

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A YOUNG ADULT AT LOST AND FOUND

## → You're there for others!

If you attended Lost and Found as a youth, you know that many caring adults gave of their time and love to nurture you through formative years in the Christian Faith. Now it's your turn to give your all to a new generation of youth for this weekend! You will undoubtedly enjoy the company of others and the familiar feelings of joy in the event itself, but your primary purpose is to serve the participants who are there.

## → You serve as a model!

During the day, as a small group leader or assistant and someone not the age of participants' pastor or parents, you have a special kind of credibility for the participants, and you can show them that it's okay to be a person of faith even at their age, particularly by mingling with them at Large Group and meals. At night, if you're not being housed with your own congregation, you will be with one or two other college-age students in a cottage with a congregation and their leaders. You can help encourage them to take seriously the "Cabin Conversation" time and provide a good example of the kind of sharing that can go on there. Not all congregations do this, but many of you know how valuable it is, so we're counting on you to help make it happen! Naturally, all of the event expectations - attendance at all activities of the entire event, lights out time, substance restrictions - apply to you as well. Your example in that regard can be an important one! 🗣️ Please make a note on your event registration form if you have a preference for the congregation you would like to be housed with and if there's another group leader you would particularly like to work with!

## → Your own faith grows!

We have had countless stories from surprised young adults who find that the events mean even more to them now than when they were participants themselves! The experience of putting your faith into words for these young minds can be frightening and daunting, but also exhilarating, as you find yourself saying something that will truly make a difference in the life of another person. At the same time, there is an assurance that comes with telling your own faith story, as a way of saying to yourself as well as others, "Yes - I truly believe these things."

## → You visit with your friends!

Since most of you will not be there as advisors for a group of youth, you will have your Saturday free time truly free! We are going to set aside some space in the Voight Conference Center from 3:00-5:30 on Saturday as a "hospitality center" just for you, where you can come and catch up with your old friends, make new ones, and engage in some structured reflection on how all of this is affecting you faith-wise and other-wise! Snacks, of course. Someone will be there for about the first hour to host and help get you started in talking to one another about what it's like to be at Lost and Found now that you're out of high school.

## → Please note the additional comments on the back →→→→

**One expectation in particular needs to be emphasized:**

**All adults at youth events, including young adults who are not congregational advisors, are required to be in their own assigned cottages or living spaces as soon as the evening's activities have ended.**

**That means that on Friday and Saturday nights, as soon as the final large group gathering in Dogwood Auditorium is done, you must immediately go back to your assigned cottage unless you are engaged in a specific assignment from Synodical Director Dave Delaney.**

**There are a lot of good reasons why this is a good and helpful rule, but it is so strongly stressed here because of its role as one of the important published safety features of our events. Participants' parents and many others are counting on this guideline and others being followed to give them confidence about Lost and Found as a safe place for their children.**

**Please encourage your friends to be aware of this important point, and thank you again very much for answering this important call to service.**

**You are evidence of the Spirit's work in the Virginia Synod!**