

Youth Leadership Team Report

Arizona Mission Center – September 2024 – August 2025

In the spirit of community and connection, our Youth Leadership Team continues to focus on creating spaces where our young people — and their families — can grow in faith, friendship, and fun. It's been a year full of laughter, learning, and a few challenges along the way, but above all, we are grateful for the joy that comes from journeying together.

This past year, we were blessed to partner closely with the Invitational Ministries Team to help promote and participate in several all-ages Mission Center gatherings. Events such as Creepy Campground in October 2024 (86 participants), Hot Air Balloons in January 2025 (34 participants), and Eggapalooza in April 2025 (56 participants) brought together families, friends, and new faces from across Arizona. These weekends reminded us that youth ministry doesn't just happen in isolated spaces — it flourishes when generations come together in shared experiences of joy, service, and invitation. In 2026, the youth ministry team plans to continue to work closely with the Invitational Ministries Team to promote all age family events and ensure youth are welcomed to these fun events and invited to all other events hosted by our mission center. It is important to keep in touch with all families throughout the year. Additionally, we hope that as youth age out of the under 18 age group, they can be incorporated into the young adult ministries with ease and by partnering with the Invitational Ministries Team we believe this is possible.

Our youth-only camps also provided incredible opportunities for spiritual growth and leadership development. We were excited to collaborate with several neighboring Mission Centers to make these events possible. Junior Camp (18 campers) and Junior High/Senior High Camp (35 campers) were offered in partnership with Pacific Southwest International (PSI), Rio Grande, and Rocky Mountains Mission Centers, giving our youth a broader community of peers and leaders to learn alongside. SPEC (7 campers from AZ), as always, was held in collaboration with PSI and Sierra Pacific (SPMC) forming "Calizonia", and Zion Camping Trip was another wonderful joint event with PSI and SPMC. This year the Junior Camp and Junior High/Senior High Camp were both hosted at Whispering Pines. These shared experiences remind us that the Spirit knows no boundaries — our youth thrive when they connect with others across the wider church. The plan is to continue to collaborate with multiple mission centers in the future for youth activities. Next year's Junior High/Senior High Camp will be held at Buckhorn with all mission centers planning to send youth again.

Additional activities hosted by the Youth Leadership Team included Waterpark Day in September 2024 (27 participants), Mission Center Conference Sharing in November 2024 (20 participants), Show Low Retreat in May 2025 (4 participants) and Aloha Retreat (18 participants).

While some events this year — such as the February Youth Retreat and March Tucson Retreat — were cancelled due to logistical challenges, these pauses gave us time to reflect and reimagine how best to meet the needs of our youth and families in the future. We still hope to host at least one event a month in 2026 that our youth can attend to find connections and safe space. Please look out for the schedule to be released soon!

We are so thankful for the directors, counselors, parents, and volunteers from every congregation who pour their hearts into this ministry. Your creativity, dedication, and love make all the difference. We hope to continue growing our volunteer base in 2026 so please let the Youth Leadership Team know if you would like to be involved somehow and we will find you an appropriate role or reach out to you when there are additional needs!

Looking forward, our Youth Leadership Team is eager to continue building on our strong partnerships — both within Arizona and across neighboring Mission Centers. Together, we're developing new ways to bring families and youth together through monthly activities centered on community, invitation, and faith.

We are proud of the progress made this year and grateful for the continued financial support and spiritual support through prayers of our Mission Center youth and youth volunteers.

Submitted by the Youth Leadership Team

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