

PARTICIPANTS

Encounter Service Camp, Encounter, EGL

Participant Age Groups

Youth - 14 yrs. of age, AND/OR rising ninth grader through 17 yrs. of age

Young Adult - 18 yrs of age (regardless of grade level) through 20 years of age by end of camp week

Adult - 21 years of age or older by June 1.

Special Participants

Youth

- Youth must be either at least 14 years of age, and/or a rising 9th grade student.
- Participants are considered youth up until their 18th birthday
- Our program is not recommended for younger youth.
- Appropriate maturity should be considered for our program.
- This includes:
 - the ability to follow directions
 - respect for self and others
 - can maintain healthy and safe habits (including taking appropriate medications if needed or required)
 - does not tire easily or become excessively agitated when tired
 - can endure early mornings through late evenings
 - willingness to experience new and challenging things
 - willingness to extend oneself beyond their comfort zone (emotionally and physically).
- Physical handicaps can be accommodated to a certain degree, with notice.

Adults

- Adults must be 21 years of age and above by June 1.
- They must have completed or begun the Child Protection Policy program offered by the Archdiocese of Washington, or its equivalent within the diocese of their home parish.
- Appropriate skills should be considered for adult participants including:
 - the ability to work with young people with an open mind and heart
 - the ability to follow directions
 - respect for self and others
 - can maintain healthy and safe habits (including asking for help when needed)
 - does not tire easily or become excessively agitated when tired
 - can endure early mornings through late evenings (with breaks and rest between)
 - willingness to experience new and challenging things
 - willingness to extend oneself beyond their comfort zone (emotionally and physically).
- Adults will have leadership roles that require responsibility and accountability for youth for part of each day.
- A willingness to work with other adults, young adults, and youth leaders who will coordinate and run programming is expected.
- Physical handicaps can be accommodated to a certain degree, with notice.

Young Adults

- Aged 18 – 20 yrs. When 18th birthday falls any time before end of camp week, person is considered a Young Adult and must comply with the following regulations.
- **YA's only: OVERNIGHT FORMATION - Saturday prior to the start of Encounter Sunday. ALL young adults are required to participate in this event.**
 - It is designed specifically for our YOUNG ADULTS only, as a formation program before the start of Encounter, as well as a community bonding retreat focused on their needs.
 - There is NO additional charge for this HOWEVER, they must come prepared for the entire week.
 - It is the same day as set up for Encounter, so we expect all our young adults to make sure to mark the dates now for that experience.
 - **Parish/Group Leaders - when inviting young adults to Encounter - YOU MUST inform them of this new activity.**
 - **Their participation at Encounter will depend on their availability for this formation.**
- Please note - young adults (18-20) are NOT considered chaperones or youth.
- **They do not affect the 6:1 ratio of adult to youth participants. They are still required to register.**
- **They are also required to have completed prior to the start of the camp week,** the Child Protection Policy program as directed by either the Archdiocese of Washington or through the diocese with which they reside.
- Appropriate maturity should be considered for Young Adults. This includes:
 - the ability to follow directions
 - respect for self and others
 - can maintain healthy and safe habits
 - does not tire easily or become excessively agitated when tired
 - can endure early mornings through late evenings
 - willingness to experience new and challenging things
 - willingness to extend oneself beyond their comfort zone (emotionally and physically).
- Young Adults will have leadership roles that require responsibility for working with youth for part of each day.
- A willingness to work with other adults, young adults, and youth leaders who will coordinate and run programming is expected.
- Physical handicaps can be accommodated to a certain degree, with notice.
- Youth ministers are expected to do a reasonable assessment of the capability of a young adult to fulfill these roles
- There is a limited number of young adults that will be permitted to participate at Encounter. Registrations may be subject to approval by EGL Staff before acceptance.

Special Participants

Encounter welcomes **DAY ONLY chaperones**. We often need individuals who can help lead site groups during the day.

- These folks arrive at 7:30 AM, and must stay at least until 3:30 PM or as long as they like, but are not included in the evening meal plan or overnight residence. Breakfast and lunch are included in this role.
- They are responsible for parking and their own meal costs if they choose to stay through evening programming.
- They do not count against the total number of participants.
- **They must register online, and indicate in the special needs box on their personal application fill in 'Day Only'.**
- Participants are subject to a reduced fee to participate. Costs cover insurance and program expenses related to their involvement.

Encounter welcomes **OVERNIGHT only chaperones**

- Regardless if they participate in sites or not they are still subject to the total cost per person.
- **They must register, and are subject to the full participant costs.**

Encounter encourages and welcomes **DRIVERS/AFTERNOON chaperones**:

- There are NO additional fees for these participants
- However, their services are limited to the times they are needed to be present at EGL.
 - Drivers – 7:30 AM – 10 AM; 2:30 PM – 4 PM
 - Assist with transporting groups to sites and/or picking them up
 - Afternoon Chaperones – 3 PM – 7 PM
 - Assist with afternoon free time chaperoning
 - Allows full time adults to also have some free time to rest
 - Youth are freely observed, but need to have adult presence as part of safety precautions
 - Activities will include monitoring groups during free time activity (bowling, soccer/games, dorms, walking to and from buildings etc.)
- They are subject to the Child Protection Policy rules and must have completed those requirements.
- They are responsible for their own parking, and food costs as needed.
- They do not need to register online, HOWEVER they should be listed among adults available to help to the EGL staff.
- **Parish/group leaders: please provide the EGL staff with those names**

Encounter Welcomes **VISITORS**:

- Pastors, priests or family members are welcome to visit us during our evening programming.
- There are days that are preferred over others.
- Please inquire of EGL staff as to the best times for family, priests, and pastors' visits during the week.
- Non-Encounter related visitors are not encouraged. Youth/YA's should not have friends drop in for visits.
- All visitors will be required to sign in with EGL staff upon their arrival.