



## **WHAT IS SALT & LIGHT YOUTH MINISTRY?**

Youth ministry in the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America is an ongoing initiative to help youth ages thirteen through eighteen develop the moral and religious foundations to become followers of Christ and faithful Armenian Apostolic members of their communities.

The name of our groups, Salt & Light, refers to a passage from the Gospel of Matthew. As such, our aim is to help our youth become the very salt and light of their communities now and in all their future aspirations.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:13-16



## **A LOOK INSIDE OUR PROGRAM:**

Our youth groups utilize a small group format with multi media materials designed to help teens engage in contemporary topics from a Christ centered Armenian perspective.

By meeting in small, gender specific groups of five to ten peers, our young people develop authentic, long lasting trust with one another. In these small groups, led by adult mentors known as youth ministry facilitators, our young people are provided opportunities to participate in guided discussions and challenges that relate to their daily lives all while having a fun relaxed time of fellowship with friends.

The discussion topics, interactive activities, and overall methods have been thoroughly researched and designed to effectively engage our adolescents in the life of the Church. These materials have been specifically adapted to better reflect the eloquent expression of faith of the Armenian Apostolic Church while incorporating Armenian history and our beautiful traditions.



## **HOW DO TEENS BENEFIT FROM SALT & LIGHT?**

By participating in youth ministry, our young adults will develop the necessary tools to ground themselves in their faith and teachings of our Church. Our adolescents, equipped with these tools, can more easily navigate the demands of today’s culture and its many conflicting ideologies.

More than a program, the Salt & Light youth groups are an opportunity to explore ideas, values, and faith within the context of a supportive community of peers and adults. Youth ministry affords our teens the opportunity to develop their identities as Armenian Apostolic Christians and understand how their rich Armenian faith can equip them to address everyday choices and life situations.

Through this initiative, our prayer is that our youth may be reminded of their unique inheritance as children of God and that they may walk in this reality.



## **HOW CAN OUR CHURCH BENEFIT FROM YOUTH MINISTRY?**

Youth ministry is not just an activity for teenagers. By design, youth ministry is inter-generational. Mature adult women in the community mentor our young ladies while mature adult men in our communities mentor our young men. Adolescents draw on the experience and wisdom of their facilitators while the church community draws on the vitality and unencumbered vision of our teens.

By partnering with parents as their teens look to establish their independence, youth ministry facilitators help reinforce the authority of parents and strengthen the relationship they have with their teens and the values they strive to instill in them. Together our communities thrive as each member plays his or her part in the overall mission purpose of the Church.



# HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE YOUTH MINISTRY?



We invite you to join us! Encourage a teen to join your local Salt & Light group. Join your local youth ministry committee yourself. Let us collectively encourage our young adults as they grow in their faith and walk in the life of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

For further details, reach out to your local youth ministry coordinator or contact:

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