

Religious Education



St. Matthew's Catholic Parish
419 Mill Street
Campbellsport, WI 53010

Shepherd of the Hills Catholic Parish
W1562 County Road B
Eden, WI 53019

July 25, 2017

Dear SMSA Families,

St. Mary's Springs students receive numerous hours of theology class while at school during the school week. Life Teen, due to repetitive content, can be unappealing to attend after a weekend of studying. While a bi-monthly religious education program is difficult to compete with daily theology classes as far as content is concerned, we would like to share the benefits of attending Life Teen as a SMSA student AND St. Matthew's or Shepherd of the Hills parishioner.

1. **Life Teen is at no cost to your family.** Private education is costly and St. Matthew's and Shepherd of the Hills takes that into account by not charging SMSA families registration fees (with the exception of \$100 for Confirmation).
2. **Life Teen is a learning resource.** Take the opportunity to learn from the faith experiences of your peers. Not all teens are able to attend a private high school and spend as many hours in theology classes as a SMSA teen. Attending Life Teen gives SMSA teens an opportunity to grow in faith through community by learning about the faith of their peers and sharing their own faith and knowledge.
3. **Life Teen is an opportunity for SMSA students to be leaders.** That's right. We said it. Your teen can be a leader in their faith by attending Life Teen. Your teen has a chance to answer theological questions that their peers might not know the answer to. They don't need to be the teen raising their hand all the time; instead, they can be the teen that answers questions that their peers are afraid to ask in a group setting or are even nervous to ask a Core Member.

SMSA Teen Expectations

1. **Register for Life Teen for office purpose.** This makes it more manageable to keep track of paperwork and service hours. It also helps so that a teen doesn't get missed during registration mailing for their Confirmation year. Grades 9 and 10 SMSA students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to attend Life Teen.
2. **Fill out the Life Teen Service Sign-Up.** As a youth member of St. Matthew's or Shepherd of the Hills Parish it is expected that teens be involved in parish life and parish activities *NOT* just the local community. Volunteering in Mass ministries and Parish Life shows the rest of the parish that you are putting your faith (and theology knowledge) into practice.
3. **Help with the Santa Breakfast or Life Teen Brunch.** Even if your teen is not actively attending Life Teen and has all their service hours in, it is expected that SMSA teens help with the Santa Breakfast or Life Teen Brunch.
4. **Turn in service hours on (at least) a yearly basis.** Copies of SMSA service hour sheets or Life Teen service sheets will be accepted. *Signatures are required no matter which form is submitted.*
5. **Confirmation Teens attend Life Teen at least 4 times during Junior year, 3 Confirmation classes, and complete the *Called to Mercy* app.** SMSA teens can pick which 4 Life Nights to attend, but it is important that Juniors are attending more than just the 3 Confirmation classes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these expectations.

Blessings,

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