Youth Account Usage Guidelines

Youth Account Overview

Our youth account system is an integral piece of our congregation's efforts to support our youth and make larger scale events and other youth activities attainable by helping defray the cost through fundraising. All of our fundraisers (unless specifically noted otherwise) work in the same way. Those who participate in and help with the fundraiser will benefit from the funds raised. The total funds raised will be divided proportionately amongst the participating students. Here are two examples: For our soup supper fundraisers, our students prep, serve, and clean up the meals. After the six weeks of Lent are done, the total donations will be added up and divided into 24 "units". Each student will receive one unit for each night they volunteered. So, if Josh served one night, he would get one unit. If Sally worked two of the suppers, she would get two units. In other fundraisers, the units may be based on time worked at the event. That means that the total donations would be divided by a specific sum to get the "unit" amount and then it would be distributed accordingly. So if Josh worked for 1.5 hours and Sally worked for .5 hours, and if the unit was based off of .5 hours of work, then Josh would receive 3 units and Sally would receive 1 unit. Our fundraisers are done in this way so that the students that put in the work receive the appropriate support for their efforts.

Youth Account Usage

On the other side of the equation is the usage of the funds. For starters, the overarching guiding principle is that the funds are to be used for official events or activities that are made available to the youth group. This includes conventions, youth camps, mission trips, retreats, or fun events that are being sponsored or organized through the youth ministry. These limits are in place to honor the intent of the donors who support our students through their designated donations. In this way, the student accounts are not functioning as bank accounts that can be withdrawn from for any desired reason, but will be limited for appropriate and approved usage. To aid in the clarity and understanding, here is a breakdown of approved and not approved examples

Approved usages	Not approved usages
- event registration/deposit	-food/souvenirs on the way to and from the event or canteen use at an event.
- transportation cost if charged as a part of an event	-events that are being run through other congregations or youth ministries
- Participation cost for youth ministry sponsored activities like paintballing, bowling, concerts, etc.	-events/activities that students are participating in but that are not officially organized or sponsored through the youth ministry of Hope
	-transferring funds to other students/siblings
	-donating funds for things like offerings or other ministries

Post-Graduation

After a student graduates out of the youth ministry at Hope, there are three main options for funds that remain in their student accounts. First, if a student is attending the Free Lutheran Bible College, the remaining funds can be requested to be sent to the school to assist with tuition. Second, if a student participates in some mission trip in the year following graduation, they could request remaining funds be used as a part of their mission support. If either of these scenarios do not occur within one year after graduating, the remaining balance will be transferred to the scholarship account to continue assisting other students in attending future camps, retreats, and activities.