

Red Wing Young Life FAQ

1. What is Young Life?

Young Life (YL) is a non-denominational Christian organization whose primary focus is to be an outreach ministry to students in middle school, high school, and even off at college. They are present in all 50 of the United States, as well as more than 90 countries around the world. YL is most known for their gatherings where they host “parties with a purpose”; creating an environment that students want to be in while introducing students to Jesus; followed up by their outstanding summer camp experience where they share the Gospel message and invite students to find hope and an abundant life in Christ.

2. Wasn't there already a YL in Red Wing?

There was! In fact, there are still many in the Red Wing community that participated or helped lead YL in Red Wing about a decade ago. As the story goes, it was a thriving ministry until the leadership of Red Wing Young Life (RWYL) began to fizzle out for a number of various reasons (sadly this happens more often than you think). It was only several years ago that it was decided to put RWYL on hold until new leadership was able to take the reigns. Since then, there have been a few attempts for RWYL to make a comeback, but hasn't been able to gain traction... until now!

3. What's going to be different about the previous RWYL compared to this one?

The typical model for launching YL in an area includes building a large steering committee to help provide oversight, fundraise around \$80,000-\$120,000 for program costs, and hire a YL director to staff the program. While history has shown this process is very effective, we have decided to try something different through what YL calls a “Church Collaboration”. What this means is that rather than build a committee, First Covenant Church will provide ownership of RWYL through a signed contract with YL. First Covenant Church already has a number of youth ministry programs and systems in place to help make the setup of RWYL happen quickly and efficiently. However, while First Covenant Church will provide ownership, they are inviting other churches and organizations in town to partner with them in an ecumenical effort to help make RWYL a success! This Church Collaboration for Red Wing also means we also only need to raise about half the costs (see question number 7 for more details on this) and should be able to begin the hiring process much sooner! Our hope is that RWYL can launch Fall 2020!

4. What does it mean for a church or organization to “partner” with RWYL?

While First Covenant Church will provide ownership of RWYL, they don't want to see this ministry as simply something they do alone. They know that the potential for a youth revival in Red Wing will take many hands and hearts from this community to partner with what God is already doing! Our hope is that other churches and organizations will partner in such a way in that they would see RWYL as a vital ministry within their own church community and would intentionally participate in helping make it happen. First Covenant Church already uses this same partnership concept to operate the weekly programs Fusion After School Gathering and AWANA with other churches and organizations in the Red Wing community. As an official partner, churches and organizations would be encouraged to...

1. Provide insight and discernment to the direction of RWYL and its endeavors. Regular leadership meetings will be held as opportunities to discuss these areas as needed, giving all partners a voice.
2. Promote RWYL to students they are connected with. It is encouraged that RWYL be seen as an outreach opportunity. So if you have students who are deep in the faith, encourage them to be bringing

friends to RWYL. As their friends come to meet Jesus, encourage them to bring them to your own church gatherings!

3. Help provide financial support through either offering part of a church budget or encouraging people from within your congregation to help fund RWYL (just like you would any other ministry of your church community).
4. Send committed volunteer leaders. It is imperative that partnering churches intentionally send committed volunteer leaders to build relationships with RWYL students! Our hope then that as students come to know Jesus the volunteer leaders, who have built good relationships with these kids, would then connect the students back to their own church's events, gatherings, and camps! This is how RWYL's handoff of discipleship happens... through relationships with great leaders!

5. What about our own Church youth/camp ministries? Will RWYL be competing with us?

The most important part of this journey to pay attention is what RWYL's purpose is... to introduce students to Jesus. Everything they do will be centered around this effort. But we all know the process of discipleship goes much further than an introduction! The life of faith is a continual journey of exploring God's word, growing in faith, and becoming a part of the Body of Christ (aka the Church). Through partnering, our hope is that a student's faith journey doesn't end with RWYL after they meet Christ, but rather friends and volunteer leaders connect students back to their churches for personal discipleship... including participation in your own church's youth events and camps! We encourage all of our volunteers to be intentional to develop such a relationship with students that these kinds of invitations for more would happen.

6. What is RWYL going to look like coming up?

Fusion has been gaining much traction in the Red Wing community this past year. Fusion is an after school gathering for middle school students in Red Wing that meets on Tuesdays during the school year from 3:00-5:00pm at First Covenant Church. The program's purpose is providing a safe and positive youth environment geared toward students in grades 5-7 to develop life skills and build a support system with caring adults. With approximately 60-70 middle school students now coming weekly, our hope is to continue to build off of this momentum at Fusion and launch a Thursday RWYL gathering after school. We will initially start with gearing RWYL toward middle school students (in connection to Fusion), with the long-term perspective on adding a gathering for senior high students in the coming years.

7. How much is RWYL going to cost?

Because we are pursuing the Church Collaboration model, First Covenant Church is providing a majority of the program costs it takes to startup and run YL such as resources (like paper, printing costs, etc), facility space, and equipment (like sound systems, activities, etc). In addition, we are looking to hire a part-time director to help provide leadership and execution of both RWYL and Fusion gatherings since both will hopefully have students attending both programs. Lastly, we will want to set aside a number of funds to help provide scholarships to send kids to YL summer camp. In total, we have set a goal to fundraise annually \$42,000 to cover expenses for all these things noted above. This is about half (if not more than half) of the typical costs it takes to launch YL in an area!

8. What needs to be done in order to launch RWYL?

Obviously the big piece to making RWYL happen is the fundraising of our financial goals. We cannot start the hiring process until we have at least \$30,000 fundraised. After that, we can begin to send out a job description and trust that God has someone in store to help setup and lead this great ministry opportunity before us! We also are continuing to meet with area churches and organizations about partnering and investing in this

outreach initiative. After these steps are in place, we can begin to put together volunteer leader teams and spread the word about our official launch date!

9. How can people help?

1. **PRAY!** The most important piece to this whole journey is God's people continually committing to pray! If God's not in it, then all our labor is in vain (Psalm 127:1)! So we need people to commit to praying for the process, for the volunteer leaders who will step up, for the person who will fill the director position, for the finances to come in, but most of all for the students who will be impacted and encounter Christ through this ministry opportunity!
2. **PROMOTE!** We would also love for you to start spreading the word! Tell your kids, extended family, neighbors, and churches about RWYL! Invite students to go check out a RWYL gathering when they launch. Encourage adults who are great with students to consider becoming a RWYL volunteer leader, or quite possibly even the director! Be an advocate to your church about intentionally partnering with RWYL.
3. **GIVE!** Lastly, we are also looking for people to become financial donors. Whether giving regularly or offering a generous one-time gift, we know that your willingness to help invest financially is a huge help in providing the means for more opportunities to take place! Visit giving.younglife.org/redwing from any device to give online!