Youth Ministry Certification School (YMCS)
C/o Charlie Roberts, Director
Office for Youth Ministry
900 S. Arlington Ave, Rm 220 B
Harrisburg, PA 17109

**Registration deadline is August 1**

# YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION SCHOOL

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg presents a certification course designed to equip adults accompanying youth and families in the congregation

Course Dates 2011-2012:
August 18-21, 2011
October 14-15, 2011
November 11-12, 2011
February 24-25, 2012
March 23-24. 2012
April 27-28, 2012

# Why Youth Ministry Certification School (YMCS)?

*Do you have a talented leader with a heart for youth ministry that could use more education?*

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*Does your part-time youth worker want to take youth ministry to the next level?*

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*Are a you a rostered person looking to minister more completely with youth and their families?*

YMCS may be right for you! Everyday, more congregations are looking for leaders to develop & grow youth ministry. However, there is a shortage of properly trained youth ministry leaders available to these same congregations. The YMCS is designed to give youth ministry leaders sound theological, theoretical and practical training in ministry to youth and their families. Pastors, lay youth leaders and volunteers can all benefit from this unique educational opportunity.

**What is YM Certification School?**

The 14-day crash course in youth and family ministry includes four days of adventure education emphasizing small groups, community development and relational youth ministry. The 11 days of classroom work includes Biblical and theological training, cultural analysis, long range planning, family ministry, Christian Education and lots of how-to strategies. **Please use the handy bulletin insert (enclosed) to promote the course.**

**Designed to fit your needs!**

The course is held over four days in August, followed by five two-day courses in the fall and winter, and is designed for pastors, professional youth staff, volunteers, and part-time leaders. For some congregations it is an opportunity to "grow their own" youth leaders, combining the gifts of caring adults who have a heart for youth ministry with an intensive balance of theoretical, theological and practical youth ministry education.

**What does it cost?**

Tuition for the school is $2,250.00 and includes all meal & lodging expenses. Scholarships are often available. We encourage congregations to offer aid to support applicants and will work with you to find other funding.

*Congregations or individuals may wish to make a tax-deductible donation to help provide scholarships for students. Contact YMCS Director, Charlie Roberts to get details on how you can assist students in financial need.

**Tell me more...**

The first long-weekend of the course is held at Camps Nawakwa & Kirchenwald, and includes adventure ed and interactive learning plus an introduction to basic youth ministry principles. The final ten days, are held on the Gettysburg Seminary campus where participants concentrate on theological and theoretical study discussing ways they can grow their congregation's youth ministry, integrating families and communities into their programs. Participants will develop a long-range plan for their youth program in their setting. Emphasis is placed on integrating youth into the whole life of your congregation, using proven models and techniques, but with an eye on the specific needs of your congregation. A certification ceremony is held for all participants during the final weekend.

**Can I handle this?**

Our alumni range in age from 20-70, and come from a variety of experience levels. Some have doctorates when they begin while some are high school grads. If you feel God is calling you to serve young people of the church, you may want to apply.

**How do I get signed up?**

Request an application or a more detailed school schedule and financial aid information at croberts@lss-elca.org, Or, visit our website at http://www.ltsg.edu/programs/youthcert.

## Course Dates 2011-2012

The course is spread over an eight month period to make it more accessible to volunteers and part-time youth ministry staff persons

**August 18-21, 2011**

Camp Nawakwa, Arendtsville, PA

**October 14-15, 2011**

**November 11-12, 2011**

**February 24-25, 2012**

**March 23-24. 2012**

**April 27-28, 2012**

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA

If you'd prefer to call for an application or have questions, call YMCS Director Charlie Roberts, at 717-579-0349.