

Dear Youth Director,

My name is Karen Hall Blackburn. I am the District Youth Coordinator for the Northwest District. I look forward to working with each and every one of you this year as we continue to build the Northwest District Council on Youth Ministries (NWDCYM).

The NWDCYM has gone thru many ups and downs in the past few years and at times struggled even to exist. The current officers and I are out to change that and make the Northwest District into the best district it can be. This is going to be a long road and take a lot of work, but it is possible and we believe that we as a district can pull together and accomplish this. This is the beginning of the second year of our rebuild and so far I think we are on the right track.

The 2011-2012 DCYM Council was selected by a screening process. However not all of the positions have been filled. We will be having a movie night event on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Oakley Chapel UMC in Rogers from 3pm-6pm. During this event we will hold screening for the remaining two executive offices. Those interested will need to fill out the application packet and bring it with them to the event. The application packet consists of 3 parts: Application Page, Reference Page and a Contract Page. All responsibilities and expectations are laid out in the Contract for both District Council and Conference Council member. The Application packet will also be available on our website at [www.nwdist.org](http://www.nwdist.org).

There are five positions available on executive council. These positions are as follows: President, Vice-President, YSF Rep, Chaplin and Secretary (Descriptions of each office can be found on the back of this letter). Two of these positions are available for the 2011-12 year. Any youth interested in holding one of these offices on executive council next year will need to come to Movie Night on September 11, 2011 to meet one-on-one with the current executive council members. The youth MUST be present at this event to qualify for the office. The three positions that have been filled are President (Jamie Gurwell, Oakley Chapel UMC, Rogers), Vice President (Seth Orr, Oakley Chapel UMC, Rogers) and YSF Representative (Henry Darnell, Sequoyah UMC, Fayetteville). Both Secretary and Chaplin are available to any youth in the Northwest District that qualifies.

As a youth director please give your youth the opportunity to serve in this capacity. In fact encourage them. I was raised in the Northwest District and would have loved to serve on NWDCYM as a youth, but my youth director either didn't know about it or just never presented the opportunity to us. I believe as youth directors it is our job to provide opportunities for our youth to grow by serving in a leadership role on all levels of the connectional system (local Church, District Council, Conference Council and Jurisdictional Council).

As part of our rebuild, I will be contacting each church in the district to set up a time for me and one of the current council members to come visit the youth program about ways to be involved in NWDCYM and ACCYM. I look forward to getting to visit and talk with each of you in the following weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions about NWDCYM, your church visit, the screening process for executive council or questions about ACCYM please feel free to contact me. You can find me on Facebook (under my name) or Northwest District Council on Youth Ministries Page email me at [nwdcym@gmail.com](mailto:nwdcym@gmail.com), or call me on my cell phone 479-619-8010.

Again I look forward to working with you and your youth!

In Christ,

*Karen J. Hall Blackburn*

Karen Hall Blackburn  
Northwest District Youth Coordinator

# Descriptions of Executive Council Officers

## President:

- Head of the NWDCYM, Schedules, plans and leads NWDCYM meetings
- Works closely with District Coordinator and other NWDCYM executive officers to plan events
- Automatically elected to the ACCYM
- Will serve on a taskforce to help plan ACCYM events
- Serves on the District Leadership team
- Attends Annual Conference (if possible)
- Must attend ACCYM and NWDCYM meeting and events
- Must be going into the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

## Vice President:

- Leads NWDCYM in the event that the President is unavailable
- Serves as the YEA (Youth Empowerment Advocate) for NWDCYM
- Elected to represent the NWDCYM in the ACCYM
- Will serve on a taskforce to help plan ACCYM events
- Must attend ACCYM and NWDCYM meeting and events
- Must be going into the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

## YSF Rep:

- In charge of the Youth Service Fund for the NW District
- Plans fundraisers for YSF at NWDCYM events
- Elected to represent the NWDCYM in the ACCYM
- Elected to ACCYM to serve on the YSF taskforce
- Will serve on a taskforce and helps plan ACCYM
- Must attend NWDCYM and ACCYM meetings and events,
- Must be going into 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

## Chaplain:

- Leads a short devotional at NWDCYM meetings, leads group in prayer
- Elected to represent the NWDCYM in the ACCYM
- Will serve on a taskforce to help plan ACCYM events
- Must attend ACCYM and NWDCYM meeting and events
- Must be going into the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

## Secretary:

- Gathers and distributes minutes,
- Sends out reminders for meetings
- Sends out flyers for events
- Helps keep up with NWDCYM facebook page and website.
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**There is NO screening process to just be involved in NWDCYM as a member. Each church elects two voting representatives to serve on NWDCYM. They must be in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12 grades to be a representative. However anyone in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade may attend the meetings. If your youth director cannot come you can bring a committed adult volunteer.**

# District and Conference Information Sheet

## How YOU can help in the district

Bring Youth to DCYM Meetings and Events

Volunteer as a Youth Leader to help with DCYM Events

Become a "Resource" Adult for NWDCYM/CCYM (stipulation on this)

Help 2 youth from your church make it to DCYM Meetings

Host an event or meeting at your church

If you are interested in helping in any way, please come talk to me (Karen)

## NWDCYM Contact Information

**Karen Hall Blackburn** serves as the district youth coordinator. Contact her:

**By E-Mail** – [nwdycm@gmail.com](mailto:nwdycm@gmail.com) or [khall@nwacs.org](mailto:khall@nwacs.org)

**On Facebook** – Karen Hall Blackburn or Northwest District Council on Youth Ministries Page

**Online at:** <http://www.nwdist.org>

## ACCYM 2011-2012 DATES

**Here are the dates and locations for our major events, please mark your calendar so you can attend.**

**Refuge** – November 4-6, 2011 – Camp Wydlewood, Searcy

**Mitto (NEW MISSION CAMP)** – December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – January 1, 2012, Little Rock Area

**Veritas** – February 24-26, 2012 – John Q. Hammonds Convention Center, Rogers

**Choir Tour** – June 24-July 1, 2012- Various AR churches

**Jr. High Assembly** – July 22-26, 2012 – University of the Ozarks, Clarksville

**Sr. High Assembly** – July 22-26, 2012 – University of the Ozarks, Clarksville

**Methodist Family Health Big Dam Bridge Walk and Youth Service Fund Wild River Country Lock-in** – August 3, 2012

## Looking for information about conference events?

**Website** - [www.accym.org](http://www.accym.org)

**CCYM Coordinator:** Michelle Moore - [mmoore@conwayfumc.org](mailto:mmoore@conwayfumc.org)

**Minister of Youth and Young Adults** –

Rod Hocott 501.324.8008 or 877.646.1816 (Toll-free) [rhocott@arumc.org](mailto:rhocott@arumc.org)