

Dear Prospective New OLW Peer Ministers (& Parents),

What an exciting venture you are considering/been invited to consider. Peer Ministry has the potential to radically shape your teen years. I can say this without exaggeration because I've heard it over and over again from present-day Peer Ministers and alum.

The high school years can be so crazy and chaotic. A million activities to choose, the pressure of grades, and just the up and down adventure of being a teen. Maybe Peer Ministry can be an exciting yet calming force for you. A safe place to just be your self, make new fiends, stay connected with old ones, an environment where you feel comfortable to ask the tough questions, feel supported by a strong community, and journey toward a relationship with God and how faith fits into your life. These are the goals of OLW Peer Ministry.

Peer Ministry (PM) is an essential part of the Wayside Youth Ministry program. PM will focus primarily on community building with small groups being a central component of this community. The emphasis will be on coming together, discussing, sharing, and journeying with one another. Peer Ministers (PMers) are asked to commit to the team-especially their small groups. Gatherings are three times a month—almost exclusively on Sundays evenings, with one of them being our Outreaches which are open to any high age youth. The other gatherings are reserved for PMers only.

Because of the necessity of the commitment factor in establishing a tight community, we are initially opening Peer Ministry only to 10th through 12th graders, with the exception of those who were involved on the jr. high level through Peer Council or Camp Wow. Second semester freshmen may apply in Dec/Jan. Exceptions apply. Please contact Kevin O'Connell to inquire for acceptable exceptions.

As you take a moment to look over the following information, please sincerely consider applying to be a member of the Peer Ministry community. The deadline for teen applications and parental consent form is Monday, Aug 15th. The Peer Ministry Retreat is from Sat, Aug 27th (3pm)-Sun, Aug 28th (concluding with the 11:30 Teen Ministered Mass).

**In the Peace of Christ,
Kevin O'Connell
(Honored) OLW Dir. Of Youth Ministry
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847-253-5353, 241**

Please Keep This Page

5. Briefly tell us about your current relationship with God and you Catholic faith. Has a relationship with God made a difference in your life so far? If so, how?

6. Have you participated in Wayside Youth Ministry events previously (ie. outreaches, mission trips, retreats, lock-in, camp, jr, high)?

7. How would you like your relationship with God to grow in the coming year?

8. Tell us about your family?

9. How do your parents feel about your participation in Peer Ministry?

An opening Peer Ministry retreat is so incredibly important for a successful year. The PM Retreat runs from 3:00pm on Saturday, Aug 27th and concludes with the 11:30 Teen Ministered Mass on Sunday, Aug 28th. This is one of our few mandatory commitments. Please make sure your schedule is open and have all your homework completed before this event. Please plan ahead. You will not regret the effort.

***I am available for this overnight retreat _____
(please initial)***

A) Just like any other activity, participating in Peer Ministry is a commitment and will take time.

1. List any other activities you anticipate you will be involved in the coming year in addition to Peer Ministry, include season/time period: (Academic, Social, Sports, Band, Drama, Job)
---i.e. Volleyball/Fall or Winter Play

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Do you feel you can participate in the activities mentioned above and still be a committed participant on the PM Small Group community?

B) What would you like to see Wayside Youth Ministry do in the coming year? What would you be willing to do to make that happen?

Interviews are necessary for all new applicants. Because Kevin will be in Europe for World Youth Day, interviews must take place the week before the retreat. Please **check** which days and **circle** which time periods would work for your interview. Exact times will be decided once application is received:

Tues, Aug 23rd **Wed, Aug. 24th** **Thur, Aug. 25th** **Fri, Aug 26th**
after school or evening after school or evening after school or evening after school or evening

OLW PEER MINISTRY PARENTAL CONSENT

Teen's Name _____ Today's Date _____
Address _____ Birthday _____
City/Zip _____ Age on August 1, 2011 _____
Home Phone _____ Parent Email _____
Student Cell _____ Parent Cell _____

I (we) hereby give permission for my (our) child _____ to attend and participate in Peer Ministry Team activities and events sponsored by Our Lady of the Wayside from August 1, 2011 through July 30, 2012. I hereby release and indemnify Our Lady of the Wayside, its staff and volunteers and the Catholic Bishop of Chicago from any and all liability arising from claims of any kind or nature whatsoever from my child's participation in these events.

I grant permission for the administration of first aide to my child by the people in charge of the program and those transporting my child to and from the program as their judgment deems advisable and to make the necessary referrals to qualified physicians for treatment of illness or accidents of a more serious nature. I understand that I will be promptly notified in the event of any serious illness or accident and prior to any major surgery, except when delay in such communication would endanger life. In case of medical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians of the participant. In the event that I cannot be reached I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult staff to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and to order injection, anesthesia or surgery if deemed necessary for my child.

Father (Guardian) PRINT NAME

Mother (Guardian) PRINT NAME

Father (Guardian) SIGNATURE Date

Mother (Guardian) SIGNATURE Date

Work Name Work Phone

Work Name Work Phone

Authorized Physician

Physician's Phone Number

Insurance Company

Policy in Name of:

Policy Number

Subscriber's Social Security #

Please describe any pertinent medical conditions:

OLW PEER MINISTRY PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Please take a moment to briefly answer the following questions. Your responses will help us get to know your son or daughter better. Thank you!

Please briefly answer the following questions. These questions will help us in getting to know your son or daughter. Thank you for taking the time.

1. Why do you feel that your son/daughter would like to be a part of the Peer Ministry team?

2. Please list and briefly describe two strengths and one area for improvement for your son/daughter.

3. Does your son or daughter have your full support? Do you have any concerns?

OLW PM PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE (Con't)

4. We understand young people have various commitments in their lives and we support their involvement in these familial, scholastic, and extracurricular activities. However, in order to have an effective program, Peer Ministry Team members must also be committed to our program. Do you foresee many regular conflicts your son/daughter may have with committing to Peer Ministry and attending Peer Ministry activities (meetings, gatherings,/retreats)

Please explain:

5. In the coming year, we may occasionally rely on parents to help us with various events. Please check off any of the following needs you may be able to help with on an occasional basis:

Driving (if we need transportation for activities or retreats)*

Baking (i.e. snacks for an event)

Shopping (if we need supplies for an event; you will be reimbursed)

Phone Calling (if we need to contact a group of people for a specific reason)

Chaperoning (at an event)*

6. What, if anything, are you hoping the Peer Ministry program can offer your son/daughter through their participation?

7. In addition to the Sunday evening PM gatherings, it is essential for the peer ministry team as a whole to come together for times of community building and prayer. Our **two most important** events include our Overnight Fall Retreat, Aug 27th-28th and our Spring Holy Thursday/Good Friday Overnight Retreat, April 5th-6th. These events are mandatory for all peer ministers.

Please check here if the dates are available: ____ Aug. 27th-28th ____ April 5th-6th

Additional Comments: