

# GOYA Ministry Leadership Model

The purpose of GOYA is *to develop the Orthodox Christian faith, friendship, and way of life among parish youth by engaging them in fun and meaningful experiences.*

Fulfilling this purpose requires the contribution of the following people and groups:

- **Middle and high school youth**—actively participate in GOYA gatherings.
- **Parents**—encourage and facilitate their children’s participation in GOYA.
- **Youth leadership team**—create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere at all GOYA gatherings; plan and facilitate six (6) of the special monthly events that fulfill the purpose of GOYA.
- **Parent advisers**—plan and facilitate six (6) of the special monthly events that fulfill the purpose of GOYA; coach and encourage youth leaders in their tasks.
- **Program advisers**—plan and facilitate weekly (Wednesday) GOYA meetings; act as older “spiritual siblings” to parish youth; offer special attention, coaching, and encouragement to youth leaders (both for their personal lives and GOYA events).
- **Lead Steward**—oversees the overall operation of the GOYA ministry (guiding youth leadership team meetings, insuring supervision and planning for weekly meetings).
- **Priest**—selects and blesses GOYA ministry leaders for their work with youth; pastorally supports youth ministry leaders in their personal spiritual growth; insures that the GOYA ministry is aligned with the mission and vision of the Church.

## Detailed Roles & Responsibilities

### **Youth Leadership Team Members**

- create a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive environment at all GOYA gatherings.
- attend monthly youth leadership team meetings.
- attend the Wednesday night meeting after their monthly leadership meeting and as many other GOYA events as they can, as their other commitments (family events, school, extra-curricular commitments, work, etc.) allow.
- plan and accomplish six (6) of the special monthly events, typically on Saturdays or Sundays, that fulfill the purpose of GOYA. Before an event is publicized, the YLT team member leading the event must find an adult adviser willing to coach and support him / her, and two YLT members must commit to attending the event. If any of these conditions changes after publication, the event will be cancelled.
- attend a leadership development day, during a weekend in August TBD

### **Parent Advisers**

- plan and accomplish six (6) of the monthly events, typically on Saturdays or Sundays, during the ecclesiastical year.

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- serve as mentors and coaches to guide and support youth leadership team members with the planning and accomplishment of their monthly events. Each member of the youth leadership team will select an adult with whom to work on the project or event he/she is leading.

### **Program Advisers** (currently Sophia & Maria, Michael, Katie, and Alexa)

- attend weekly meetings (currently on Wednesday) as often as other commitments allow in order to facilitate activities and develop “spiritual sibling” relationships with GOYA members.
- periodically (about once per month) plan a Wednesday night program.
- engage with the youth leadership team and parent advisers. Program advisers can also serve as encouraging mentors/guides for youth-planned/led events, checking in with youth leaders about their lives and upcoming GOYA events, and communicating insights from Wednesday nights with the lead steward, presiding priest, and parent advisers.

### **Lead Stewards** (currently Sophia and Fr. Paul)

- insures that weekly meetings fulfilling GOYA’s mission occur each week, overseeing and coordinating the planning for these weekly meetings.
- coordinates the functioning of the other leadership teams (guiding youth, communicating with parents, and working together with program advisers).

### **Presiding Priest** (currently Fr. Panayiotis)

- selects and blesses ministry leaders for their work with youth.
- pastorally supports youth ministry leaders in their own personal spiritual growth.
- reminds ministry leaders of the big picture or long-term vision that GOYA supports and directs them toward it.
- serves as a mediator for any conflict that ministry leaders cannot resolve on their own.

### Qualifications for Youth Leadership Team Members

GOYA members who are high school seniors, juniors, or sophomores are eligible to serve as youth leadership team members. Good candidates for youth group leadership will have demonstrated the following characteristics, which—as chance would have it—spell out **FIRE**:

- **Faith**—which is seen in our actions and words
- **Inclusiveness**—making an effort to include and interact with everyone, not just one’s closer friends; taking an interest in everyone and being kind to everyone; not being “cliquey” or socially exclusive

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- Responsiveness—replying promptly when contacted, completing tasks on time, and asking for help when needed
- Enthusiasm—about GOYA and our faith

### Youth Leadership Team Election Procedures

1. In order to be placed on the ballot, eligible GOYA members who are willing to offer their time in service to the parish youth group as members of the leadership team must each write a short statement expressing why they are willing to serve in this way. Each statement may be no longer than 300 words. All statements will be distributed online via email and GroupMe post, and then read at the election of the new leadership team, prior to voting.
2. All middle and high school youth of the parish are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are available for those who cannot attend the voting. Voters will be required to vote for at least 3 of the eligible candidates; failure to do so will disqualify their ballots.
3. Those who receive at least 51% of their peers' votes will be eligible to serve. If more than seven (7) youth receive at least 51% of their peers' votes, the seven (7) who received the most votes will be elected to serve. If fewer than three (3) youth receive at least 51% of their peers' votes, the three (3) who received the most votes will be elected to serve.
4. High school youth will not be elected to specific offices or roles in the general election but rather to the youth leadership team. Once the new leadership team has been elected, the team (with the guidance of the adult advisers) will organize its members into the various roles (offices) needed for its functioning. This corresponds to the model by which the parish council functions. Titles are standardized: seniors have the title of "President", juniors that of "Vice President", and a sophomore will simply be "Officer."