

**April 20-22, 2018**  
**Frontier Ranch, Buena Vista, Colorado**

## **A Retreat Weekend for Youth**

Sponsored by The Episcopal Church in Colorado



## **Leader Guide Book**

### **What is Quest?**

Quest weekends are for youth to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. They are discipleship retreats that enable middle school and high school youth to grow in their faith as they worship, discuss their lives and faith journey in small groups, participate in Saturday prayer practices, and discover God through the Scriptures and prayer. These retreats provide an opportunity for young people to stretch their Christian faith and be challenged spiritually. Relationships are formed and grow as they gather with other young people from around the state, share their life stories, and have fun with one another.

The Episcopal Church in Colorado, Office for Faith Formation, sponsors this weekend. It is meant to encourage and support, not replace, the youth ministries of the churches throughout the diocese.

### **Spring Quest 2018**

The spring Quest theme is Reverse It. What is our value in the world? Sometimes it can be hard to re- member that we are unconditionally loved children of God. In God's eyes we are already more than enough. But what about our neighbors—the people next door, the person sleeping in the doorway, the people crossing borders to find a new home, the people in the world we completely disagree with? Do they embody the unconditional love of God? Is this what the world shows us?

As believers in God's unconditional love for all, there is no place for hate and prejudice. And there is no place for apathy and blind division. So let's reverse it! Reverse the hate, the prejudice, the apathy. Let's live into our baptismal covenant and strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. When we truly believe and commit to that, we have no other cry than a resounding "We will with God's help!" And with that as our cry, we can begin planting the seeds of change and when we find injustice, reverse it!

We will have Jim Walker as our speaker for the weekend. Jim is a pastor from Pittsburg. His engaging skits and talks will help us explore our theme in both a deep and entertaining way.

# Adult Sponsors: What are your responsibilities?

While there are many who put much time and energy into planning and implementing a weekend like Quest, nothing can happen without you, the adult sponsor. Your role is significant in making Quest a success for everyone. It is imperative that sponsors understand the importance of their role in the weekend. This leader's guide has been created to help you and your young people get the most from the event. Discipling young people into a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ requires that they have relationships with caring adults to help guide them through this process. Sometimes all they need is to know that there is an adult out there that loves them and accepts them. You are that person!

## Who Should Be a Sponsor?

- Adults over the age of 21.
- Those committed to the young people of the church.
- Adults who have a relationship with God and are willing to share that with youth.
- Adults who are in generally good health and are up to an extended period of time with youth.
- Adults who want to invest in the lives of young people.
- Adults who will actively participate in the weekend. This is not a “drop ‘em and leave ‘em” type of event.
- Adults who are active and faithful members of their local Episcopal Church and are approved for leadership by the leaders of their church.

College Students. (Generally, we would like to have younger college students be involved in Work Crew rather than direct adult oversight of the teens.) Work Crew is an excellent time to grow in your faith as you serve the participants in the weekend by helping with meals and other behind the scenes tasks. Work Crew is a vital part of the weekend.

## Preparation Prior to Quest

As Quest approaches, you, the adult sponsor, can pave the way for a successful event through your work at the parish level.

### 1. Sponsors

Be emotionally, physically, and spiritually prepared for the weekend. Understand that this is a time for you to give to the young people of your parish. Do not plan on receiving or retreating during this time. Albeit, the payoffs and the blessings you will receive from this weekend will be bountiful, do not come seeking only to be recharged or renewed. Expect to be drained and tired when you get back to work on Monday morning. This expectation will help you keep focused. You are there as a servant of God. (Be prepared for God to teach you too! Come with a teachable spirit.)

You may encounter things within your group you never imagined. Don't worry; you won't be alone on the weekend. The Quest Team leaders and other adult sponsors are there to assist you. There is no need to go it alone! Ask for help! Through it all you will be amazed at what God has planned for the Quest weekend!

## 2. Preparing yourself

Prepare yourself as described above and spend some time in Scripture in prayer. Allow God to prepare you for your service during the event. Centering yourself in prayer will make the journey into the youth culture much easier.

