

S.T.A. F. F.

Youth Ministry here at OLW is growing at a crazy-fast speed as more and more students are getting into the idea that faith should be exciting, fun, and most of all, something that really ignites a fire in a person's life. The Jr. high component is called S.T.A.F.F.

(Seeking The Answers, Finding, Faith)

S.T.A.F.F. has a variety of activities from our amazing middle school-age summer camp-CAMP WOW, truly phenomenal (registration at the beginning of October), a winter Overnight Fest & Retreat, cool monthly service opportunities, and the ever-popular Peer Council (runs from Sep-May), as well as a variety of events that come along periodically. A little something for everyone.

Most S.T.A.F.F. events are open to all 7th & 8th Graders in the parish: school students, RE, and anyone else. Everyone is welcome!

Take a chance, it could literally be life changing!

PEER COUNCIL

Peer Council is the heart of S.T.A.F.F.! Both 7th & 8th graders have their own groups. Students meet one-two times a month and meetings can take any form or shape. The main focus is faith, fun, community & character building. In order to build a strong community feel, potential Peer Council members fill out an application. Consistency is key. Small groups are used for discussion & activities. Most gatherings are on Thursday, after school till 4:30pm.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

A huge hit last year, both the high school and junior high components will be focusing on ways to serve others, both in the suburbs as well as the city. Each month will have a theme or a specific group to assist (homeless, military, elderly, etc). The junior high opportunities will be a mix of going out to interact with those who will benefit from their work as well as projects that can be done here at OLW and be brought to different agencies. On campus projects will be planned around Peer Council members but others can join in. Off campus assignments will be by sign-up and will have a limited amount of spaces so it will be "first signed up, first served." We will post the sign-up sheets on the websites.

CAMP WOW

Camp Wow is two separate four day, three night summer camps in June. OLW brings an average of 80 students who just finished their 6th, 7th, & 8th grade years. These camps are unlike any other experiences bringing together 120 students (each) from different parishes, lead by high school counselors (OLW recently had 18). Camp Wow offers canoeing, rock climbing, archery, crafts, casual sports, games, and much more— all combined with sharings from the high school students of how to live out their faith in an active and inspiring way. Highlights include Wacky Olympics, Mass, Bonfire, Reconciliation, Hayride, Adoration and the No-Talent Talent Show.

WINTER OVERNIGHT FEST & RETREAT

This event is open to all present 7th and 8th graders. Always a huge hit. It's nice to have a mid-year celebration! So check out the Fest & Retreat this Jan. 13th-14th, 2012.

Similar spirit to Camp Wow! Events runs Friday to Saturday evening and incorporates inflatable games, group competitions, a million games with amazing bands, inspiring talks, and awesome small group discussions/activities.

A must event: over 280 Jr. High students participate each year.