



The National Committee For Youth Ministry of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America

Dear Honorable Clergy, Church Executive Boards, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the Blessing of the Episcopal Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, the Youth Ministry Committee is pleased to announce the Eighth Annual Youth Retreat to be held in Houston, TX from Wednesday, June 26 through Sunday, June 30, 2013. The theme of this year's retreat is "Faith and Courage – Being an Orthodox Teen Today and Beyond..." The retreat is open to all high school students. Students are eligible from the summer prior to 9th grade through the summer following 12th grade.

Continuing our effort to provide a variety of experiences for our youth, the facility we have selected for this year's retreat is St. Thomas University in Houston, TX. The college is an excellent location that has all the amenities that we need to have a successful retreat full of spiritual and social activities.

This youth retreat is an excellent opportunity for parishes in North and South America to send teenagers for spiritual fulfillment and fellowship with like-minded youth. The retreat will include presentations and discussions related to important topics that our youth face every day. Recreational and fellowship events will enable our youth to interact with other high school students from throughout North and South America.

We hope that each parish will provide the financial means necessary to send representatives to the youth retreat. There is NO LIMIT to the number of participants each parish can send. Each teenager will be required to provide a \$175 registration fee as well as transportation to Houston, TX. All room and board costs will be paid by the Central Church Council.

The following pages contain the registration materials for the youth retreat. Please submit one complete packet for each representative you are sending to the retreat and return to the Youth Ministry Committee at the following address:

Youth Ministry Committee, c/o Chris Radanovic, 80 Church Rd, Eppers, PA 17319

All registrations must be received no later than June 1, 2012. It is very important that your complete registration be submitted by this date so that the coordinators can prepare for the retreat logistics.

We have included a frequently asked questions page to help you prepare for the retreat. Please feel free to contact Chris Radanovic if you have any questions about the retreat. His home telephone number is (717) 303-3611 and email is chrisrad@mindspring.com.

We are very excited to have this opportunity to facilitate this event. We hope you will support the future of the church by sending youth from your parish to the retreat.

The Youth Ministry Committee

V. Rev. Stevo Rocknage
Rev. Dragan Petrovich
Rev. Dragomir Tuba
Chris Radanovic

Joyce Yovetich
Becky Kesic
Zora Lytkowski
Brian Hayden

Mary Perisic
Nicole Jokola
Ashley Lackovich-VanGorp

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where and when are we meeting for the retreat?

- Out of town delegates should fly into either Houston Hobby International Airport or George Bush Intercontinental Airport (<http://www.fly2houston.com/>) and plan to arrive by 4:00pm local (Central) time. Travel arrangements from the airport to St. Thomas University will be communicated prior to the retreat. Return flights should be scheduled no earlier than 3:00pm local (Central) time.
- Local participants may be dropped off at St. Thomas University by 5:00pm. All participants should plan on being at the campus by 5:00pm so that the evening activities can proceed with all in attendance. No participants will be permitted to bring automobiles to the campus. All participants must be dropped off on Wednesday June 26th and must be picked up by 12:00 noon on Sunday June 30th at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 16900 Cypress Rosehill Rd., Cypress, TX 77429 (<http://www.stsavahouston.org/>).
- If you are making other travel arrangements (i.e. rail) please contact Chris Radanovic at chrisrad@mindspring.com to coordinate pickup.

2. Who is chaperoning the youth during this event? The Youth Ministry Committee will provide qualified chaperones. There will be one chaperone for no more than eight youth attendees.

3. What activities will take place at the retreat? The retreat will include several spiritual presentations and discussions relevant to being an Orthodox teenager. Recreational and service activities in the host city will be organized. Participants will attend church services both on campus and at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

4. What should the participant bring to this retreat?

NOTE: St. Thomas University has the following dress code for summer conferences: "Maintain modest attire when in public areas of university housing. Modest attire as defined by the university means clothing that covers all private areas completely, and is not too short, low-cut or tight. Clothing must be worn over bathing suits at all times and shirts must be worn at all times."

