



Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative 2018

Dear Prospective COYLI Participant,

We're excited about your interest in the Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative! What does it mean to be a servant leader, work as a team, and bring your full heart and faith into every aspect of your life? We are seeking young people who want to explore their faith more deeply, develop their potential as leaders, and discover how they can make a difference in the world.

COYLI is a three-year program, during which participants take part in three summer "residencies."

- Year 1: The leadership and spiritual challenge of COYLI begins with a week-long program at The Center at Cathedral Ridge. Through team and individual challenges, students learn judgement and decision-making skills based in God and faith and how to apply them with compassion as servant leaders in the world. Team-building, spiritual practice, and exploration are central to our time together. During the course of this program, participants will be asked to take on and complete a servant leadership project.
- Year 2: Participants continue their leadership and spiritual journey as we travel abroad to experience cultural immersion, relationship building, and servant leadership in real time. We will continue to grow as leaders and a team as we explore Christian ministry in a different cultural context. In 2018, year-two students will travel to Petit Trou de Nippes, Haiti.
- Year 3: The leadership and spiritual challenge of COYLI culminates in year three as we travel abroad for a pilgrimage. We will explore our Christian heritage, challenge our leadership skills, and make discoveries about what God is calling us to do in the world. In 2018, year-three students will walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

In addition to these summer residencies, throughout the year participants will check-in with one another, encourage each other, and prepare for time together using an online forum.

Eligible youth are those entering ninth or tenth grade in the fall of 2018. This will allow participants to complete all three years before graduating from high school. For the 2018 year, we will accept up to 12 applicants into the program.

It is our desire and intent that this program be financially accessible to any eligible candidate who wishes to participate. Participants are encouraged to earn money individually and do fundraising projects with the support of their congregations. (A list of fundraising ideas will be provided to all successful applicants.) Scholarship funds are also

available from The Episcopal Church in Colorado. Program costs in 2017 were \$600 (year-one camp), \$2,200 (year-two cultural exchange), and \$2,500 (year-three pilgrimage).

Still interested? Take the following steps to apply:

1. Tell your rector you're interested in the Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative, and ask if he/she will write a letter of recommendation for you. Letters need to be submitted by January 31, 2018.
2. Once we have received your rector's letter of recommendation, we will send you an application form. This form asks you to provide information about yourself and to answer several essay questions about your interest in COYLI. In addition, you will need to obtain three letters of reference. Applications and reference letters are due March 31, 2018.
3. We will let applicants know if they have been accepted by April 13, 2018, at which time they will be asked to register for year-one camp and encouraged to begin fundraising. Year-one camp will take place July 15-21, 2018.

This is an exciting opportunity for young people across Colorado, and we hope you will choose to apply!

God's peace and blessing be with you.

Faithfully,

The Faith Formation Team
Office of the Bishop
The Episcopal Church in Colorado