

Children's Program for General Convention 2018

Schedule:

Tuesday, July 3 – Open House

July 4 – 13 – Open 7:15 a.m. through close of business sessions.

Ages: Birth through completed fifth grade (volunteer options available for 6th grade and up – see below)

Cost: \$50 per day (lunch and snacks included)

Why Children at General Convention?

The General Convention Children's Program is so much more than just a place for children to be while their parents do church work. Children are a part of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion and it is essential they are present. Providing meaningful programming can impact the lives of our youngest Episcopalians. It is an opportunity that not only transforms the child, but can lower the average age of deputations by allowing parents/guardians of school-age children to serve as deputies. Having children on-site means the entire church community is present. It has been reported that the presence of the children impacts how bishops and deputies go about their work and gives meaning and context to the decisions being made.

This year sunshine will be pouring out of the General Convention Children's Program. Our curriculum will be grounded in the Episcopal Relief and Development's Abundant Life Garden Project with stories from Godly Play. We will celebrate God's creation. The essential need for water, restoration of our soil, diversifying our crops, protecting our bees and assuring a bountiful harvest.

Join us for stories, crafts, community art projects and explore some of the magnificent sights of our host city Austin.

The deadline for registrations is June 29th. Register at:

<https://DFMS.formstack.com/forms/gccp18>

At the 75th General Convention in 2006 in Columbus, Ohio, Resolution 2006-D058 passed and directed:

“That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangement be directed to make age-appropriate care and educational programs available for children birth to age 12 available for the duration of the 76th General Convention and all future General Conventions; and be it further resolved that all dioceses and provinces be encouraged to provide similar services for conventions and synod meetings.”

For more information: Email Caren Miles – carenm@diocal.org

Information about Counselors and Jr. Counselors

For youth in 6th through 12th Grade:

Applications are now open for youth to serve the General Convention Children’s Program as a youth volunteer. To apply, please click

here: http://DFMS.formstack.com/forms/gc_childrensprogram_youth_volunteers_2018

Applicants MUST meet the following criteria:

- Currently in sixth-12th grade (and be between the ages of 12 and 18)
- Have parent(s) already registered for General Convention as a bishop, deputy, exhibitor, or volunteer (and parents agree to take responsibility of their teen while not on duty)
- Be willing to work various shifts during General Convention
- Can be in Austin all day July 3 for training

We are looking for youth who are willing to work hard and have fun. We are especially looking for individuals who:

- are good working in teams
- enjoy being able lead as well as follow
- are good listeners
- see working with children at convention as a ministry to the church

Applications will be accepted through May 15. Notification of acceptance or denial as a counselor will be communicated to each applicant by May 31. A recommendation from the applicant’s clergy person and one other adult with whom the applicant has worked is required. Youth Counselors will need to be in Austin on Tuesday, July 3, for training.

For more information: Email Caren Miles – carenm@diocal.org

For Adult Volunteers

Adult Volunteer Counselors are invited to apply

here: http://DFMS.formstack.com/forms/gc_childrensprogram_adult_volunteers_2018

Applications will be accepted through May 15. Notification of acceptance or denial as a counselor will be communicated to each applicant by May 31. A recommendation from the applicant's clergy person and one other adult with whom the applicant has worked is required. Counselors will need to be in Austin on Tuesday, July 3, for training.

For more information: Email Caren Miles – carenm@diocal.org