

OMD Adult Congregational Approval Form For District Youth Programming

To the adult attendee: Please fill out the top of this form and bring it to your congregation's Religious Educator or Minister. If your congregation has neither, then bring it to your congregation's Board President. This form must be submitted annually for each adult attending district youth programming and may take your congregational leader some time. Bringing it to them early in the church year or in plenty of time before the event is advisable. You may mail it directly to the district office or bring it with you.

Name: _____

Congregation: _____

To the Congregational Leader: "Con Sponsors" are adults who are responsible for specific youth before, at, and after a district youth conferences (cons). As such, they are congregational leaders subject to your congregation's policies. The Ohio Meadville District (OMD) requires that adults who sponsor youth at youth events be over the age of 25 and approved by their congregation for this role. Con sponsors may not attend a district youth event without a current copy of this form on file, submitted annually.

Because we take the health and safety of our youth community seriously, other adults participating in certain district youth programming must be also recommended by a congregational leader.

While the district does not screen all adult attendees, under Ohio law the district has the legal right to fingerprint and background check any adult involved with district youth programming at any point in the future and to suspend an adult's participation in district programming according to the OMD's Child and Youth Protection Policy if an adult is found to be a person not suitable for working with youth.

The OMD recommends adults who work with children or youth

- (a) be members of your congregation,
- (b) have attended for more than 6 months,
- (c) have a criminal background check done by your congregation performed every three years,
- (d) have personal characters references checked when they begin working with children or youth,
- (e) and if driving children or youth, have a confirmed valid driver's license and record clear of violations.

If your congregation does not have a Safe Congregations Policy and/or access to a background screening service and wants consultation, please contact the OMD's Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development.

Further it is your responsibility to discern which adults are not only safe for youth, but also healthy for youth. Characteristics of adults ideal for youth ministry include the abilities to:

- form real and genuine relationships with youth;
- focus on the needs of the youth and not the needs of the adult;
- refrain from sharing overly personal details of the adult's life;
- provide for their own physical, sexual, social, spiritual, and emotional needs in appropriate ways with adult peers.

Some adults are valued members of our religious communities, but are not a good match for youth ministry. In this case, please do not sign this form, but recommend another avenue of service.

Thank you for helping ensure the health and safety of our district youth community. If you have questions about this form or district youth programming, please contact the OMD Youth Coordinator. Current district

**OMD Adult Congregational Approval Form
For District Youth Programming**

staff contact information may be found at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org>.

Please fill out the section below to indicate your approval of this individual as a youth con sponsor or adult attendee of district youth programming.

Con Sponsor/Adult Attendee Name: _____

Congregation: _____

Please mark one of the lines below:

____ We performed a background check on this individual on this date: _____

____ We have not performed a background check on this individual. I understand that the Ohio Meadville District recommends that all adults in leadership with children and/or youth should have a current background check.

I have reviewed the Rules for Adults and Code of Ethics for Adults in Leadership Positions (found in the packet of forms the adult received) with the individual listed above. This individual is approved by our congregation as a con sponsor and meets the requirements of our congregation for this role. On behalf of my congregation, I recommend this person as an adult attendee for OMD youth events.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Position in the congregation: _____

Date: _____