

A Letter to Families, Pastors, Youth Leaders and Congregations of Youth

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you regarding a new program that is being launched to support our Juniors and Seniors in high school who sense that God is wanting to use them to impact their world, both now as students and as they prepare their lives to live out their calling and passion. Our young people often respond to God's leading and guiding in their homes, local churches, at youth camp or convention, camp meeting, IYC, or NIYC. But there has not been a continuous, systematic, national/international, and seamless way to nurture that calling and development.

Now all four of our Church of God universities and seminary, in collaboration with IYC, NIYC, and the Hispanic Council (*Concilio Hispano*) have worked together to offer an amazing opportunity for our young people. Our desire, and the birth of Student Leadership Focus, is to join you as pastors, youth leaders, congregations, state ministries, and families by walking with you in investing in that calling and by providing a thoughtful and meaningful network of support, encouragement, and nurture as they explore God's call on their life.

Student Leadership Focus will connect students on a weekly basis with other Juniors and Seniors in high school from across the nation and even around the world.

- They will be part of whole group webinars.
- They will be assigned to a small group cluster with a cluster coach.
- All meetings take place online for 30 to 40 minutes, every other week.
- Social media will provide a place for weekly forums and discussions, prayer support, and encouragement.

SLF will have a Fall Semester that focuses on exploring **my "Calling" and my "identity in Christ."**

J-Term will be an amazing brief, but vital journey talking about what we believe and why, in a culture that isn't sure what to believe anymore. **Legacy Foundations Laid Solid.**

The Spring Semester will give attention to discovering who God has hardwired us to be and how to grow in that relationship and calling as we experience **Spiritual Formation and Gifting.**

All four of our universities are partners in this endeavor. They have agreed to provide to each student a \$1,000 scholarship per year for each year they complete Student Leadership Focus.

SO, HOW CAN YOU HELP? The cost for each student to attend a full year of SLF is \$500. We are encouraging churches and state ministries to offer their student a scholarship of \$250 to \$300. We are asking parents/grandparents and guardians to assist with a portion of that \$500. And we are asking each student to be responsible to provide at least \$100 of that fee. All other costs will be covered. Consider it an investment that will double when they attend one of our universities and will multiply as our students fulfill God's call on their lives.

If you have questions or if we can serve you in any way, please contact

Paula Walford at PWalford@chog.org or 800-848-2464, ext. 2111

or

Jeannette Flynn at JFlynn@chog.org or 407-451-9886.

First, we want to simply tell you how excited we are that you have sensed a call of God upon your life to ministry and/or missions. Our desire, and the birth of Student Leadership Focus, is to join your pastors, your congregation, and your family in walking with you in that calling, celebrating that calling and providing a thoughtful and meaningful network of support, encouragement, and nurture as you explore God's call on your life.

Student Leadership Focus will connect you on a weekly basis with other Juniors and Seniors in high school from across the nation, and even around the world.

- You will be part of whole group webinars;
- You will be assigned to a small group cluster that will meet with a cluster coach;
- All meetings take place online for 30 minutes every other week;
- And, you will be given access to a private Facebook group where weekly activities and postings will take place.

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Your participation in SLF is a commitment to authentically give time and attention to exploring and pursuing your relationship with Jesus Christ and the call that you sense God has on your life.

All four of our Universities:

Anderson University—Anderson, Indiana,
Mid-America Christian University—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
Warner Pacific University—Portland, Oregon, and
Warner University—Lake Wales, Florida,

are partners in this endeavor. The \$500 that you invest in SLF has the possibility of becoming \$1,000 as you attend one of these Universities.

Student Leadership Focus is also linked with the credentialing process for the Church of God. Your participation in SLF through high school, and even through college, begins to provide you with credit toward the goal of ordination. Our seminary, Anderson School of Theology, will offer you the privilege of completing the Leadership Focus credentialing process at no additional cost while you are earning your master's degree.

We are here to serve you and help you discover and excel in your call to serve the Most High God.

For more information, please contact
Paula Walford at PWalford@chog.org or 800-848-2464, ext. 2111
or
Jeannette Flynn at JFlynn@chog.org or 407-451-9886.

Student Leadership Focus application process

What you need to do:

- Fill out the application form.
- Write a clear, concise one-page testimony of your salvation experience and your call to ministry.
- Have your pastor or youth leader write a brief letter of recommendation and support for your being part of SLF.
- Pay the application and SLF fee of \$500 for the year. We are encouraging your church and family to assist in this fee, but asking the student themselves to contribute a minimum of \$100.
- Checks and money orders can be made payable to Church of God Ministries, **BUT be sure you write STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOCUS in the memo line.** For credit card payment please contact: Jamil Al-Rabadi at JAI-rabadi@chog.org or 800-848-2464, ext. 2139.
- Send all the above items to **Student Leadership Focus, PO 2420, Anderson, IN 46018.**
- You may also download this application packet at chogyouth.org

Deadline: August 15, 2018

What to expect:

Fall Semester

- Beginning in August, you will be assigned to a small cluster of other SLF members and a coach. You will stay with that cluster and coach for the school year.
- You will also receive a syllabus for the SLF course for September through December semester.
- You will attend a whole group webinar meeting in late August. That will launch the SLF experience.
- You will meet with your cluster every other week in September through November. Your coach will coordinate with your cluster a convenient time that you agree to meet for 40 minutes.
- On alternate weeks, you will have an assignment to read, or watch, or answer a question on our SLF Facebook page.
- At the beginning of December, you will attend a whole group webinar as the conclusion to the Fall Semester.
- You will have a break from meetings and assignments for the last half of December.

J-Term

- In December, you will receive a syllabus for J-Term and for the Spring Semester. In January, we will meet each week for 30 minutes. You will participate in a whole group webinar the first and fourth weeks of January, and you will meet with your cluster the second and third weeks of January.

Spring Semester

- In February, we will follow the same pattern for our spring semester as we did for the Fall Semester.
- The final webinar for the Spring Semester will take place during the first two weeks of May.

What happens after one year with SLF:

- If you are a junior in high school, you may want to continue and take a second year of SLF.
- If you are a senior, you will be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship to any of our four Church of God universities.
- If you are a junior, and continue in SLF for a second year, you will be eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship to any of our Church of God universities.



**STUDENT
LEADERSHIP
FOCUS**
EQUIPPING | COACHING | CREDENTIALING

Application Form

1. Name:
2. Contact Address:
3. E-mail:
4. Cell Phone: Home Phone:
5. Date of Birth:
6. Name of High School:
7. Grade Level:
8. Youth Leader Name:
9. Senior Pastor Name:
10. Home Church Mailing Address:

I, _____ covenant and commit to fully participate in Student Leadership Focus for the 2018–2019 school year. I will attend and participate in all cluster meetings, webinars, and fulfill other SLF assignments. I understand that this will require me to set time aside on a weekly basis to participate with my cluster and to engage in the assigned learning activities. I will continue to pray and seek God’s guidance in fulfilling his call on my life.

(student name – signature)

(date)

I, _____ give my consent and full support for _____ to fully participate in Student Leadership Focus. I will support their participation in the cluster meetings, webinars, and SLF assignments.

(parent/guardian name—signature)

(date)