

The Spark & God Squad

Introduction

Good news! Arise Milwaukee is hosting a new youth formation program called **The Spark Leadership Team**! All those who participate in The Spark will be able to commit to the responsibilities of the God Squad but at the same time be a part of a larger vision and more extensive formation program that encourages to become closer to Christ, to live as missionary disciples, and to develop active leadership skills in their parishes.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the mission of The Spark?** Our mission is to form young Catholic missionary disciples in prayer, wisdom, and leadership. The end goals for the year include serving at the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally as part of the God Squad and equipping students to go out and be missionary disciples in their parish community.
- 2. Are you getting rid of God Squad?** Nope - we're growing and expanding it! The Spark Leadership Team is a year-long formation program. As part of this larger program, participants will serve on the God Squad at the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally. If you are interested in serving on the God Squad only, and not committing to the The Spark, please contact us.
- 3. Why is it called The Spark?** The origin of the name "The Spark" comes from Wisdom 3:7, "they shall shine and dart about as sparks through stubble", and from other images of fire and light in Sacred Scripture and quotes from the saints.
- 4. What is the purpose of a year long program?** The purpose of a year long program is to better equip young people to be missionary disciples and to participate actively in their parishes. All fruitful ministries involve taking time to grow and build relationships. A full year gives us the extra time to grow and be equip young leaders for a lifetime of service to the Kingdom of God.
- 5. How old do I have to be to participate?** You have to be a high school teen, ages 14-18.
- 6. What is the price?** The price is \$150 per person which includes formation materials, retreat, and t-shirt. If the price is not feasible for any reason, please contact us for financial aid. Money is due at the first formation session in November.
- 7. Can I help at the WI Catholic Youth Rally without doing the entire formation program?** Ideally, we'd like our entire "God Squad" to be a part of The Spark. If this is not feasible for you, please contact us so together we can discern how we can keep you involved in God Squad.

- 8. Is being a bubbly, loud, extrovert a prerequisite? Do I already have to be a leader in my parish?** Absolutely not! We understand that each person has a different temperament and are currently in varying levels of leadership. God created each of with a unique set of strengths and weaknesses, along with a call to use them for HIM. Throughout this year, we want to help you discover your gifts and your call. We want to challenge our participants to grow and try new things, but no one will be forced to do something they do not want to do. AKA - our parishes and our God Squad team need a variety of people, so whether you want to jump around on stage, give a testimony, organize ideas, or work behind the scenes, there is a place for you!
- 9. What is the time commitment?** The formation year is November to May, not including the application process and the fulfillment of action plans. There are six formation sessions total. Each session lasts two hours on one Sunday afternoon per month in exception for the overnight retreat in January. Assisting at the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally will take up one weekend in March and a possible additional meeting as needed. It is expected that participants are present at all formation sessions.
- 10. What topics will be addressed during the formation year?** The first half of the year is focused on the contemplative nature of a missionary disciple including prayer, Scripture, Eucharistic Adoration, and devotion to saints. The second half of the year is focused on the apostolic nature of a missionary disciple including relational ministry, servant leadership, and creating a ministry action plan.
- 11. Where are the formation sessions located?** Each formation session will be at Christ King Catholic Parish in Wauwatosa. The overnight retreat is at Holy Hill in Hubertus. The Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally is at Carroll University in Waukesha.
- 12. Who is leading this new program?** Corrie Christiaansen and Sarah Daszczuk and are the directors. Hannah Braun is the team captain and teen advisor. Also, other guest speakers, including members of the Arise Milwaukee team, will be involved at some of the formation sessions.
- 13. Is The Spark Leadership Team information found online?** Yes! Check us out at www.arisemke.org or www.wicatholicyr.org. Follow @arisemke on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
- 14. How do I apply?** Fill out the [online application](#) by August 31st.
- 15. Who do I contact if I have questions?** Contact Corrie at spark@arisemilwaukee.org.