**Leader Information – 2024 Synod Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Casey**

We are excited to announce the Synod Fall Youth Retreat for 2024 will be at Camp Casey

**November 8-10, 2024** (Friday – Sunday)

**Theme: *Yonder is the Sea!***

*Over the weekend we will explore the deep and playful relationship between water and faith, the sea and spirituality. Using Psalm 104:24-30 as our guide we will explore themes of playfulness, abundance, loss, and promise, among others as we connect the Psalm to our faith and daily lives.*

**Registration:** $100 per participant. This lower cost is due to the gracious support of the Northwest Washington (NWWA) Synod Children, Youth, and Family Committee.

You can register your group here: <https://forms.gle/LJ15uebaLYSqsLSv8>

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*This is a collaboratively led retreat*. Over the course of the weekend you will hear from a variety of youth leaders and volunteers as they share in leadership of the retreat. From large group leaders to musicians to small group leaders to game organizers, we are so grateful to all the leaders to make this great weekend possible. Thank you to everyone who has shared their gifts this weekend! If you would like to volunteer at the retreat, please sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080545A8AB2DA7F49-51580222-2024> .

**Leadership and Communication**

Coordinator: Doug Johnson, doug@salc.church

Registrar: Becky Cole, cyflutheransnw@gmail.com

**Important Information**

The 2024 Synod Fall Youth Retreat requires that all participants follow the rules set by the camp and any partnering groups/locations. We ask that leaders make sure their youth understand these rules and work to keep all participants in line with these rules and guidelines. More information will be shared as we get closer to the retreat.

**Registration is now open for the retreat.** *Our current capacity is 100 total participants*. If more spots become available, we will let congregations know.

With limited space, we want to ensure as many youth as possible to participate. We ask that congregations keep the adult participants to the minimum required for your congregation’s policy regarding children/youth and safety.

This retreat has the support of the Children, Youth, and Family Committee of the Northwest Washington Synod and its leadership is shared across many leaders in the synod itself, **it is ultimately the responsibility of each congregation to ensure the leadership and safety of their group.** Congregations will not be able to send unattended youth to the retreat. You will be asked to sign a liability release acknowledging that your congregation is responsible for your group. The NWWA Synod and Camp Casey are not liable.

We understand that cell phones are an integral part of the lives of our youth and adults. We ask that cell phone use be limited during the retreat so that youth and adults can focus and engage with each other. We ask that participants do not bring mobile gaming systems with them on the retreat. You will never be able to build that awesome beach fort while doom scrolling social media or playing Smash Bros. (this is true for the adults too!).

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Registration**

**Who is Invited?**

The retreat is open for **middle and high school youth in grades 6-12**. All registrations must be made with a congregational youth group. The adult chaperone must be 21+ and we ask, again, that congregations limit adult chaperones to your congregation’s minimum policy. **Adult chaperones may not bring any children under the designated age for this event.**

**Program Cost**

The cost is $100 per person, thanks to the generous financial support of the Children, Youth, and Family Committee of the NWWA synod. This cost covers food (4 total meals), lodging, programming, and a retreat t-shirt. **The registration cost does not cover ferry tickets.** Congregations are responsible for purchasing their own tickets to and from the retreat.

**Registration Policies**

* 100% payment is due by check within 2 weeks of your registration to complete your reservation.
* There is no charge to change names on a registration.
* **Registration will close on October 21, 2024.**
* You will need to bring hard-copies of your medical forms, background check form, and any liability and permission required by your congregation to Camp Casey with you.

**To Register**

1. The adult leader from each church group registers their group online at: <https://forms.gle/LJ15uebaLYSqsLSv8>. Registration closes when we reach 100 participants or October 21, 2024 at 5pm, which ever occurs first. You will be required to enter information for each student and adult who plan to attend.
2. You will be provided a background check form to complete for the adults attending the retreat. You must complete it, have a pastor sign it, and e-mail a copy of your completed form for all adults in your group to cyflutheransnw@gmail.com
3. **Payment: You must pay-in-full with a check within 2 weeks to hold your spots (no credit cards). Make a check out to “Northwest Washington Synod” with “Synod Fall Youth Retreat Name of your congregation” in the memo to:**

**Northwest Washington Synod, 5519 Phinney Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98103**

**Housing**: Lodging will be in refurbished bunkhouses with gendered floors and “dormlike” accommodations. Adult leaders will be placed in the large bunkhouse spaces to keep with adult to child safety ratios. Adults will be in same gender sleeping spaces. Each congregation will be given their housing assignment after registration closes. Participants will either be assigned to [Company Quarters A](https://casey.spu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Company-Quarters-A.pdf) or [Company Quarters B](https://casey.spu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Group-Bunkroom-Quarters.pdf). We will do our best to accommodate reasonable housing requests.

