

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS and COVENANT

For The Lutherans Outdoors Gathering Experience

This is a diverse group of individuals from a number of congregations in South Dakota. As we spend the year together as one community, growing together in faith and fellowship, it is important that we establish guidelines and expectations for all to follow. The following are the expectations we would like to utilize to guide our experience. Please take time to review these before registration so there are no misunderstandings.

AS WE LIVE TOGETHER IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...

PRE-GATHERING

- Attend monthly (or more, depending on your group) preparation meetings for the Gathering. These meetings will include group building, Bible studies, Gathering details, etc.
- While we understand that illness, family emergencies, and schedule conflicts will arise, all participants - youth and adults - are expected to make these meetings a priority.
- Turn in, fully completed, all forms and payments to your Primary Adult Leader in a timely manner.
- Be active in the life of your congregation through worship, youth activities, etc. **DURING THE**

TRAVEL PORTION OF THE EXPERIENCE:

LOVE OTHERS

- Be on time for all bus departures, worship services, and activities.
- Use language and behavior that reflect that we are a people of Christ.
- Be respectful of all youth participants and adult leaders. Listen to and follow what all adult leaders ask you to do.
- Adhere to "lights out" times. We will be working and playing hard – you and those around you need adequate sleep! Know that "lights out" also means silence so others can sleep.
- Always tell your adult leader where you are going.
- T-Shirts will be worn during the SD Synod Day and Accompaniment Day (These will be provided for you).
- Be respectful of all staff and property we encounter on the journey (bus, hotel, servant project, Dome, etc.) You are responsible for any damages that may occur as a result of your actions or those around you. This includes damages in your room, even if they were not inflicted by you!

LOVE YOURSELF

- Use of, possession of, or being in the presence of tobacco, drugs and/or alcohol is strictly forbidden.
- Cell phones must be turned off or in airplane mode during Community Time or when asked by an adult leader, so participants can be fully engaged in the experience and with each other.
- Isolating electronic devices can only be used during times established by the group leader.
- Always be in groups of three or more. This is for your safety!
- Participate fully in all activities. Come with an open heart, ready to learn and grow.

WE LOVE YOU

- Adult leaders are available for any and all questions. If you are in doubt if you should or should not do something, ask!
- Adult leaders will work as a team to ensure your safety and to make this a meaningful experience and will support each other's decisions.

- Adult leaders have your best interest in mind as they make decisions that affect you. There is always a sound reason behind our decision, based on your welfare – not just to say “no.”
- If an expectation listed in the covenant is broken, adult leaders will take these steps to restore community and trust in the group*:

1. The adult leader will discuss the offense with the participant and give the participant a warning.
2. If the offense re-occurs or an additional offense occurs, the adult leader will talk with other appropriate adult leaders (other group leaders, bus captains, etc) to determine an appropriate consequence. The participant will meet with the adult leaders to discuss the offense and the consequence. If appropriate, the discussion will also include the congregational group.
3. If the offense re-occurs a third time and/or an additional offense occurs, the adult leader(s) will meet with synod staff and appointed synod leaders to discuss appropriate consequences. The participant will meet with LO staff and the adult leader(s) to discuss the consequence.

***Although not our first choice, adult leaders reserve the right to skip steps 1 and 2 above, and send a participant home at the participant’s expense if the need arises. (For example, if the participant is a danger to him/herself or to others, or other offense of a serious nature.)**

- Adult leaders will hold you in prayer throughout The LOSD Gathering Experience

We have read and understand the listed expectations for the LOSD Gathering Experience. We covenant to live together in Christian community, and agree to abide by the listed expectations. We understand that failure to abide by these expectations may result in being sent home at our own expense.

Church: _____ City: _____

_____ Adult Leader Signatures:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Youth Participant Signatures:

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1. | 14. |
| 2. | 15. |
| 3. | 16. |
| 4. | 17. |
| 5. | 18. |
| 6. | 19. |
| 7. | 20. |
| 8. | 21. |
| 9. | 22. |
| 10. | 23. |
| 11. | 24. |
| 12. | 25. |
| 13. | |

It is our deepest prayer that this is a fun and meaningful experience for you. We thank you in advance for helping to make this happen by following these expectations!