary objective of this unit is to help the participants experience spiritual and emotional growth in a positive, affirming community of grace.

LIMIT / 30 youth

WORSHIPTIVITY / completed 10th - 12th grade

Worshiptivity =Worship and Creativity. This unit is designed to help individuals faithfully combine their gifts of music, drama, and art to create the worship experience for the AFFIRM community. Through planning and leading worship during the week, individuals will grow in their own spirituality and gifts.

LIMIT / 20 youth

SCIENCE & FAITH / completed 10th-12th grade

2019 Micro-Unit

Through the years science and faith have sometimes been friends and sometimes enemies. From outer space to inner demons, this unit takes a look at the questions scientists and theologians today are wrestling with together. This is a unit built on good conversations and some hands-on learning. A degree in science isn't required, but a natural curiosity is!

LIMIT / 20 youth // **2019 Limit / 12 youth**

BRIDGES / completed 11th - 12th grades // 2020 Micro-Unit

Too often, we focus on the barriers that separate rather than the invitation to turn those barriers into bridges! In this unit, we address lots of "-isms," such as racism, sexism, classism, and ageism. Rooted in Scripture and our baptismal promises, we will also draw from pop culture and rely on media rich resources (movies, music, magazine articles, social media, and web resources) to enhance our respectful dialogue and experiential learning that engages heart and mind and body and soul.

LIMIT / 20 youth // **2020 Limit / 12 youth**

EXODUS / completed 11th - 12th grade // 2021 Micro-Unit

Exodus is "A Journey from Sin and Death to Resurrection and Everlasting Life." Through this journey, participants will see and experience the abundance of God's love and grace given to us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Exodus journey will help the participants grow spiritually and be equipped to daily live the journey of living the faith and the grace God gives to us.

LIMIT / 40 youth // **2021 Limit / 12 youth**

YAYMI / completed freshman or sophomore year of college

YAYMI is a small group experience for young adults who are called to be youth leaders. This unit uses an internship model whereby young adults will work with mentors and units at AFFIRM to develop their skills in small group leadership, peer ministry, leading games, Lutheran perspectives, creative bible study, discussion, and more!

LIMIT / 15 young adults

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT [SESYOUTH.ORG/AFFIRM](https://sesyouth.org/affirm)