

St. Louis Senior High Youth Ministry Winter Retreat 2023 Guidelines & Policies

St. Louis Youth Ministry is preparing for our 32nd annual Winter Retreat this year. This retreat is unique to St. Louis Youth Ministry and is created and run by our Youth Ministry staff and volunteer advisors. This year we will be traveling to Canaan Valley Conference Center in West Virginia. Retreat dates are December 17-21, 2023. The deadline to turn in Commitment Forms with \$200 deposit is **Sunday, October 15**.

Space is limited: Youth who are active in our Youth Ministry and who meet the commitment deadline (Sunday, October 15) will be accepted in the order in which the commitment forms and \$200 (non-refundable) deposits are received if space is available. Our Youth Ministry office is currently accepting commitment forms and deposits. Deposits and forms received after the trip is full or after Sunday, October 15 will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which the forms and deposits are received.

Deposits and commitment forms can be turned in either to the St. Louis Youth Ministry offices in the JP11 or to the St. Louis parish office.

To remain on the active list:

1. Youth must be an active member of St. Louis Youth Ministry during the 2023-2024 school year. This means attending at least 75% of all Sunday meetings. Attendance will be taken at all meetings.
2. Payments must be kept current to retain your child's spot according to the following schedule:

Deposit/Payment #1	Sunday, October 15	\$200 deposit (nonrefundable)
Payment #2	Monday, November 27	\$200 payment
Trip Balance	Wednesday, December 13	Remaining balance owed

****Any amounts fundraised or donations collected will offset these payment amounts.****

Spot will be forfeited if youth group attendance drops below 75% and/or payment deadlines are not met.

Approximate cost will be between \$500-750 per youth. This includes lodging, meals during the retreat, retreat activities, bus transportation and t-shirts. Why such a range in cost? Individual final cost will depend on number of days the youth skis/ snowboards, ski lessons (if required), and equipment rental cost, and total number of youth attending.

The **St. Louis Holiday Arts and Crafts Show** is the main fundraiser for the Winter Retreat. This fundraiser is optional. Youth who choose to participate are required to meet all requirements in order to receive credit from this fundraiser. Requirements will be announced closer to the date of the fundraiser. The date of this year's show is Saturday, November 18 with set up on Friday, November 17. Youth will have commitments on both dates.

Once a youth has committed to a spot on the retreat, the family is responsible for paying for the spot. If the youth drops after **Monday, November 27**, the full cost of the spot must still be met. If a youth drops from the list after **Monday, November 27**, money cannot be refunded or transferred to other participants (including siblings). Deposits, raised funds and donations cannot be refunded at any time. Amount raised by each youth who participates in the Holiday Arts and Crafts Show fundraiser will be announced prior to Monday, November 27th.

All youth are expected to always follow St. Louis Catholic Church Youth Ministry rules and guidelines. If there is any serious violation of these standards during St. Louis youth activities or during the retreat, **YOUTH WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST OR SENT HOME AT PARENTS' EXPENSE!**