*Please contact Doug Johnson with any special housing needs/requests after completing group registration.*

**Wait List**

If registration is full, there will be a waitlist. To get on the wait list please email either Becky Cole or Doug Johnson (information above).

**Medical Release and Covenant of Conduct Forms**

Be sure to list any special needs (medical, dietary, etc.) in your online registration. When you come to Camp Casey, you must bring any and all forms required by your church regarding health insurance, liability, permissions, etc. The forms provided by the Synod Fall Youth Retreat qualify.

The Covenant of Conduct forms the group’s “contract” for the event. Please make sure your youth and accompanying adults understand the expectations required of them while participating.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Getting Ready**

**Getting to Camp Casey**

Congregations are responsible for their own transportation. Camp Casey is located on Whidbey Island and may necessitate the use of a ferry to get to the camp. Camp Casey has several helpful travel guides on getting to the camp on their [website](https://casey.spu.edu/about/location-and-directions/).

If you require a ferry to get to camp, please check the schedules for the ferries (linked below) to ensure an on time arrival. **Check-In time for the retreat is between 6pm-7pm on Friday.** We ask that all groups arrive on time so we can do our best to keep to our schedule.

[Mukilteo/Clinton](https://www.wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/ScheduleDetail.aspx?departingterm=14&arrivingterm=5&roundtrip=true) (South Whidbey) ferry

[Port Townsend/Coupeville](https://wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/ScheduleDetailByRoute.aspx?route=pt-key) ferry ([reservations recommended](https://secureapps.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Reservations/Vehicle/default.aspx))

Camp Casey Address: 1276 Engle Road Coupeville, WA 98239

**Check-In**

When you arrive at camp, head straight to the Auditorium so your congregation can get your housing assignments, leaders can receive their information folder, and other materials that are need for the weekend. A map of the campus can be found at the end of this information pack and will be included in your information folder.

**While at Camp Casey**

Camp Casey is located on the site of a historic former military base, as such there are a number of historic buildings in and around the camp. There will be time for groups to explore both the camp and the surrounding areas. However, we ask that ***ALL*** participants keep to the boundaries of Camp Casey as shared during orientation AND that any participants that leaves the boundaries let at least two adult leaders know where and how many are in their group (minimum of three).

**Food while at Camp Casey**

Each participant will receive three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

Lunch will not be provided on Sunday, congregations are on their own for lunch. We encourage congregations to plan accordingly for lunch.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Getting Ready**

We are grateful and truly appreciative of all the hard work all our leaders are doing to share in leadership of the fall retreat. Please make sure that you not only have everything on the packing list below, but any other additional materials you need for the pieces you have volunteered to lead. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Becky or Doug if you have any questions.

**What to Bring the Fall Retreat**

Each person should bring:

A great attitude – YAY!

Warm clothes, including a warm jacket

Rain Gear

Some lighter clothing in case it’s warm and sunny

***Sleeping Bag***

***Pillow***

***Towel***

Personal toiletries

Deodorant ☺ (no scented body spray/perfume)

\*Febreze

Sunscreen

Bug Spray

\*blanket (for the grass/beach)

Sturdy shoes or boots (closed toes!)

Flashlight/Headlamp

Bible/Bible App

A reusable water bottle – identifiable

Any necessary medications

**Please pack lightly (1 small overnight bag)**

\*optional

**Each group should bring:**

Snacks to share (no nuts!)

Games to share during free time

**What NOT to Bring to the Fall Retreat**

* Personal Portable Electronics (portable game systems, iPads, CD Players, etc.) \*Cell Phones, as mentioned above, should not be a distraction. If they are a distraction, leaders will be asked to talk with their youth about use. We realize that most people use their phones for photos and music. We discourage any gaming or use that isolates the user from participation with others.
* Items that require electricity (such as hairdryers, curling irons, etc.); These are old buildings, we do not want to put stress on their system.
* Items that produce fire or sparks (lighters, etc.)
* Clothing with inappropriate slogans or theme

**Advertising and Sharing the Retreat**

We want to help you get the word out about the retreat. You can find links to the Canva designs for our flyer, a social media post, and even our postcard in the links below. Please follow the instructions in the links so you can add the projects to your own Canva account. If you do not have a Canva account and would like JPEG or PDF of the advertising, please let Doug Johnson know as soon as possible.

[Flyer](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGQYsyJZV8/EAYpyT_JfDEZqML-FkVXHw/edit?utm_content=DAGQYsyJZV8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton) [Social Media Post](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGQYiVuw6M/VsvLCG0tvSvzyaGVssvlBw/edit?utm_content=DAGQYiVuw6M&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton) [Postcard](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGQfxdeC6Y/PvDt5LLs5RV8pxAukrutVw/edit?utm_content=DAGQfxdeC6Y&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

**Camp Casey Map**