

Texas District LCMS

GloryBound YouthServe Seed Grants

Witness-Mission-Service



Prospectus

Glorybound YouthServe Seed Grants are provided by Texas District LCMS Youth Ministry to assist collaborative witness, mission and service events by Middle School through High School students or any combination of the two. Grants are available when **two or more** Texas District LCMS congregations or church plants work together to carry out witness, service and mission events or trips in their local community, nearby region or in the state of Texas. Groups may apply for \$250, \$500, \$750, or \$1,000 grants which will serve as seed money for the action proposed in the grant application.

Guiding Principles

1. In John 4:35, Jesus tells his disciples *“Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”* When Jesus says people are *“ripe for harvest”* He simply means they are *“ready for Good News from God.* Middle School through High School students can be very effective witnesses to the love of Christ when given the training and opportunity to do so.
2. In Philemon 6 Paul writes *“I pray that you might be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”* When Middle School through High School Students share their faith through witness and outreach, they grow personally in their understanding of their relationship to Jesus.
3. In 1 Peter 4:10 Peter says *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”* When youth engage in acts of service and mission, they get to use their gifts as faithful stewards.
4. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul writes *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* As youth serve others, they are doing exactly what God created them for.

5. Isaiah 58:10 states *“Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.”* As youth engage in witness, service and mission, they are doing exactly what God calls us to.
6. As young people engage in mission and service, they develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, decision making, collaboration and communication as they build positive relationships with community members.
7. While mission trips to far off locations have value, **Glorybound YouthServe Seed Grants are designed to assist groups to serve in their local community, region and state.**

Grant Criteria and Guidelines

1. Grants may be applied for by two or more LCMS congregations or church plants who collaborate to carry out witness, service and mission event/project/trip in their local community, nearby region or in the state of Texas.
2. Grants may be applied for in amounts of \$250, \$500, \$750 \$1,000 depending on the size of the event or trip and may be used to cover construction materials, travel and lodging, training materials, etc.
3. Grant applications may be completed by an Ordained Pastor, Commissioned Minister or Lay Youth Leader. The application should be signed by the applying leader and either the Pastor or DCE in one of the partnering congregations.
4. Grant applications shall clearly state what the project is designed to accomplish, the anticipated outcomes, the anticipated number of participants, how the YouthServe seed money would be used and how the balance of needed funds will be obtained.
5. Grants may be applied for at any time during the calendar year but only one grant shall be given to each group annually.
6. Projects can be done independently or in cooperation with other ministries such as Can-Do Missions, Heart For Texas (Hurricane Relief) , local Mission/Service Organizations, or designed totally by the collaborating churches.
7. Grant applications shall be submitted to the Youth Ministry and Commissioned Minister Specialist of the Texas District at least (45 days) prior to the anticipated Mission/Service/Outreach event or trip.
8. All grant applications will be reviewed for approval by a team of three individuals:
 - a. The Youth Ministry and Commissioned Minister Specialist, Texas District
 - b. The Coordinator of the DCE Program, Concordia University, Texas, and

- c. The Texas District Area Vice-President where the applying congregations are located. Note: If one of the partnering congregations is pastored by the Area Vice-President, one of the other Area Vice-Presidents shall be part of the team reviewing the grant application.
9. Once the project, event or trip has been completed, the Project Leader shall submit an “after action report” with details, photos, etc.