

113th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah

Report of Youth Ministry

Youth ministry in the Diocese of Utah strives to provide opportunities for young people to gather together for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth and to support parishes in strengthening their ministries with young people.

Junior and Senior High Youth Events, Spring 2017-Spring 2018:

1. Utah Diocesan Convention – April , 2017. There were four youth delegates, as well as 2 alternates that attended and helped out with our Youth Ministry/Camp Tuttle booth. The youth learned about policies and procedures of how the Diocese is managed. In the evening we enjoyed going to a movie and running through the water fountains at the Gateway.
2. New Beginnings Retreat - April, 2017 at St. Stephen's/San Esteban Episcopal church. We had our junior/senior high youth, as well as youth leaders and adult representatives all participating in New Beginnings. This was a community building event that is offered to our junior high youth, and lead by our high school youth. Adult representatives from other parishes joined in on the activities and discussions. Participants met new friends from across the diocese and enjoyed skits, music and participated in small group activities and discussions. These activities focused on self, friends, parents, siblings, school, God's love and prayer.
3. Cinco De Mayo Fundraiser – May 5th, 2017 was held at San Esteban Church. We had a great turn out, with authentic Mexican food, music and Aztec dancers who performed to help raise funds to cover the youth's registration costs for EYE (Episcopal Youth Event).
4. Episcopal Youth Event – July, 2017 was held in Oklahoma. We had 21 youth and 4 chaperones represent the Diocese of Utah. This year's theme was Path to Peace and we heard powerful stories from youth with diverse backgrounds from different parts of the world, share their stories of what they are doing to help spread peace in their communities. We were deeply moved when we visited the museum from the Oklahoma city bombing and participated in a candlelight vigil together at the memorial
5. Fall Retreat - October, 2017 was held at Camp Tuttle. “Fall into Faith with fun!” We explored different ways we connect with each other in faith. Throughout the weekend, the campers knitted hats for people in need. We also enjoyed the fall colors by playing outside games, hiking, and tackling the climbing wall. We had a fun Halloween party with games, dancing and decorating pumpkins and cookies.
6. Happening #3, Revisited! High School Youth Retreat – November, 2017 at All Saint's church in Salt Lake City. This was our 3rd annual Happening Retreat, which has been reintroduced, after roughly a 17 year break! It was organized and led by our high school youth from around the diocese, with help from counselors, clergy and adult leaders. The peer leaders bond together and become a powerful support group for each other. It was a fun, spiritual filled weekend which

consisted of some small group discussions, reflection and meditation, fun activities and a party to celebrate at the end of the retreat!

7. Christmas Party – December 2017 at Gallivan Ice skating rink. The scenery was beautiful, with ice skaters, Christmas lights and music down town Salt Lake City.
8. “Soup, Serve and Sing” – January, 2018 at St. Mark’s Towers. We had a wonderful evening spreading joy through music, and serving hot soup. The guests of St. Mark’s Towers were happy to join in the singing, and had many song requests.
9. Winter Youth Event 2018 – "There is Snow Place Like Home!" The youth discussed what makes them feel like they are home; feelings of love, safety and a sense of belonging connected the kids together as they talked about places they call home. For fun snow activities, the youth enjoyed sledding, snowshoeing, skiing and snowboarding.
10. Laser Tag and Voted for Youth Delegates – March, 2018 at Laser Quest

Upcoming events in 2018:

- Spring Retreat – May 4-6 at the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, in the Uinta Basin near Vernal, Utah. The youth have been invited to stay for the weekend and enjoy fellowship, service, fun and cultural activities together
- Fall Retreat – October, 2018 at Camp Tuttle
- Planning and peer mentor meetings for high school Happening Retreat. This consists of learning to lead and help organize the retreat with their fellow youth, with small group discussions and team building activities
- Happening retreat in November, 2018

Ongoing Goals:

1. Build a youth leadership team to help with Happening youth retreat
2. Continue to coordinate diocesan-wide events for junior and senior high youth
3. Continue to recruit camp counselors to staff the diocesan youth events
4. Maintain up to date contact information for youth ministry contacts
5. Maintain a diocesan database of youth at each parish and continue to expand youth and parent email lists to facilitate distribution of information
6. Continue to involve youth delegates at Diocesan Convention

Submitted by

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