

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL
2020-21 ADULT ADVISOR APPLICATION PACKET



WHO?

Any adult over the age of 25 is welcome to apply using this application packet!

WHAT?

Apply to become a member of the Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council (also known as PoPYoCo), which is a unique way for high school youth to gain valuable leadership skills, learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), get to know other youth from the presbytery, and serve God all at the same time!

At maximum capacity, PoPYoCo will have 20 youth and 8 adult members. Adult advisors serve as mentors in planning and implementing presbytery-wide events, while also building relationships with youth members.

WHEN?

Deadline for all applications is March 31, 2020!

Only completed applications postmarked by March 31, 2020 will be considered and reviewed.

In applying, candidates are intentionally committing to the imperative dates listed below.

April 25, 2020 • August 7-8, 2020 • November 13-15, 2020

January 19, 2021 • February 19-20, 2021 • April 17, 2021

Extra meetings are called if the need arises.

WHERE?

Please snail mail completed application to the address listed below OR email to address listed below.

Presbytery of the Peaks

Attn: Rachel Shepherd

108 Melinda Drive

Lynchburg, VA 24502

OR

rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org

WHY?

PoPYoCo offers an engaging way for youth to serve the church and their peers at the same time.

It simultaneously gives adults the chance to invest directly into youth deepening their faith and developing leadership skills, among so many other things. Though demanding, the experience is rewarding and influential for both the youth and the adult advisors! Each member must be committed and invested in the opportunity, making PoPYoCo a high priority if accepted to serve.

We aim to work as hard as we play and play as hard as we work!

HOW?

More details, expectations, and explanations within this packet that should answer all your questions. If you still have further questions, please contact Rachel Shepherd, Associate Presbyter for Discipleship.

[rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org]

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Who can apply to be a member of PoPYoCo?** Any rising – 9th, –10th, –11th, or –12th graders are welcome to apply as youth members each year. Adults over the age of 25 are welcome to apply each year as well to become an adult advisor. We are specifically looking for people who additionally meet the following criteria:
 - are an active member in his/her home church and its youth activities;
 - are able to serve a three-year term at minimum with the option to renew after three years;
 - are willing to make PoPYoCo a priority in his/her schedule;
 - are aiming to attend all meetings and retreats to the best of his/her ability; and
 - are committed to being an exemplary role model and mentor to youth.
- 2. What if I can't make a meeting and/or retreat?** We understand that life happens, but it is ideal for each adult advisor to be present for each of the set dates as much as it is for the youth members as well. This is why we give the dates upfront when applying.

*** Please check the following dates before submitting your application. If there is a conflict, please make note of it on your application. April 25, 2020 • August 7-8, 2020 • November 13-15, 2020
January 19, 2021 • February 19-20, 2021 • April 17, 2021 ***
- 3. What kind of adults are we seeking to serve on PoPYoCo?** Leaders. Leaders who can... serve the needs and will of a group; motivate not only themselves, but others when inspiration is needed; encourage the rest of PoPYoCo in all endeavors; treat all others with respect at all times; be open to teaching, to learning, to listening, to growing however the Spirit may move; communicate effectively and efficiently; show they care through empathy, sympathy, and awareness of others; be trustworthy in all matters and reliable; accept a challenge willingly; embrace change when needed or desired by others; wholly commit to the group and the experience of serving on PoPYoCo; lead by example in all situations; and always strive to follow the servant-leadership model set forth by Jesus Christ. In addition to those characteristics, we are also looking for those who want to invest in the Church and who not only see children & youth as the future of the Church, but truly the Church right now.
- 4. What is the overall purpose of PoPYoCo?** The following list is taken from our Operational Guidelines, which will be given to all members selected to serve on PoPYoCo:
 - foster a deepening personal love for and a relationship with Jesus Christ and encourage the same for other youth in the Presbytery of the Peaks;
 - encourage youth in ways of Christian discipleship;
 - equip and empower youth for mission and service;
 - develop Christian leadership skills;
 - help youth understand and articulate a sense of call;
 - create fellowship opportunities for youth to formulate and cultivate Christian friendships across the Presbytery; and
 - prepare youth to transition out of high school and embrace his/her future, knowing they are loved and guided by God.
- 5. What about transportation for meetings and/or retreats?** It is the responsibility of each member to arrange transportation needs to be present for all meetings and retreats. Carpooling is encouraged for all members; contact information is shared at our first meeting to help with those efforts. Adult advisors are encouraged to help with this effort to the best of their ability. Mileage reimbursement can be received if needed by going through the Presbytery of the Peaks office.

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL
COVENANT OF CHURCH SUPPORT

As stated previously, PoPYoCo offers its members a unique way to serve the church and youth of the church at the same time. Though demanding, the experience is rewarding and influential! An integral part of an effective Youth Council is the adult leadership who are supportive of the youth, who are willing to encourage active participation from youth and other adults, and who are active in the life and mission of the Youth Council.

By signing this form, you are stating you have read the responsibilities and expectations within, noted the dates scheduled, and are committed to being an adult advisor if selected to serve. You are also stating your support of PoPYoCo and, if selected, will be willing to sign a sexual misconduct form. Additionally, we want to be sure your current church/congregation is aware of your interest and intent in participating in PoPYoCo.

