



# Win Triennium Funds for Your Church's Youth Group

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## Summer Youth Leadership Challenge

**Open to Presbyterian Church members 12-18 years old. Are you a natural leader or would you like to develop your leadership skills? This might be a challenge for you!**

Choose an area of your Church's life that you would like to learn more about or already have a passion for – under the broad categories of Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach. Each category addresses that topic and 'Earth Care.'

**Use your interest to develop new skills, make new friends, and learn about your Church.**

This is the first of multiple activities to be held leading up to the Triennium. Each activity will help you grow your leadership skills. Points in each activity will be cumulative for additional awards.



## Instructions for the Challenge:

Choose an area you are passionate about from the Challenge Descriptions. Select a mentor – your Pastor or Youth Director. Develop a planning concept. Enlist team members of all ages with the skills you need. Turn your concept into an executable plan by learning about your team and utilizing the team’s talents and skills. Present the completed plan and get a sign-off from your Pastor or Youth Director. Execute the plan. Document and submit a challenge entry form by September 4, 2023, to Leigh Porter at [lporter@glpby.org](mailto:lporter@glpby.org).

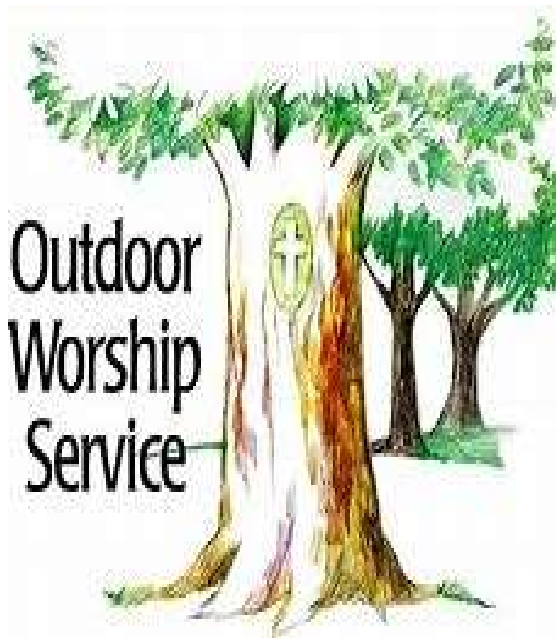
We are here to support you. If you have difficulty with your area of interest, there are a number of adults and leaders in our Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery that are willing to mentor or provide information and resources. Please contact Jolene Patterson (707-217-0819) for a referral.

Points and Awards will be announced at the “All Church Picnic” on September 30, 2023, at Grace Presbyterian Church in Crystal City, Mo.

## Challenge Category 1

### Worship

In this challenge, enlist the help of your Pastor. Select a portion (or all) of one of the following Bible passages (or anyone you like) and develop a worship-related activity that makes the Bible verse(s) relevant to today, especially our need to take care of this incredible place God has given us. This can be a sermon, a children’s message, a moment for mission, a play, a dance, a skit, or anything - be creative!



Genesis 1-2, 6-9  
Exodus 16:1-21  
Leviticus 25 (especially vv. 23-24)  
Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:6-9; 24:4-13  
Jeremiah 4:19-28  
Hosea 4:1-3  
Proverbs 31:10-31  
Song of Songs  
The Book of Job (especially chapters 38-41)  
Psalms 1, 8, 24, 36, 65, 72, 96, 98, 104, 148, 150  
John 1:1-14; 3:16  
Colossians 1:15-20  
Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-5

## **Bonus Points for Challenge Category 1:**

Use any one of the following ideas with the main category challenge for bonus points:

- 1) Plant a tree or shrub to commemorate your earth care message.
- 2) Create a permanent (or semi-permanent) banner for the church (from recycled materials) with your earth care message
- 3) Have your earth care Sunday be a paperless service
- 4) Create a song or prayer raising up your earth care message
- 5) Decorate the church with locally grown pesticide-free flowers for your earth care Sunday
- 6) Host your worship service outdoors

## **Challenge Category 2**

### **Education**

In this challenge, enlist the help of your Youth Director, Christian Education Director, Pastor or someone similar in your Church. Select one of the following sustainability subjects from Group A and develop an activity from Group B.



### **Group A**

Gardening for food

Gardening for animals

Gardening for the environment (trees, native plants, etc.)

