

ACC Fall Youth Retreat  
September 6-8, 2019  
Refreshing Mountain Camp, Stevens PA



## Details for Fall Retreat 2019

### Resource & Spiritual Theme:

For the last four years, our national discourse has been centered around the idea of building walls. We have looked to walls to make us feel safe, and to protect our identity from those we deem the “outsider.” On a personal level we too have constructed walls that identify people as part of the in or out group. We have built up walls out of our own selfishness or indifference so that we can disengage from the pain and struggle of others in schools, home towns and faith communities. For three days, we will explore ways that we can open doors to the walls we have constructed by exploring bias, and reclaiming the Gospel call to love the stranger in our midst.



Our resource speaker this year will be Heather Gordon, director of Denver DOOR, and two youth assistants, Natali Martinez and Nicholas Gordon.

Heather Gordon is a campus minister and theology teacher at St. Mary's Academy in Denver. She is passionate about harnessing the potential of young people to bring about social change. Through her work with DOOR Denver, Heather tries to be a conduit between the participants and many amazing people and agencies who are laboring in the vineyard for peace and justice.

Heather was born and raised in New England, and through schooling, a year of service, and family has lived in Shreveport, Baltimore, Saint Louis, Chicago, and now Denver. Having spent her adolescence in rural America and adult years in urban settings, Heather feels that she can be a bridge between the two worlds. Heather has an MA in Systematic Theology from The Aquinas Institute of Theology. She has spent the past 20 years working with young people through youth ministry and education. For the past 12 years, her focus has been on service learning and developing young leaders.

Natali Martinez has grown up in Denver, CO's Whittier community and is a member of the 2020 class of Manual High School. Natali has been a Discerner with DOOR Denver for two summers, and is passionate about medicine, service and learning about racial identity. In addition to DOOR, Natali participates in Manual's one-year internship medical program, FACES. Natali also participates in student leadership, volleyball, and Project Voyce a program which helps youth talk about issues that need to be addressed. She is excited to be with you for this youth retreat.

Nicholas Gordon grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and now lives in Aurora, CO. He is member of the 2023 class of Eagle Crest High School where he is a member of AVID and a STEM student. This is his second year as a Discerner and loves volunteering with Metro Caring a food access center. His free time is spent swimming and gaming.

The ACC Youth Committee is excited that Heather, Natali, and Nicholas are available to share with us, and believe this retreat will be a wonderful time for youth and leaders.

Cost: \$115 per person - youth and leaders.

Forms:

1. *Registration Form*: submit to the ACC office with payment **by August 23rd**
2. *Activities Release & Waiver Form*: Camp requires this form to use the facilities. Should be handed in for each youth at registration on Friday night.
3. *Medical Release Form*: To be kept with youth leaders in the event that one of your youth would require medical assistance during the weekend. This is a template for you to use.
4. *Congregational Youth Event Verification form*: must be signed by youth leader/chaperones after the necessary clearances have been filed with the church. Should be handed in by registration on Friday night. Please fill this out completely!
5. *Youth Events Volunteer Covenant*: To be signed by a congregational representative after the necessary clearances for each youth leader attending the Fall Retreat have been filed with the church. Must be submitted to ACC Office prior to the retreat.

For facility information, a view of the camp and directions visit [www.refreshingmountain.com](http://www.refreshingmountain.com)

Weekend Schedule:

Please arrive between 7:00-8:45 pm Friday evening. Our first worship session will be held at 9 pm. The weekend will conclude Sunday at 11:30 am after our last worship session. The final meal is Sunday morning breakfast. A final schedule will be available at registration Friday night. A "draft copy" is attached.

Weekend Features:

- Daily Worship & Resource times
- Ice Cream Social
- Friday evening meeting with youth leaders immediately following campfire
- Elevated obstacle course
- Zipline and Climbing Wall at night
- Late night open gym times
- Sunday morning youth leader meeting during breakfast
- Saturday evening Coffee house/talent show will be combined with our snack time. **Please talk to your youth now and encourage them to participate!**

What to Bring:

--Bibles  
--bedding (sleeping bag or sheets/blanket)  
--pillow  
--swimsuit (modest one-piece)  
--flashlight  
--washcloth, towel, toiletries  
--closed-toed shoes for high ropes activities

--**Medical Release Forms**  
--**Activities Release & Waiver Forms**  
--**Volunteer Covenant Form** (leaders)  
--Each youth group should bring s'mores ingredients for Friday night and snacks & drinks to share for Saturday night

Registration deadline: August 23

*Our ACC Youth Committee hopes that you will attend. We thank you for loving youth and giving so freely of your time to encourage them in life. Pray for this event; that those who attend will be encouraged, challenged, and inspired to commit to/continue the "journey of faith in Jesus."*



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***Please pray for our time together!***