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## **Diocesan Youth Rally seeks Adult Staff for Rally 2019**

(January 17, 2019) – Archpriest John Hopko, Rector and Director, has announced that it is now time to put together the adult staff for Youth Rally 2019 in the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America. Fr. John says, “Youth Rally is looking for mature, faithful, self-sacrificial, Orthodox Christian adults who are willing to volunteer to serve at Rally, especially as cabin counselors, but also as health staff, and in other leadership capacities. Our youth participants make Rally, but our selfless, generous, hard-working adult staff members make Rally possible.”

Youth Rally 2019 is scheduled to take place the week of August 12-17, 2018. Adult volunteers and staff will report to camp on Sunday, August 11, in the evening. Rally attendees (“Rallyers”) will arrive at camp on Monday afternoon, August 12, and will depart midday on Saturday, August 17. Once again the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH, is scheduled to be the venue for Youth Rally. Young people are eligible to attend Youth Rally if, at the time of Rally, they will have completed the fifth grade (or the equivalent) and will have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday. (NOTE: Youth Rally is primarily meant for youth who are members of the Diocese of New England, since the Diocese provides enormous financial support for the event, but consideration is given to youth from outside the Diocese who can show good cause for their presence and participation. Adult staff members do not need to be members of the Diocese of New England.)

Staff members for Youth Rally will be Orthodox Christians in good standing, and this good standing must be confirmed by their present parish priest and father confessor. Staff members will be required to complete and submit an application and, once accepted as members of staff, a health form. They will also need to provide several references, including that of their pastor. Potential staff members will also be required to authorize the Orthodox Church in America to perform a background screen related to their person. (The Orthodox Church in America presently uses the company Protect My Ministry ([www.protectmyministry.com](http://www.protectmyministry.com)) to perform these background “checks.”) Based on the submitted materials, Fr. John Hopko, Rally Rector and Director, will invite successful applicants to serve as adult volunteer staff members at Youth Rally.

The phrase “Orthodox Christians in good standing” means that the person in question is a baptized and chrismated member of the Orthodox Church, who is actively and openly striving to live an Orthodox Christian life. Such a life will include regular participation in the liturgical worship of the Church, and regular participation in the sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion, in obedience to the rhythm that prevails in their home parish, as taught and implemented by their parish priest and father confessor.

Since Rally staff members are meant to be role models for the Rally youth participants, it is particularly important that a Rally staff member must be a person who is self-evidently striving to be obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and who is consciously professing and upholding the Orthodox faith, and who is endeavoring to live in a manner that is openly consistent with the Orthodox Church’s public witness to the gospel and the faith. Among other things, this way of life includes obedience to the teachings, disciplines, morals, and ethics of the Church. Of course, we all fall short and we are all sinners in need of repentance, but Rally staff members must be striving to fulfill such obedience to the Church, and must not be in an obvious and public state of disobedience.

Persons who are interested in serving as Rally staff members, or who require further information, are asked, please, to contact Fr. John Hopko. Fr. John can be reached at email address [terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com) or by phone at 860-582-3631.

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