**Michigan District Celebrate Life 2024 Informational Packet**

**WHAT IS CELEBRATE LIFE?**

Celebrate Life is a youth event designed for the purpose of encouraging the development and abilities of the youth of the Central Field for ministry in the name of Christ Jesus. Also, Celebrate Life encourages the relationship between the Central Field Nazarene Youth International (NYI) and Olivet Nazarene University. During the Field event in May, students will stay in campus housing at ONU, play on college courts and stages, participate in worship services with other teens from across the Midwest, and enjoy a few days of campus life!

**WHEN AND WHERE IS CELEBRATE LIFE?**

Celebrate Life takes place at District and Field levels. District Celebrate Life events occur once per year in various venues throughout the Olivet Nazarene University educational region, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. It is at the District event that a student may qualify to participate in the Field Celebrate Life event. **Our Michigan District Celebrate Life event is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024 at Lansing South Church of the Nazarene. Registration will open at 9:00am with the Opening Ceremony beginning promptly at 10:00am. The Closing Ceremony will begin at 5:00pm. The cost is $25 per student and $15 per adult sponsor and includes event registration and lunch.**

The Field Celebrate Life event is held once per year in May on the campus of Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. **Celebrate Life at ONU is scheduled for May 16-18, 2024. The cost is $135 per student and adult sponsor and includes event registration, housing for two nights, six meals, and an exclusive Michigan District Celebrate Life t-shirt. More information will be provided following the annual Celebrate Life meeting in February 2024.**

**WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATE LIFE?**

Celebrate Life is not specifically designed for outreach but is intended primarily for students already involved in a church’s youth ministry. There are age requirements for the District and Field Celebrate Life events. **All participants (and spectators) must be in the 6th-12th grade by the time of the Field event in May to participate in any form of competition on the District or Field level.****To participate in Art, Communications, and Music at the Field level, students must receive an Excellent or Superior grade at the District level; and to participate in a sporting event, students must try out and be selected for the team.** For certain events, students in 7th and 8th grades are considered Early Youth, and students in 9th through 12th grades are considered Senior Youth. Each participant should be an active member/participant in the Nazarene Church District he or she represents. Each District President and Celebrate Life Director is responsible for who may or may not participate in Celebrate Life.

**WHY PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATE LIFE?**

Celebrate Life gives students the opportunity to have the time of their lives with friends; compete in an activity, sport, or talent they enjoy and in which they excel; experience a world-class college campus; make memories that will last a lifetime; and experience the goodness, love, worship, and peace of God in life-changing ways!

**WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT CELEBRATE LIFE?**

Celebrate Life is jam-packed with over 40 activities, giving teens from across the Central Field the opportunity to showcase their talents for Christ. Activities include Arts (Creative Writing, Drawing, Painting, Sculpture and Craft, Still Photography, and Video Editing), Communications (Bible Exposition, Dance, Drama, and Speech), Music (Instrumental, Keyboard, Praise Band, Rap, and Vocal), Bible Quizzing, and Sports (5K Run, Basketball, Chess, Dodgeball, Free Throw, Hot Shot, Soccer, Table Tennis, Tennis, and Volleyball—please note that Bowling, Mixed Doubles Table Tennis, and Mixed Doubles Tennis are no longer offered at Celebrate Life. **Please also note that students can participate in only one team sport (Basketball, Dodgeball, Soccer, Volleyball). If students try out for more than one team sport at the District event, they will be asked to choose the team sport in which they wish to participate.** For rules, rubrics, and score sheets for each activity, and to watch a promotional video from last year’s Field event, please visit <https://celebratelife.olivet.edu>.

**HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CELEBRATE LIFE?**

The process for registering for Celebrate Life has been simplified! (And all God’s youth workers said, “Amen!”) Each parent will complete the registration online by using a unique Michigan District link that ONU plans to make available on November 1,2023. Online registration is comprehensive and now allows for parent’s signatures, which means that physical forms no longer need to be collected and mailed. **Online registration must be completed by Friday, January 5, 2024. Late registrations will not be accepted after Monday, January 12, 2024.**

**HAVE QUESTIONS?**

As I tell me congregation repeatedly, wisdom requires that we ask more questions and make fewer assumptions. If you have any questions concerning Celebrate Life 2024, please do not hesitate to ask! And please do not assume that you are inconveniencing me by doing so! I would rather answer hundreds of questions *before* the District event to ensure that we are on the same page than to discover otherwise on the day of the event!

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