



Penn Valley Youth Fundraising Overview and FAQ

As a family ministry, our mission is to come alongside parents in their task of passing the Christian faith on to the next generation. Part of the way we do this is through events which are both enjoyable for teens and have a spiritual goal. Some of these events, like Momentum and the Welcome Retreat, have a financial cost. Our commitment to helping families includes providing opportunities for students to fundraise to pay for their attendance at these events.

Every year, parents will be notified about youth fundraising opportunities. These include:

- Work weekends at Tuscarora Retreat Center
- Special events like “Sweet Beats” where donations are collected for volunteers
- Individual sale opportunities (e.g. Hoagie coupons, other food sales)

Students receive fundraising credit equivalent to the amount of money they have raised through these means. We keep track of each student’s fundraising credit for that year, and students can apply this credit toward the cost of any youth group events up to and including each year’s Youth Welcome Retreat which takes place in the Fall.

FAQ

How do I use my fundraising credit?

To apply credit from your fund just email Pastor Andrew (andrew.saunders@pennvalleychurch.org) with the name of the event and the amount you would like to apply. We will then transfer any necessary money from the church's account and deduct that amount from your student's fundraising account.

What can I use fundraising credit for?

You can apply your credit for any youth event which costs money to attend, up to and including the Welcome Retreat in the Fall. This means anything from the Momentum conference to a small Friday night activity with \$5 admission! You may also apply fundraising credit to Camp Conquest events because Camp Conquest is part of our church's extended network through its affiliation with Charis Fellowship.

How much do I have available?

You may email Andrew at any time to receive a current balance, and you are also encouraged to keep track of your student's available funds. Parents will receive balance statements periodically.

Does my fundraising credit expire? What happens to any remaining money left over after expiration?

Yes, any remaining credit in your student's fundraising account is expunged after the Welcome Retreat in the Fall. In other words, after the Welcome Retreat we begin a new fundraising year and all raised money remains in the church's bank account within the youth group budget. Any remaining credit is factored toward need-based financial aid for the Welcome Retreat, as well as the church's general cost for hosting this event.

Can I register and pay for an event, and be reimbursed from my fundraising account?

No. The church *cannot issue checks with fundraising money*. No exceptions can be made with regard to this policy. Please do not pay for anything toward which you intend to apply credit; we cannot reimburse you from your fundraising account. To apply funds please email Andrew with the desired event and amount.

How does our youth fundraising system work?

It is important to understand how our fundraising system works from a financial and tax perspective. When your student participates in youth group fundraising activities like Tuscarora work weekends, food sales, hoagie sales, or Sweet Beats, they are raising money *for the youth group*. As a church, we maintain a record of the money your student has raised within that fiscal year, and then apply a credit corresponding with that amount to the youth group events of your choice as a scholarship.

Can the church add some more fundraisers?

We are always open to fresh ideas and willing helpers! Talk to Andrew if you have some ideas or want to lead the youth in an opportunity to raise money; this ministry depends on volunteers to step up and make a difference! Also bear in mind that while we do our best to provide a variety of fundraising options, not every opportunity will be right for everyone. Families and students are encouraged to do their own private fundraising as needed; this can be anything from mowing yards to sending out fundraising letters. Talk to us if you need help or guidance!

Where does the money go after I have participated in fundraising activities?

When the raised money is received by the church it goes into the church's bank account. We keep track of the money your student has individually raised, and we maintain a record of that amount. This allows us to designate funds for your student's use which are equal to the amount they have raised. This process takes place through collaboration of staff.

Why can I not just receive a check with the money my child raises?

While this would be convenient, legally, fundraising cannot be perceived as the church rendering your student cash for services. Your student's fundraising work does not earn wages which are then owed to them by the church, and the church may not pay students or parents directly. Instead, the church is able to subsidize the cost of individual students' registration for events, because of their fundraising.

Why does my fundraising balance expire?

Bearing in mind that these are technically funds raised for the church, understand that we are necessarily operating within the constraints of the church's fiscal calendar. The funds your student has raised are only accounted for in the budget of the fiscal year in which they were raised, and we need to plan accordingly. This reality also encourages all students to participate in some fundraising activities every year, realizing that events like Tuscarora work weekends and Sweet Beats are times for fellowship and growth in addition to being money-raisers.

Can I donate money for a student to attend a youth event?

Yes! However please note that according to tax guidelines, if your donation is designated to an individual student, the church can not issue you a tax receipt for this amount as a charitable donation. If your donation is given generally (for example, you specify that it is given to help pay for the registration of students in need), then the church *is* able to issue you a tax receipt for that donation as charitable.