

YES Fund Project Guidelines Pastor Information

Youth participating in SPEC/IYF will need to complete a service project and, depending on the level of their funding need, a mission project as well. This document is intended to provide some guidance to you as a congregational leader as you help them fulfill this requirement(s). All projects will need to be completed by December 31st of the year a youth goes to SPEC/IYF, however, extensions can be requested from the YES Fund Committee.

10-Hour Service Project

The 10-Hour Service Project should connect directly to either congregational life or a campground. Substitutes are acceptable (with approval) for youth who do not live near a congregation. This project should be developed collaboratively with the youth and the pastor. Here are some examples of the 10-Hour Service Project

- Cleaning the Church
- Mowing the Church Yard
- Snow Removal at Church
- Participating in a Campground work day
- Organizing a food drive
- Producing a congregational newsletter
- Staffing a congregational information booth at local civic event

20-Hour Mission Project

The 20-Hour Mission Project not only has larger hour requirement, this project needs to address one of the five mission initiatives:

- Invite People to Christ
- Abolish Poverty, End Suffering
- Pursue Peace
- Develop Disciples to Serve
- Experience Congregations in Mission

The 20-Hour Mission Project provides an opportunity for increased financial resources for those who are willing to go deeper with their congregation. Ideally, the 20-Hour Mission Project will be a bridge between a need in the community and congregational life.

Examples of the Mission Projects are:

- Participate in a weekly or monthly feeding program.
- Plan and tend a community garden
- Teach a Sunday school class for a semester
- Participate in an after school program for underserved youth.
- Help organize a congregation litter pick up day.

Note: Neither the 10-Hour Service Project or the 20-Hour Mission Project needs to be new initiatives of the congregation (its okay if they are).

Active Participant vs. New Friend

The Yes Fund Policy provides two different levels of funding for youth depending on their connection to congregational life. One of the challenges is determining what level of funding a youth qualifies for. The Mission Center relies on local leaders to make the determination what level of funding a youth is eligible for.

If a youth has not participated in church life in a number of years or has a distant connection to the congregation, then they likely should fall into the “New Friend” classification.

Here are some guiding questions to help you determine whether or not a youth is active (these are not rules):

- Does your congregation notice the youth’s absence?
- Does the youth contribute (financially or otherwise) to the life of the congregation?
- Has the youth participated in any events outside of congregational life (i.e. youth camp, Mission Center Conference, etc.)?
- If someone the youth did not know asked them what church they go to, would they indicate your congregation? Does the youth self identify as a member or friend of Community of Christ?

The YES Fund Policy gives priority to youth who are active in church life, while also providing assistance to those who are new friends.

Timeline

1. Youth submits SPEC/IYF Application, YES Fund Application, and payment by June 1st to the Inland West Mission Center
2. For the 20-Hour Mission Project the youth will need to fill out a proposal form (but not for the 10-hour Service Project). This can happen pre or post SPEC/IYF, however, there will likely be a better chance of success if this is submitted before SPEC/IYF.
3. Youth submits a report of the project to the YES Fund Committee with the Pastor’s signature by December 31st. This is required for all projects.
4. All youth who participate in SPEC/IYF should share with their congregation about their experience. Each youth will complete a reflection while at SPEC/IYF.