

Here's what this year's seniors say about their PYC experiences:

Being able to help others progress on their own faith journeys, while growing in your own faith is a feeling that cannot be topped. Also, the bonds you make with other PYC members, as well as with other youth in the presbytery are special and will last a life time.

Andrew Nelson, 1st Presbyterian Church, Hickory

Western NC PYC has taught me far more than I had expected. Not only did I learn more about my faith, but also I grew as a person. When you are surrounded with the support of all the other PYC members anything is possible. My PYC experience has passed all of my expectations, and has forever left me with a wonderful church committee and friendships to last forever. WNCPYC you have prepared me for the future and have set me on the right path in my life, I can't imagine a better group of people! **Caroline Patton, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Black Mtn.**

Years ago I lacked self-confidence and leadership skills. I was afraid to make friends and be outgoing. I held Christ tightly in my heart, but I had a hard time expressing the passion behind that grasp. I joined PYC and gained leadership skills while expressing Christ to youth my age. I always come back smiling from events knowing that

I have had a great time with my greatest friends, the members of PYC, and the new friends I have gained.

Callie McCraw, 1st Presbyterian Church, Burnsville

For the past three years of my life I have been involved with PYC. In those three years I have grown deeper in my faith and made lasting friendships. I have broken out of my shell and now I know I can do anything. Nothing can stop me. This once shy girl has become an outgoing young woman thanks to the involvement of Presbyterian Youth Council. **Maggie LeGrand First Presbyterian Church, Belmont**

Having an opportunity to join the PYC family has been an experience I will never forget. For the past four years, I have met an array of people that have changed me for the better. Growing closer to God with the help of this organization has been a priceless gift. The experiences that I have been blessed with are ones that will carry me throughout my life. This is one of the most valued things I have ever been a part of and I will never forget it. **Mollie Westall, 1st Presbyterian Church, Spruce Pine**



I think youth should apply to be on the Youth Council because it gives them the opportunity to make friends from all over this region of North Carolina and share experiences and their faith with youth just like themselves. The people you meet while on the youth council are people that accept you for who you are and cherish your talents. The youth council is a great way to become and develop as a leader and in your faith. The youth council also gives you the chance to lead others while having fun, being creative, and finding God.

Katie Kiefer, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Hickory

Being a member of PYC was something I would never trade anything for. Some of my best memories of the past 4 years were from my PYC family. I have made friends on council that I will have for the rest of my life. **Rush Ferrell, 1st Presbyterian Church, Asheville**

Being a member of Presbytery Youth Council gives you an opportunity to deepen your faith in a supportive community; lead other youth in worship, recreation and music; plan presbytery-wide events; and attend retreats, rallies, and conferences!



Youth Council members work hard, have fun, worship regularly, pray for one another, and grow long-lasting relationships while exercising God's gifts in the service of other youth.

If you are committed, enthusiastic, and eager to learn and lead, the Youth Council needs YOU!



Youth Council Application

The Youth Ministry Committee is seeking rising 10th –12th graders to join the Youth Council for 2011-2012
Due by May 23, 2011

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name (what name we should call you): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail address: _____ Parent's E-mail: _____

Name of church where you are member: _____

Birth Date: _____ Confirmation Date: _____

Sex: _____ School Grade (rising): _____

Recommendations (please have them fill out the attached recommendation)

Name of Parent / Guardian (youth only): _____

Name of Youth Leader / Director: _____

Name of Minister / Elder / Educator: _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this form.

- 1) Why do you want to serve on the Youth Council?
- 2) How do you feel your own spiritual growth will be enhanced by this opportunity to serve on Youth Council?
- 3) What skills and gifts do you feel you have to contribute to the Youth Council?
- 4) In what presbytery youth events and activities have you participated?
- 5) What are your other current time and responsibility commitments? (work, athletics, clubs, etc.)
- 6) What does your Christian faith mean to you and how do you express it in your day-to-day life?

Applicant's Agreement:

In signing below, I understand the responsibilities and requirements expected of me as member of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's Youth Council. I understand that failure to abide by these expectations listed in the Job Description will result in my removal from the Youth Council. I understand that three absences from rallies, retreats, or council meetings during the August 2011 to June 2012 year will result in my removal from the council.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

We the session of _____ affirm
_____ 's application to serve on the Youth Council of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. We will strive in every way to stay in contact with this applicant, helping them continue to grow in faith and maintain their responsibility as a representative to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

In signing this commitment, the Session agrees to invite our youth council member(s) to a Session meeting at least once during the 2011-12 school year to share with the Session the work of the council.