Pray for the teens you are bringing with you. Covering participants in prayer before the weekend will prove a blessing to you and them. Pray also for the design team as they work to honor the Lord in planning and carrying out the weekend.

Prayer Cards. Arrange for others in the church to pray for individual participants. Give them a picture and a brief biography of them, perhaps even with a few specific prayer requests. And/or Have a prayer card and hand them out on the previous Sunday (or sooner). And/or have a card that the teens can give to a few people of their choice to pray for them; get the youth to give it to them!

## 3. Preparing the young people

The weekend will be much more successful if the sponsors spend some time prior to the event with the young people. As sponsors, make sure you get to know your teens prior to packing the cars to go!

Preparing for Quest can be a great time to build unity and excitement in your youth group. As sponsors, this pre-event period can help you get to know students better and to facilitate a great weekend. We recommend that you spend time with the students discussing your expectations for the weekend. Discuss your community covenant and state clearly the expectations upon them in terms of their behavior. Also, go through the materials provided in the Quest confirmation packet with your group. You might ask them what they hope to gain out of Quest; what do they want to experience and why do they want to go? Their answers will prepare you for their possible responses to the weekend. Have fun building anticipation and enthusiasm to help them get excited for a great weekend.

## 4. Community Covenant

Individual youth programs are responsible for covenanting with their members regarding expectations for their communities. The diocese expects these covenants to be honored at its youth events, and therefore does not require a separate covenant for the Fall Quest event. Be sure all participating teens and adults have read over and agreed to comply by your community covenant. Also...be sure all live by it!

## 5. Finances

**The congregation's adult youth leader is responsible for making sure that sponsors and youth have paid for the event, or suitable arrangements have been made.** Sponsors are responsible for the full rate for the weekend, though it is common that the sponsoring church pays for the adult sponsors. Remember, if your group booked a spot and someone does not show up or cancels, your church is responsible to pay for that spot. **If you fail to bring a work crew**

**member you are also responsible for that fee.** If you need help financially, please contact the Office of Faith Formation at [faith@episcopalcolorado.org](mailto:faith@episcopalcolorado.org).

## 6. Work Crew

*We require that each church provide one work crew member for up to every 10 participants.*

This is required by Frontier Ranch as part of our contract and the weekend would not be possible without them. Work crew members attend the event free of charge. ***It is extremely important to bring a work crew member.*** If you are bringing a small group you will need to contact another group to make sure you are covered in the 1-10 ratio for work crew requirements.

## Transportation to Quest

- No person under the age of 21 is allowed to transport another to a Quest weekend.
- PLEASE, make sure you arrive to the event in plenty of time to register (6-8 pm)! It is difficult and can be disruptive if your group arrives late.
- A map has been provided in the registration confirmation package. If you have any questions please contact us.

## Sponsor Roles and Responsibilities during Quest

### 1. Caregiver

One of your primary roles on the weekend is as “caregiver.” You are not there just to “chaperone” the teens. You are there to care for them physically, emotionally, socially, and especially spiritually.

### 2. Discipline

During the weekend, you will be expected to be a primary contact for your church. You, as an adult, are empowered to enforce the community covenant with all participants throughout the weekend. While your students are your primary responsibility, **it is expected that you will model appropriate behavior and that you will participate fully in the event’s activities.** You also have permission to draw the Quest Staff’s attention to participants who are not acting appropriately and remind them of the community covenant they signed (teen or adult). **Please note:** you are responsible for making sure your teens stay inside cabins, activity areas, dining hall etc. when they are scheduled to be there. You need to oversee lights out and bed times.

### 3. Discipleship

Sit with your students, participate in the prayer practices that seem to be of interest to you and your students, worship and play with your young people. You will be amazed at the relationships you will build in such a short period of time. Be willing to discuss topics that arise; these may come up at any time. Pray with your students. Be prepared to share your faith and life journey.

We offer weekends like this as an opportunity for you, as adults, to assist your teens’ growth in their faith. You do not have to be some “spiritual giant”, just someone who is willing to be honest and share in the journey of faith. Don’t feel intimidated or fearful of sharing spiritual

things with teens (even if they appear to be further down the road than you). God will be with you.

