

RYC '09 (REFORMED YOUTH CONFERENCE)

Mission Statement:

To assist the reformed church in encouraging and reinforcing the faith in our youth for the glory of God.

Brief History & Approach:

RYC (Reformed Youth Conference) began in 2007, specifically with the churches of the OPC Presbytery of the South in view; however, it has since grown to encompass youth from neighboring Presbyteries and other reformed denominations. Our desire is to provide our covenant youth in this region with a camp that is both enjoyable and deliberately reformed.

By involving the churches directly in camp planning, counseling and leadership, we seek to strengthen the bonds of the churches and the youth in this region. It is our desire to see a softening of hearts by the Holy Spirit to the end that each youth may be molded into the image of Christ.

RYC is under the direction of the OPC Presbytery of the South with the Session of the Lake Sherwood OPC, Orlando, providing direct oversight.

Camp Philosophy:

Teaching

We believe that God powerfully changes lives through the teaching of His Word. Therefore, we are committed to provide leaders who hold to the Westminster standards and will offer distinctly reformed, Christ-centered, and age-appropriate teaching. Our desire is to challenge, encourage, and educate our covenant youth through our rich heritage in order to equip them to better lead and serve the church while daily living out their faith.

Music

We desire to see our covenant youth foster a humble heart of thanksgiving, praise, and delight in the Lord through worship. We are committed to provide musicians that will reverently and joyfully lead students in worship. Our song book will comprise of traditional hymns, hymns set to new tunes, and other Scripture-based praise and worship songs. It is important to us that the campers learn some of the rich hymns of the faith, and cultivate a heart for worship both at camp and in church on Sunday.

Recreation/Fellowship

We desire an environment where youth are able to be rejuvenated. Therefore, we are committed to provide activities that encourage team participation and involvement while also allowing campers to foster friendships and learning in the Lord alongside each other. We desire camp to be a place of rest and restoration where our youth play as hard as they study.

Local Church Involvement

We seek an environment where youth are mentored by the leaders of their church. Thus, the structure of the camp is to enable church youth workers to participate in the camp experience through small group and worship meetings, recreation, and daily living conditions. It is important to have leaders from the local church serve as counselors with their group, to continue the teaching and application from camp, long after camp has come and gone.