Clerk of Session: _____ Date: _____

Please send this application along with your answers by **May 23, 2011** to:

**PWNC Youth Ministries Committee
114 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, NC 28655**

Parent / Guardian Recommendation

Due by May 23, 2011

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of Church: _____

Parent / Guardian's (1) Full Name: _____

Parent / Guardian's (2) Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Number _____

Recommendation Questions: (Please briefly answers these questions on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this form)

- 1) Do you have any reservations about this applicant's serving as a leader for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's youth ministry? If so please describe?
- 2) What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the applicant?
- 3) How would you characterize this applicant's dependability (following through on responsibilities)?
- 4) Is the applicant actively and willingly participating in church activities? Please give examples.

Presbytery Youth Council offers its members the opportunity to serve the church and their peers as they plan and implement presbytery-wide youth events. It is hard work and makes demands on busy schedules, but the experience is also very rewarding and faith-building. Youth Council members will develop leadership and planning skills, experience many unique events and opportunities, and make lasting friendships with other youth.

An important component of an effective Presbytery Youth Council is parents/guardians of the youth. Being supportive of their responsibilities and encouraging their active participation on the council is essential. If your child is selected to serve on the Council, we need to know that it meets with your approval and that you would provide encouragement, support, and help in making transportation arrangements to and from events and meeting.

I am aware that _____ is applying for a position on the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Youth Council and have read the job description for the youth council members. I will support their participation on Youth Council if they are selected. I understand that three absences from rallies, retreats, or council meetings during the August 2011 to June 2012 year will result in my child's removal from the council.

Parent / Guardian's Signature: _____

Please Submit this form along with the answers to:
PWNC Youth Ministries Com., 114 Silver Creek Rd., Morganton, NC 28655

Youth Leader / Director Recommendation

Due by May 23, 2011

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of Church: _____

Parent / Guardian's (1) Full Name: _____

Parent / Guardian's (2) Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Number _____

Recommendation Questions: (Please briefly answers these questions on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this form)

- 1) How long have you known the applicant?
- 2) Do you have any reservations about this applicant's serving as a leader in youth ministry for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina? If so please describe?
- 3) In what areas, if any, does the applicant need further growth and maturity?
- 4) Do you perceive that the applicant's family will be supportive of their participation on youth council, if they are selected?
- 5) Is the applicant active in the life of your congregation? In what ways?
- 6) How would this person be a good role model and example for others?
- 7) Please rate the applicant on the following from 1= low to 5= high.
_____ Dependability - follows through on responsibilities
_____ Participation in church activities
_____ Participation in Church youth activities

Youth Leader / Director Agreement:

In signing below, I affirm my responses to this recommendation form and will accept this Youth Council Applicant's role as a representative of this church, if selected. I will strive in every way to stay in contact with this applicant, helping them to continue to grow in faith and maintain their responsibility as a representative to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. I will see that this youth person is invited to a Session meeting during the year to report on his/her work. I understand that three absences from rallies, retreats, or council meetings during the August 2011 to June 2012 year will result in removal from the council.

Youth Leader / Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this form along with the answers to:
PWNC Youth Ministries Comm., 114 Silver Creek Rd., Morganton, NC 28655

Minister / Elder Recommendation

Due by May 23, 2011

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of Church: _____

Parent / Guardian's (1) Full Name: _____

Parent / Guardian's (2) Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Number _____

Recommendation Questions: (Please briefly answers these questions on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this form)

- 1) How long have you known the applicant?
- 2) Do you have any reservations about this applicant's serving as a leader for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's youth ministry? If so please describe?
- 3) In what areas, if any, does the applicant need further growth and maturity?
- 4) Do you perceive that the applicant's family will be supportive if they are selected?
- 5) Is the applicant active in the life of your congregation? In what ways?
- 6) How would this person be a good role model and example for others?
- 7) Please rate the applicant on the following from 1= low to 5= high.
_____ Dependability - follows through on responsibilities
_____ Participation in church activities
_____ Participation in Church youth activities

Youth Leader / Director Agreement:

In signing below, I affirm my responses to this recommendation form and will accept this Youth Council Applicant's role as a representative of this church, if selected. I will strive in every way to stay in contact with this applicant, helping them to continue to grow in faith and maintain their responsibility as a representative to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. I will see that this youth person is invited to a Session meeting during the year to report on his/her work. I understand that three absences from rallies, retreats, or council meetings during the August 2011 to June 2012 year will result in removal from the council.

Minister / Elder's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SCHEDULE for August 2011 – June 2012
Youth Council Retreats, Rallies, Planning Meetings
and leadership conference opportunities

Aug 19-21	Orientation Retreat/Let's Celebrate	Old Fort/Morganton
Sept 10	Planning Meeting	
Sept 25	High School Rally	Montreat, NC
Oct 15	Planning Meeting	
Nov 11-13	Middle School Retreat	Camp Grier, Old Fort
Feb 11	Planning Meeting	
March 18	Middle School Rally	Montreat, NC
April 21	Planning Meeting	
May 18-19	Senior High Retreat	TBA