



## A PLACE WHERE ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN FIND SPACE AT THE TABLE

WORSHIP · FELLOWSHIP · GROWTH

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**Can I send my youth without a leader?** Yes, however our hope is youth groups will be bringing their own leaders. We have a limited number of spaces available for youth to attend without a leader. For instance a church doesn't have a viable youth group but has 1-2 youth they'd like to send, please attend. Another example would be that a youth who is marginalized in some way discovers Refuge Youth Retreat but doesn't feel accepted at a church, they may register as an individual.

**What is included in the cost?** The cost for Refuge Youth Retreat will be \$160 for each participant. Fee increases to \$180 after November 1, 2019. This covers the cost of lodging, all retreat activities, 5 meals, T-shirt, and materials.

**How many adults can attend with youth?** This is a *youth* retreat. Do not bring extra adults who are just looking for a weekend away from home. Bring the required number of adults to be compliant with your Safe Sanctuary policy.

**How are youth being roomed?** For this retreat, youth attending with their youth group will be assigned rooms by their Youth Leader. Youth attending without a youth group will be assigned rooms together. We have rooms for those who identify as male, female, and non-binary.

**Does everyone need to participate in all activities?** Yes.

**Will middle school youth be grouped with high school Youth?** Yes. We can all learn a lot from each other.

**How are leaders being screened?** Each church is responsible for following their own Safe Sanctuary guidelines.

**Can we pay less if we can only be there for Saturday?** No. The cost of the retreat is for the full retreat and everyone is to participate in all activities.

**Do leaders pay the same cost as youth?** Yes. Each person attending pays the same cost. Individual churches may elect to defer costs at their own discretion.

**Can I get money refunded if someone can't attend due to illness?** No. We can not offer refunds as Refuge commits to the facility for a certain number of attendees and won't be refunded.



**Are cell phones allowed?** The use of cell phones during scheduled activities is NOT permitted. A goal of the retreat is fostering the youth's relationship with God. The planning team believes this can more effectively be done without our cell phones. If a youth needs to bring a cell phone, call parents/guardians when you arrive and then turn it off and put it in your bag for the duration of the weekend. Individual groups are responsible for enforcing this policy with their own groups. *Exception: An adult leader may bring a cell phone and keep it on their person for emergency use only if prescribed by their Safe Sanctuary Policy.*

**How will medications be handled?** There is no Nurse on duty. Groups should provide their own First Aid kit & transportation to a hospital should the need arise. Groups must provide their own adults currently certified in first aid and CPR, who are responsible for the health needs of the group.

Groups are responsible for gathering and maintaining information on all members of the group that includes name, address, emergency contact names & numbers, and any allergies/health conditions/restrictions. For minors without a parent/guardian on site, group leaders should also have a signed permission to seek emergency treatment. Group leaders are responsible to inform Refuge Youth Retreat and West River Retreat Center of any allergies or restrictions of their group that may affect camp services provided (i.e. food service, program activities).

The Safe Sanctuary policy for this event is that each participating group must follow the Safe Sanctuary policy from their local congregation. Individual registrants will fall under [Asbury UMC Arnold's Safe Sanctuary Policy](#) ← Click Here

**What message will the speaker share?** The 2020 Theme is "Refuge" and the theme verse is *Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.* (NLT)

The message the speaker will share is intended to create an atmosphere that is inclusive and be about fostering the youth's relationship with God. While we are an inclusive retreat, the main speaker topic will not necessarily be about these issues.

Refuge Youth Retreat's planning team unites members of various United Methodist Churches throughout the Baltimore Washington Conference. While our home congregations are at different stages of the discernment process for the inclusion of LGBTQIA individuals, the leadership team of Refuge Youth Retreat is united in welcoming all people into full participation and leadership regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, nation of origin, immigration status, socio-economic status, and political ideology.