Clothes & Miscellaneous to pack:

Toiletries: comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, sun screen, deodorant

Clothing: daily change of underwear, socks, other clothes (shorts, t-shirts, etc. for outdoor recreational activities), pajamas

For boys: pants and suitable shirts for church services (jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes are not acceptable!)

For girls: skirt and blouse, or dress (dresses and blouses should have sleeves; skirts and dresses should be knee length. Nothing short)

Swim Wear: We will have an opportunity for swimming at the conference. Participants should bring church appropriate swimwear consisting of **one piece bathing suits** and towels. Unnecessarily revealing swimwear will not be permitted. Please remember this is a church sponsored event, swimwear should be appropriate for a church sponsored event.

**Please do not send valuables -- jewelry, etc. -- with your teenager. We will not be responsible for its security.

**Remember that this is a spiritual retreat. Inappropriate clothing is a distraction to the other participants and will not be allowed.

5. What should the participant not bring to this retreat?

- Linens: St. Thomas University provides bath towels, face cloth, sheets, pillow, pillow case, etc
- Automobiles – Out of town participants will meet at the Holy Cross campus. Local participants must be dropped off and picked at the campus. No personal participant cars will be permitted on the campus.
- Any Items Harmful to Other Retreat Participants
- Radios, Walkman, Tape Players, DVD players, video iPods, laptops
- Food – all food will be provided by the retreat center

6. Where is the retreat campus? The retreat will be held at St. Thomas University. The St. Thomas website is: <http://www.stthom.edu>. Driving directions to the seminary will be provided after the registration period is completed.

7. How do I contact the retreat administrators in case of an emergency?

The emergency contact for the retreat will be Chris Radanovic, the secretary of the Youth Ministry Committee. In case of emergency please call Chris on his mobile phone at (717) 841-6794. Chris will be present throughout the entire retreat.

8. What time should I schedule my travel arrangements for?

Flights arriving at a Houston Airport on 6/26 by 4:00pm local (Central) time and leaving Houston on 6/30 no earlier than 3:00pm local (Central) time.

Keep this page for reference. Please only return the following registration form pages.

Youth Retreat Registration Form (page 1)

The Youth Committee requires that the following be completed in its entirety and returned with the registration packet.

Participant Name: _____ Participant Email Address _____

Address: _____
Number/Street City State Zip

Parent Names: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent Email Address _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name/Number: _____

Participant Birthday: _____ Gender (circle) Male / Female Shirt Size: _____

Parish Name _____ City: _____ State: _____

Please indicate travel plans (circle one): Air / Automobile / Other

Name of Family Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Family Dentist: _____ Phone: _____

Is the participant covered by family medical/hospital insurance (Yes/No): _____

Insurance Carrier/Plan Name: _____ Group #: _____ I.D. #: _____

Medical Allergies: _____ Food Allergies: _____

Other Allergies (include insect stings, hay fever, asthma, animal dander, etc.): _____

Medications Being Taken (meds brought to the retreat must be in their original labeled pharmacy container):

Med (#1): _____ Dosage: _____ Specific Time Taken Daily: _____ Reason: _____

Med (#2): _____ Dosage: _____ Specific Time Taken Daily: _____ Reason: _____

Med (#3): _____ Dosage: _____ Specific Time Taken Daily: _____ Reason: _____

I, _____, give my permission for _____
(Parent/Guardian Name) (Participant Name)

to attend the Youth Retreat of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada to be held at the facilities of St. Thomas University in Houston, TX and to be transported by retreat organizers to all retreat activities.

Parent Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Participant Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Parish Priest Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Youth Retreat Registration Form (page 2)

Please read the paragraphs below and sign the consent and/or responsibility waiver. This is necessary not only for your teenager to attend the Youth Retreat, but also for us to operate the retreat.

The person herein described has permission to engage in all retreat activities except as noted. I hereby give permission to the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America to provide routine health care, administer over-the-counter medications, administer prescribed medications, and seek emergency medical treatment including ordering x-rays or routine tests.

