

THE 2021 MASSANETTA SPRINGS RETURNING YOUTH ADVOCATE APPLICATION

The Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference will select up to 44 high school students (current 10th-12th graders) to serve as Youth Advocates in the June and July conferences of 2021. **Please note that due to the pandemic, we may have to limit the size of our conferences, therefore the number of Advocates we can accept may be significantly less. We may also have to adapt and get creative. Thank you for your understanding.**

Application Process:

The dates of commitment are: **June 14 (noon)-June 26 (noon) OR July 5 (noon)-July 17 (noon)**

REMINDER! We will only accept applications via **EMAIL**. You must send it to hannaha@massanettasprings.org (which will be forwarded to the new Program Director) and you must send the application as a Google Doc, Word Document, or PDF. No other files will be accepted.

1. Read through this form in its entirety.
2. Choose two references. **Family members may not be references.** Give them the reference form (page 3). Remind them that the form is due by **January 11, 2021**. Their reference must also be sent as a Google Doc, Word document, or PDF document.
3. **Complete the Youth Advocate essay questions.** This is how we continue to get to know you better and hear about what you've been up to and how God has continued to work in your life.
4. Complete and send the **Applicant's Personal Information** portion along with your essays by the **January 11, 2021 deadline.**
5. **You will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of receipt. If you do not receive this email then your application was not received.**
6. Applicants will be informed in mid-March 2021 regarding acceptance.

Youth Advocate Responsibilities

(Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following)

- Participate in training for leadership and be a "team player" by assisting in the planning, implementing, and evaluating activities and events for the conference.
- Provide specific leadership through direct involvement on one of two teams that will provide the programming and activities for the conference: the **Theme Team** is responsible for assisting the Keynoter in stage theme presentations (reading, prayer, skits, art, music, and/or dance) that unpack the scripture and worship; the **Activities Team** is responsible for assisting the Recreation Director in implementing 3 evening and 2 afternoon recreation events, as well as leading energizers. These roles have an abundance of supervision and guidance as well as drawing heavily on the youth's abilities and gifts.
- Serve as an Encounter Group leader for a group of 10-15 youth and adult advisors, be prepared to lead games, discussions, and group building.
- Help create an environment that embraces living for God and others as followers of Christ, and to embody our mission: *Massanetta is a place for all people to experience God through renewal, discovery, and hospitality.*
- Support a caring atmosphere of participation, enthusiasm, and inclusiveness.
- Show flexibility, an ability to see beyond yourself, no drama, and a consideration of others.
- Make a positive contribution to the work of the Youth Advocate team, all within the context of life in a full house, with long days, late nights, and early mornings.

Note

- There is a **\$100 participation fee**. This covers your meals and lodging for the 12 days/12 nights.
- Transportation to and from Massanetta is the Advocate's responsibility.

Applicant's Personal Information:

Applicant's Name _____

Home Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Current Grade _____ Gender _____ T-shirt Size _____ (All Adult sizes)

Cell # _____ E-mail _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Cell # _____

Parent E-mail _____

Church Name _____ Presbytery _____

Adult Reference 1 _____ Adult Reference 2 _____

As an Advocate, we hope you are available to serve either June 14-June 26 or July 5-17.
Please list your preference and the circumstances that prevent you from serving a particular conference:

Applicant's Signature

By signing below, I confirm having read and understood the Application Information and the Youth Advocate Responsibilities and that the information is true to the best of my knowledge; and that I have no reason to be absent for any part of the June and/or July Youth Advocate time commitment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURNING Advocate APPLICANTS Questions:

**You may not cut and paste from last year's application.
PLEASE send as a PDF or Google or Word Document**

1. Some of our leaders are new here and do not know you yet. Introduce yourself. Share a bit about your life, where you are from, what you love to do (clubs, organizations, interests), and one unique or interesting thing that makes you, YOU.
2. Last summer was all online, but we hope you got a little bit of the Advocate experience! How has being an Advocate transformed you? What did you learn from being an Advocate in 2020?
3. As you know, being an Advocate means you share parts of your faith journey with your fellow Advocates and middlers. How would you describe your faith? What do you believe about God? Tell us about a time (or times) where you felt God's presence in your life.
4. Life for everyone has changed during the pandemic. Share how the pandemic has affected you and share how you have seen God at work amidst a crisis. Can anything good come of this? How can we care for our middlers this summer who have all been affected by the pandemic?
5. Do you have a preference for A team or T team? (and why)

Please email this form and your essay questions (**as a Google Doc, Word Document, or PDF**) by the deadline **January 11th 2021** to the MSC Planning Team at hannaha@massanettasprings.org
Questions? Email the Program Director at hannaha@massanettasprings.org or call 540-434-3829

THE 2021 MASSANETTA SPRINGS ADVOCATE REFERENCE FORM

Thank-you for providing a reference for the **Youth Advocate** program of the Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs Conference Center. This conference is for completed 5th-8th grade youth and their adult leaders. The role of the Youth Advocate is a vital part of this ministry (see the responsibilities below). You know the applicant better than we do and we would appreciate your input. **We are not looking for perfect people.** We hope you know their strong and not-so-strong points (we all have them both). Only with your views can we find a match between what is expected and what the applicant has to offer. **Please complete and return this form with the reference comments by email to the Program Director (hannaha@massanettasprings.org) by January 11, 2021.** Please note we will only accept a **Google Doc, Word Document, or PDF Document.** If you have any questions, please contact the Program Director at hannaha@massanettasprings.org (emails will be forwarded to the current Program Director) or (540) 434-3829.

Youth Applicant's Name	YOU - Reference's Name and relationship to applicant
Reference's Email	Phone Number Day: _____ Cell: _____
Address	City, State, Zip
Church/Organization Name	Location and Presbytery (if applicable)

Questions: Please answer the following questions on a separate page

1. After reading the Youth Advocate Responsibilities below, do you believe that the applicant could serve in this capacity? Do you have any reservations? If so, please describe.
2. Knowing that we all have them, what are the strong and not-so-strong attributes that you see in this applicant as they relate to this kind of position? Please describe them.
3. Is this applicant an active part of your church or organization? In what ways?
4. Please describe a time when you have seen the applicant during a stressful and busy time - how did she/he handle it?
5. How has the pandemic affected the applicant's life and how has the applicant responded?

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Reference's Agreement

By signing below, I affirm my responses to the above questions. I will strive to support this applicant in the role of Youth Advocate, if selected.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Please email this form, by **January 11th, 2021** to the Program Director at hannaha@massanettasprings.org*