

# **PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL 2020-21 YOUTH APPLICATION PACKET**



## **WHO?**

Any rising 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grader is welcome to apply using this application packet!  
*[For any interested adults over 25: there is a separate application to serve as an adult advisor.]*

## **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 members and 8 adult members. There typically will not be more than two youth representatives from any one church unless there are still spaces available.

## **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

*These dates may be subject to change, but we will be doing our best to honor them.*

## **WHERE?**

*Please snail mail OR email completed application to one of the addresses below.*

Presbytery of the Peaks

Attn: Rachel Shepherd

OR

[rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org)

108 Melinda Drive

Lynchburg, VA 24502

## **WHY?**

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

Though demanding, the experience is rewarding and educational! An opportunity like this may look good on a resume, but we hope that will not be the sole reason for application and/or participation. 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 should answer all your questions. If you still have questions, please contact Rachel Shepherd, Associate Presbyter for Discipleship.

[ [rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org) ]

# ***PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL***

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 1. Who can apply to be a youth member of PoPYoCo?** Any rising 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to apply. We are specifically looking for youth who additionally meet the following criteria:
  - are an active member in his/her home church and its youth activities;
  - are able to serve a two-year term until his/her high school graduation;
  - 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 to other youth.
- 2. What if I can't make a meeting and/or retreat?** Leadership at the set retreat are imperative. This is why we give the dates upfront when applying. Otherwise, two unexcused absences within a school year will be grounds for dismissal. Absence from a retreat will count as two absences. Other issues will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

*\*\* 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 youth 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 themselves 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. Mileage reimbursement can be received if needed by going through the Presbytery of the Peaks office.

**PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL**  
**COVENANT OF ADULT SUPPORT**

As stated previously, PoPYoCo offers its members a unique way to serve the church and their peers at the same time. Though demanding, the experience is rewarding and educational! An opportunity like this may look good on a resume, but we hope that will not be the sole reason for application and/or participation. Each member must be committed and invested in the opportunity.

However, we also recognize an important part of our effectiveness and efficiency as a group is the role of parent(s)/guardian(s) and other supportive adults in a youth's life. We want these adults to be supportive of the youth's responsibility and active participation as a potential member of PoPYoCo. Parent(s)/Guardian(s): if your youth is selected to serve on PoPYoCo, we need to know that it meets with your approval and you would provide encouragement, support, and transportation to meetings and/or retreats if needed. Additionally, we want to be sure the applicant's home church is aware of a youth's interest in serving on PoPYoCo and know they are in full support of this applicant as well.

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

**Parent/Guardian, Pastor/Educator, & current Session member:** By signing below, 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) and that you understand the responsibilities, expectations, and scheduled dates. Furthermore, you will wholeheartedly support this applicant on PoPYoCo if he/she is selected to serve however possible and to the best of your abilities.

1. *Name of applicant:* \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Printed name of Parent/Guardian:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of Parent/Guardian*

*Date*

3. *Printed name of Pastor/Educator:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of Pastor/Educator*

*Date*

4. *Printed name of current Session member:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of current Session member*

*Date*

***PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL***  
**2020–21 YOUTH APPLICATION: GENERAL INFORMATION**  
*Please print or type the following required information.*

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (xx/xx/xxxx): \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ 2020-21 Grade: 9 10 11 12 School: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary home street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth cell (include area code): \_\_\_\_\_ Can you text? YES NO

Youth email: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult t-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian first name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

P/G cell (include area code): \_\_\_\_\_ Can you text? YES NO

P/G email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian first name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

P/G cell (include area code): \_\_\_\_\_ Can you text? YES NO

P/G email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address if different: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 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 two references below, one of which should be from your congregation. 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.*

Ref. 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Ref. 2: \_\_\_\_\_

***PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL***

**2020-21 YOUTH APPLICATION: RESPONSIVE QUESTIONS**

*Please type 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. What does your Christian faith mean to you? Additionally, how do you express it in your day-to-day life?
7. Tell us about something you're passionate about.

**PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS YOUTH COUNCIL**  
**2020-21 YOUTH APPLICATION: REFERENCE FORM**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please personally mail OR email completed reference form to one of the addresses below,  
postmarked no later than March 31, 2020.*

Presbytery of the Peaks  
Attn: Rachel Shepherd  
108 Melinda Drive  
Lynchburg, VA 24502

OR

rachel.shepherd@peakspresbytery.org