

The Houston National Youth Gathering FAQ's

“This changes everything” (Ephesians 2:8)

When is it?

June 27 – July 1, 2018

How are we getting there?

We will be flying as a group into Houston.

Can I bring a friend?

Yes! By all means! It would be a REALLY good idea for that friend to be involved with our fundraising efforts as well as any pre-event activities we have.

How much does it cost?

We have made a conservative budget of \$1200 per youth attending the Gathering, this includes airfare, lodging, meals, and registration. We have also set the goal of raising *at least* three-quarters of the money needed to attend the event. If we meet our goal, each family is looking at paying less than the \$350 registration cost. Since it is so early, some of our costs are estimates that are hopefully on the high side. That means that the cost could go down for the trip.

What happens at the Gathering?

Each full day we are there has a particular focus: Service Learning (service projects in the community), Synod Day (worship and fellowship with the congregations of our synod), and Interactive Learning (activities in the Convention center that expand your world). Every night all 30,000 of us meet up at NRG Stadium for speakers, worship, and a band. The rest of the time? Sheer fun, service, and mind blowing events. Check out a video [here](https://vimeo.com/181846888) (https://vimeo.com/181846888)

What adults are going along?

Dave Saggio and Pastor Laura are currently slated to go. We will keep the ratio that the Gathering recommends (1-9) with at least two adults going along.

How do I register?

Fill out the attached form and get it, along with a check for \$150 (payable to Celebration) to the church office. This is a refundable amount *if someone takes your spot on the trip* – if no one can take your spot, you will lose this deposit amount as well as any other funds we pay during the year.

What is the Deadline?

We are registering as a group. Your deadline for getting your registration materials and fee to me is October 1. There *may* be the possibility of adding after that date –

there may also be a higher registration fee associated with registering later. Check with Pastor Laura if you decide to go later than the October 1 deadline.

How are we getting ready?

We will be joining with two other congregations and having mini-retreats throughout the remaining 295 days. These dates will be set very soon and you will be STRONGLY encouraged to be part of them!

How has Hurricane Harvey affected this Gathering?

It is way too early to tell, I think. We are proceeding as planned. At the very least, our presence in that city has just become all the more necessary!

Need More Info?

- Contact Pr. Laura
- Or, check out the Gathering webpage @ www.elca.org/Gathering
- Or get hooked up with all the Gathering's social media outlets - available at the Gathering webpage