Earth worm farms

Composting  
Canning food  
Fishing / Hunting / Trapping  
Drying / Curing food  
Your subject of choice

## **Group B**

Educational event or fair for youth, church members, community  
Youth / Inter-generational education class  
Vacation Bible School activity  
Articles or announcements in the bulletin, church emails, newsletters, or website  
Youth / Inter-generational project morning, afternoon, day, or weekend  
Your activity of choice

## **Bonus Points for Challenge Category 2:**

Use any one of the following ideas with the main category challenge for bonus points:

- 1) Create an art display focusing on your education event
- 2) Create a webpage for the church website on your education event
- 3) Develop a book, game, or video related to promoting or remembering your event
- 4) Create a song or prayer raising up your earth care message
- 5) Add an earth care book to your church library that relates to your education event
- 6) Host your education event outdoors

# **Challenge Category 3**

## **Facilities**

In this challenge, enlist the help of the facilities committee and the Pastor at your church. Have a meeting and determine an area in which your church might improve its environmental impact. Select an area of interest in your discussion and implement recommendations or your own ideas to improve your church's environmental impact.



## Facility Categories with Activity Ideas – Your Own Ideas Can Be Used

### Lighting

- Update lighting to compact fluorescent light bulbs, LEDs, or efficient T8 tube lights
- Motion sensor lights in bathrooms or other areas
- Signs in rooms without motion sensors to turn off lights when leaving the room

### Water / Energy conservation

- Install aerators in faucets
- Install blanket on water heater

### Reusing and recycling waste

- Paper
- Are newsletters, bulletins offered electronically (versus paper)
- Aluminum, glass, plastic
- Food scraps
- Yard / garden waste
- Reusable products (tablecloths, dishes, glasses, flatware)
- Serving water from pitchers instead of plastic water bottles
- Purchase items made from recycled material (napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue)

### Food

- Coffee, fair-trade products
- Locally grown and purchased food

### Cleaning Products

- Less toxic and / or environmentally friendly cleaners (vinegar, baking soda, salt, borax)

### Grounds

- Environmentally friendly fertilizers

- Native plants on church grounds
- Wildlife habitat on church grounds
- Bike rack on church grounds

### **Bonus Points for Challenge Category 3:**

Use any one of the following ideas with the main category challenge for bonus points:

- 1) Create a narthex display focusing on your efforts and enlist others to join
- 2) Create a webpage for the church website on your efforts and enlist others to join
- 3) Develop a photo journal or video log showing the before and after
- 4) Add an earth care book to your church library that relates to focus category

## **Challenge Category 4**

### **Outreach**

In this challenge, engage our Outreach or Mission committees and your Pastor. We are not alone in the world and need to reach out to others in our churches and our communities.



This is a very broad category, so use your imagination to inspire your challenge project. The following are a few suggestions for thought.

- Join or organize a neighborhood cleanup project
- Recycle in your home – talk with your family about how to recycle regularly
- Support farming projects like Heifer International or your favorite group
- Support clean water projects like Marion Medical Mission or your favorite group
- Help elderly or disabled members of your church or neighbor with cleanup or recycling
- Plan a nature walk or camping trip to learn about local habitats and preserving them
- Plan an alternative transportation day (walk/bike/bus/carpool)

- Donate time and/or materials for a social justice project like Habitat for Humanity
- Collect, distribute, and encourage use of information on local farmers markets or farm stands
- Develop, maintain, or support a local community garden project
- Develop standards for environmentally friendly church purchases – organic cotton t-shirts, reusable water bottles, glass communion cups, etc.

**Bonus Points for Challenge Category 4:**

Use any one of the following ideas with the main category challenge for bonus points:

- 1) Invite your friends from school, your neighborhood, your band, your sports team, etc. to participate in your neighborhood cleanup
- 2) Create an art display focusing on your outreach event
- 3) Create a webpage for the church website on your outreach event
- 4) Develop a photo or video log related to your outreach event



To imagine the fullness of God is to talk about God’s Creation. From beginning to end, the Bible is replete with images of God’s Creation and God’s call to us as believers to be good stewards of this world. It is God who created the Earth and saw that it was good, and we are grateful for these gifts. Our moral responsibility is to live sustainably in relationship with God’s creation, for us and for all who live within it, now and in future generations.