Keeping all of that in mind, we ask that you fill out the following information to accompany your application for review to serve on PoPYoCo. Failure to do so will result in an application not being considered.

Pastor/Educator & current Session member: By signing, you are stating you are aware of and in full support of this applicant applying to join the Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council (PoPYoCo) as an adult advisor with no reservations or hesitations.

1. *Name of applicant:* _____

Signature of Applicant _____
Date

2. *Printed name of Pastor/Educator:* _____

Signature of Pastor/Educator _____
Date

3. *Printed name of current Session member:* _____

Signature of current Session member _____
Date

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL
2020-21 ADULT APPLICATION: GENERAL INFORMATION

Please print or type the following required information.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Middle name: _____ Birthdate (xx/xx/xxxx): _____

Gender: _____ Adult t-shirt size: _____

Primary home street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell (include area code): _____ Can you text? YES NO

Email address: _____

Name of current/home church: _____

Street address of home church: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Do you consider yourself an active member of this church? YES NO

If available to you, do you attend Sunday school? YES NO If so, how often? _____

If available to you, do you attend Youth Group? YES NO If so, how often? _____

Please list the name of a reference below. Be sure to ask them with ample time before the due date to be a reference for you. Give them each a copy of the last two pages of this packet, which is the reference form. Ask them to complete it and mail it personally to the address on the front page, postmarked no later than March 31, 2020.

If you are a PCUSA pastor, you are exempt from filing two references for your application.

Ref. 1: _____

Ref. 2: _____

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL

2020-21 ADULT APPLICATION: RESPONSIVE QUESTIONS

Please type and print your responses to the following questions and submit with your completed “Covenant of Support” and “General Information” forms.

1. In what ways or areas are you involved in the life of your home church? What about within your community? Please include any leadership positions you have held.
2. Expound on what is driving you and/or drawing you to serve as a member of PoPYoCo? Please give at least two reasons.
3. Briefly share your personal statement of faith. (*Possibly including—but not required nor limited to—some specifics on what you believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; how you live out your faith; how you came to believe; what you believe the purpose of the church is; etc.*)
4. Provide a biographical statement for review.
5. Indicate and expound on some of your own personality characteristics you think PoPYoCo could benefit from having you serve as a member.
6. There are so many ways in which you could be serving the youth in our area, why choose PoPYoCo specifically?
7. Tell us about something you’re passionate about.

Please personally mail completed reference form to the address listed below, postmarked no later than March 15, 2019, OR email to address listed below by March 15, 2019.

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108 Melinda Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24502

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PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL

2020-21 ADULT APPLICATION: REFERENCE QUESTIONS

Ref. name: _____

Phone (include area code): _____ Ref. email: _____

Applicant's name: _____ How long have you known him/her? _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

The Applicant listed above has listed you as a reference for his/her consideration to join as a youth member of the Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council (PoPYoCo). We ask that you give careful consideration to the ratings and responses below. Under each heading, please check the phrase describing the applicant's behavior with regard to that specific trait to the best of your ability. We hope you will be as honest and forthright as possible with your responses. Feel free to give any further explanation if you feel called on additional paper.

1. In your opinion, how well is this individual able to direct and influence peers along definite lines of action?

- Poor leader, incapable of directing other
- Normally successful in directing and controlling others
- Very successful in leading others
- Tends to overstep in order to be in control

2. How well does this individual work with peers for the good of a group?

- Cooperates willingly and actively regardless of self-benefit
- Cooperates with others toward accomplishment of a common cause
- Will passively participate in accomplishing a goal as a group so as not to be too disruptive
- Gives limited cooperation: neglects common good for personal interest(s)

3. How does this individual react to suggestions and/or constructive criticism by others?

- Resents and/or rejects any suggestions or criticisms
- Listens to suggestions, but acts without considering them
- Hears suggestions, but takes a while to try out or implement them moving forward
- Follows suggestions willingly and with an open mind

4. How well does this individual express his/her own faith?

- Confidently shares in discussion of faith issues and concepts in any situation
- Will share personal beliefs and experiences with a trusted group
- Able to put personal beliefs into his/her own words
- Associates personal faith with creeds of the Church

5. How well does this individual apply energy and persistence in following a job through?

- Needs much prodding to complete work
- Rather indifferent; often does not finish a job
- Completes assigned tasks of own accord
- Unusual perseverance, doing more than is expected or sometimes required

6. Emotionally, how does this individual relate with the selections below in your experience with him/her?

- Well-balanced for a teenager
- Usually well-balanced, but experiences a polar end every once-in-a-while
- Tends to fluctuate between many emotions regularly
- Tends to be over-emotional
- Exceptionally happy and peppy
- Easily depressed, irritated, or anxious

Other comments regarding emotion: _____

7. Do you recognize the gifts and skills needed to serve in this capacity in the Church in this individual? Please explain. _____

8. Would you like to make any other comments, explanation, and/or observations about this individual? _____

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postmarked no later than March 15, 2019, OR email to address listed below by March 31, 2020.*

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