#### **4. Schedule**

Quest will be full of a variety of activities. The program team needs your help in making sure students (and you) are where they are supposed to be. It is not appropriate for students to be wandering off without supervision. During free time there are several options available, however, prayer practices, general sessions, small group times, and meal times are NOT optional activities. Please make sure that youth do NOT wander off during the general sessions. There are a few times that the youth can be in an option of places. It is expected that the youth be only in those optional places. Again, this is not a time to wander about. Please know where your youth are and be on time for the events of the weekend.

#### **5. Small Groups**

During the weekend, youth will be part of small groups. These groups will meet following the first two sessions on Saturday to give them a chance to form bonds with one another, to “debrief,” and generally go deeper into the meaning of the theme. The group numbers will be on everyone’s name tags and correspond with a location in the packet you will receive upon check in. Small groups should be led by the students. You are there to oversee and if needed guide the group, but the majority of the conversation should be led by the students.

#### **6. Servanthood**

An event such as this does not “just happen,” it takes a lot of people doing a lot of little things. At times we may ask you to help out. We hope that if you can, you will be able to say yes. But, if timing or the thing we ask does not work out for you feel free to say no.

Remember also, you are there to serve the youth. Please support them in engaging the weekend, even if what is offered is not something naturally engaging for you.

#### **7. Sponsor Support**

Are you feeling overwhelmed yet? Don’t worry.

You will be held up in prayer all weekend and the team members will be available to help out. We are there to support you in your ministry! If you need a break for a moment (making sure your teens are looked after) there are lounges many of the housing areas. So, grab a couch and take time to get to know a fellow youth leader. There are also numerous lounging spots on the campus where you might find a welcome respite – please take advantage of the beautiful space.

Friday evening there will be an adult orientation time (the teens will be supervised by the work crew). **It is important to be there!** You need to be there to know what is going on and to express your concerns and to pray. We will also be meeting Saturday and Sunday morning for prayer and information on the day.

## **8. Lost and Found**

If you or your young people have left anything behind at Frontier Ranch after the weekend is over, contact the camp directly at 719-395-4111. Frontier Ranch will hold items for 30 days before they are given away to charity. If, after calling, you are still unable to find an object, please email Elizabeth Cervasio: [Elizabeth@episcopalcolorado.org](mailto:Elizabeth@episcopalcolorado.org). We or another group may have picked it up. We do bring lost and found items back with us if they are in the bin in the dining hall. We do have the same 30 day philosophy, so if you lost something contact us quickly!!

## **9. Found out about some situations and problems after the weekend?**

Sometimes when you get home you will hear about something that happened on the weekend that was not quite right. This may have been a situation between members of your group, or something that happened with staff and facilities at Quest. No matter how hard you or the leadership try, things can go wrong. We hope to minimize these so that you and your youth will have a good experience and grow in your relationships with Christ, and we need your help in this. If you become aware of a problem, please:

- Be careful to find out all the facts.
- Try to thoughtfully respond instead of emotionally reacting. Response comes from knowing the facts and seeking out an appropriate response to what may have happened.
- Scripture makes it very clear that we must bring it to the persons concerned and not to talk or do things behind people's back (Matt 18:15, Lev 19:16, Eph 4:31). Please talk to those who were involved, avoiding getting information from those who were not involved and only heard things second hand. It is your responsibility to put a halt to talk and rumors.
- If something has happened that concerns you, contact the Office for Faith Formation at The Episcopal Church in Colorado right away. We will assist you in dealing with the situation. We cannot respond to something of which we have no knowledge.
- Be willing to ask for help, we are here for you.

## **Contact Information**

Office of Faith Formation

Elizabeth Cervasio

Children and Youth Director/Quest Events Coordinator

[Elizabeth@EpiscopalColorado.org](mailto:Elizabeth@EpiscopalColorado.org)

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS AT CAMP:**

Frontier Ranch after hours (719) 398-1166

Elizabeth Cervasio's Cell Phone (970) 397-5250