

Texas Youth Academy

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TEXAS YOUTH ACADEMY PARTICIPANT

Play. Pray. Study. Create. Worship. Serve. Reflect.

- 7:15 Service of Morning Prayer
7:45 Breakfast
8:30 Plenary Session | Presentation by seminary faculty on major themes of the Christian faith: Baptism, Creation, Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, Church, The Spirit and Methodism, Reconciliation, Reign of God, Calling/Vocation.
10:15 Snacks and Break Time
10:30 Worship Planning Groups | Youth are divided into groups with mentors. Together, these groups study the scripture text and plan their worship service.
12:00 Lunch and Rest Time
1:30 Afternoon Options and Free Time—On alternate days, youth participate in one of four Art Village offerings or participate in diverse hands on mission opportunities in the larger Georgetown and Austin communities. These include working with the homeless through Austin-based organizations, serving communion and visiting nursing home residents, children’s therapy center for the developmentally challenged, and Austin area food bank.
5:00 Dinner and Free Time, on campus in cafeteria or in local UM churches hosting dinner
6:15 Small Groups with Mentors | To reflect theologically on all of the day’s experiences
8:00 Worship
9:30 Free time in the dorms
11:00 Lights out

Emerging Leaders Initiative

Texas Annual Conference
The Center for Clergy Excellence
5215 Main Street | Houston, Texas 77002
Phone: 713.521.9383 | Fax: 713.523.9173
www.txcumc.org



“My two weeks at the Texas Annual Conference Youth Academy were probably the **best two weeks of my life**. I have never learned more, experienced more, or felt more than I had in those 14 days. I see everything differently now.”

2009 TYA PARTICIPANT

The Texas Youth Academy (TYA) is an advanced discipleship program for senior high United Methodist Youth that was initiated by the Texas Annual Conference in the summer of 2009. Patterned after the Duke Youth Academy program, TYA is a two-week summer experience that currently is held at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

TYA is intended for youth in any of the United Methodist Conferences of Texas who show promise for clergy and lay leadership in the Church. High school sophomores and juniors are accepted through an application process.

At TYA, youth participants...

- Engage in guided theological conversations with one another and seminary-level faculty.
- Learn under accomplished artists how to express their faith through various art forms.
- Learn about worship planning and lead their own worship services.
- Serve others in diverse hands-on missions.
- Explore God's calling upon their lives in light of their baptismal vows and growing sense of vocational discernment.

“I'm taking home a mission. I came here with my own thoughts of what to do with my life, but I am leaving here with **what God wants** me to do with my life. ”

2010 TYA PARTICIPANT

The schedule and staff are carefully chosen to create an environment in which the fullness of Christian faith may be cultivated in these young disciples. Faculty members from Perkins School of Theology, Emory University, Duke Divinity School, Candler School of Theology, along with talented pastors and youth directors from the United Methodist Conferences of Texas, provide educational leadership and guidance to the students.

Artists, who are skilled in a variety of mediums such as storytelling, visual arts, pottery, and creative writing, use art as an expression of faith. They work with youth in an apprenticeship model and allow the youth to create in the particular medium.

The limited size of about 40 youth and the time-frame of two weeks help the staff to create an authentic mentoring community that is truly life changing.

For more info,
www.texasyouthacademy.org