



Youth Leadership Scholarship Program

Proposal Overview

The National Capital Presbytery Youth Leadership Scholarship Program is an ongoing ministry initiative focused on leadership formation, vocational discernment, and faith development among emerging youth leaders from congregations without designated youth ministry staff.

The scholarship addresses a structural formation gap in congregations that may lack the staffing capacity to consistently identify, mentor, and nurture young leaders toward Christian leadership opportunities within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Purpose Statement

This scholarship program cultivates emerging leaders within the National Capital Presbytery by expanding access to transformative leadership and faith formation opportunities for youth who may otherwise lack congregational support structures for vocational discernment and ministry development.

Program Overview

The National Capital Presbytery Youth Leadership Scholarship Program supports participation in approved Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and ecumenical leadership development opportunities.

Eligible opportunities may include but are not limited to:

- Massanetta Springs Leadership Programs
- Montreat Youth Conferences
- Presbyterian Youth Triennium
- Synod or Presbytery leadership events
- Ecumenical justice, advocacy, or faith formation programs
- Other approved leadership development opportunities

The scholarship may only apply to approved youth leadership opportunities that do NOT offer a stipend. Scholarships will cover approved application or registration costs and provide a stipend to support travel, lodging, and participation expenses.

Scholarship Funding

The scholarship will provide:

- Up to \$250 toward application or registration costs
- A \$1,250 leadership stipend paid directly to the student participant.

Up to three youth scholarships may be awarded annually for a total annual budget allocation of \$4,500.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be at least sixteen (16) years of age;
- Be entering 11th or 12th grade, or be graduating high school seniors entering their first year of college;
- Be active participants in a National Capital Presbytery congregation;
- Be members of congregations without designated youth ministry staff.
- Receive endorsement from their church Session; and
- Demonstrate leadership potential, commitment to Christian discipleship, and willingness to engage in leadership formation opportunities.

Formation Accountability

Scholarship recipients will submit a post-experience reflection to the ECC / Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team in the form of a 3–5 minute video, written reflection, or presentation describing:

- leadership learnings,
- faith formation insights, and
- how they intend to share these experiences within their congregation and community.

Guidance for Session Endorsements

Letters of recommendation from a Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, or Clerk of Session and should address:

- The student's participation in the life of the congregation,
- Leadership potential and character,
- Faith formation and discipleship,
- Readiness for leadership development opportunities, and
- Session support for the student's participation and continued growth

Letters should be no more than one page and written in the recommender's own voice.