I agree to the release of any records necessary for treatment, referral, billing, or insurance purposes. I give permission to the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America to arrange necessary related transportation for my teenager. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for the person named above. I understand that my insurance coverage for my teenager will be used as primary coverage in the event medical intervention is needed. I further understand that I will be responsible for expenses not covered by my insurance.

I understand all reasonable safety precautions will be taken at all times by the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America and its agents during the retreat. I understand the possibility of unforeseen hazards and know the inherent possibility of risk. I agree not to hold St. Thomas University and the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, their clergy, its leaders, employees, and/or volunteers liable for damages, losses, disease, or injuries incurred by the subject of this form.

I hereby give my permission to take field trips while attending the retreat.

I agree that my teenager will abide by all the rules and guidelines set forth by the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America for the safety and good health of the retreat participants. I also agree that if my teenager has to return home due to discipline violations, it will be at my own expense.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless, St. Thomas University and the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, their clergy, their leaders, employees, and/or volunteers from any expenses, losses, claims, or damages incurred as a result of the acts or omissions of the subject of this form. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, their clergy, officers, directors, employees, staff, and volunteers from any and all expenses, claims, costs or attorney fees incurred as a result of claims, actions and/or suits brought by me, my teenager or on my behalf or on my teenager's behalf or by anyone else as a result of any accident or injury occurring to me or my teenager.

I give permission for my teenager to participate in all retreat activities, except the following (please list reason for each activity denied): _____

The health history provided above is correct and complete as far as I know. The person herein named has permission to engage in all retreat activities except as noted.

It is my intention that the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America be treated as acting in loco parentis if the person herein named is a minor. Further, it is my protected health information pursuant to the privacy regulations promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. I hereby agree (pursuant to 45 CFR 164.510 (b)) to the disclosure to retreat representatives of the protected health information of the person herein described, as necessary: (i) to provide relevant information to the retreat representatives related to the person's ability to participate in retreat activities; and (ii) in the case of minors, to provide relevant information to the retreat representatives to keep me informed of my teenager's health status.

In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the retreat coordinators to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for the person named above. This completed form may be photocopied for trips out of the retreat.

Participant Initial Here: _____

Parent Initial Here: _____

Youth Retreat Registration Form (page 3)

I understand that the following retreat guidelines and regulations apply to all retreat participants. Participants will not be permitted to attend the retreat if this form is not signed and returned.

1. The Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America strictly prohibits alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco products, fireworks, or any items harmful to other retreat participants. If your teenager is found having any of the above he/she will be sent home immediately.
2. Any inappropriate, violent/aggressive, or unchristian behavior may result in your teenager being sent home immediately; these behaviors include, but are not limited to:
 - Violence towards another youth participant, chaperone, worker, or director.
 - Inappropriate "touching" or fondling of another retreat participant (male or female).
 - Disrespectful behavior (swearing, cursing, yelling in anger, etc.) shown toward participants, chaperones, directors or workers.
 - Leaving the dormitory at night after "lights out".
 - Food, candy, or drink in the dormitories.
 - Radios, stereos, boom boxes, and walkman tape players are not allowed at the retreat. Use of cell phones or iPods during the scheduled events of the retreat will not be permitted.
 - Disrespect shown during the Church services including laughing, talking, or not participating will necessitate one warning, then dismissal.
 - Use of dormitory phones for social calls.
 - Theft of property.
 - Vandalism of property will not be tolerated. If your teenager is involved in any of this you will be held financially responsible.
 - Rooms should be kept neat and presentable by participants. Please stress to your teenager to be respectful of others property.
 - Any additional retreat facility costs above and beyond the provided amenities will be the financial responsibility of the parents/participant. This includes telephone charges, food purchases, gift/other purchases, and any unforeseen purchases made by the participant.

We reserved the right to search luggage, lockers, and bed areas at any time.

Participants please note, in signing below, you agree to adhere to the rules and guidelines of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America.

Participant Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Parents please note: in signing below you are agreeing that your teenager will adhere to the rules and guidelines of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America. Your endorsement is your consent for inspection of prohibited articles. Your signature also affirms that you have gone over these items with your teenager. Your teenager will not be permitted to attend the retreat unless this form is signed and returned to us.

Parent Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____