

Christian Youth In Action®

Parent's Guide



A Ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship of Indiana, Inc.*

Evansville Area Chapter



Since 1937

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Reaching children worldwide™

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Dear parent(s),

It is certainly no secret to you that we live in a world that is constantly and aggressively vying for your young person's energy, time, and will.

While there are a staggering number of options for the young person/people in your household to spend their summer, one must wonder which one(s) will truly change your teen for the better? What will help your teen grow in their **relationship with God** without sacrificing practical skills development that will help them beyond this summer? Which time investments will bring about a return with **eternal value**?

I invite you personally to prayerfully consider the exciting missions opportunity available for your teen through Child Evangelism Fellowship's *Christian Youth In Action*® (CYLA™) program. This resource is designed to be your help to develop Godly traits in the teens and young adults that God has entrusted to your care.

Through the disciplines of the training, the rewarding challenge of basic support-raising, the excitement of the hands-on ministry experience, and the beautiful dependence upon prayer without ceasing, young people learn through this unique missions experience to embrace and discover God's incredible design for *their* lives, *their* ministry, and *their* personal relationship with Him.

I am praying that God will make His will for you and your teen this summer beautifully evident as you seek to serve and honor Him!

Amelia Armstrong
Local Director
CEF of Indiana, Evansville Area Chapter

Let's talk about...

Child Evangelism Fellowship® (CEF)



What: *Child Evangelism Fellowship®* an international, Bible-centered organization comprised of born-again believers whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in the local Church.

When: *CEF* began in Chicago, IL, USA in 1937 and has since served in nearly every country on earth reaching children with the gospel.

Why: *CEF* serves to fulfill the Great Commission as the Church's tool and the believer's best resource bringing the good news of the gospel to **every child**, in **every nation**, **every day**.

Local Ministry

CEF serves on a local regional level by chapters (areas determined by county and/or city limits) grouped by state in the US. ***CEF of Indiana, Evansville Area Chapter*** serves the greater Evansville area in Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties.

Learn more about CEF of Evansville at cefevansville.online.

CEF Ministries

CEF serves to equip the Church through stellar curriculum, practical training, and timeless children's ministry programs all designed to develop new child evangelism and growth opportunities, sharpen and expand existing children's ministry, and otherwise equip believers to share the gospel with **anyone** with effectiveness, efficiency, and excellence.



CEF Press, the curriculum printing and publishing ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship* has served since 1945. With humble beginnings in simple flannelgraph lessons, *CEF Press* consistently provides practical teacher-friendly resources for Biblical children's teaching and evangelism with beautifully illustrated lesson materials, visuals, children's tracts, missionary stories, and more!

Good News Club® is an exciting ministry that takes place over the school year. Children gather weekly to hear engaging Bible Lessons and missionary stories, enjoy meaningful songs and games, and learn life-changing memory verses. Clubs are taught by *CEF* trained volunteers and are often held on public school grounds or at local churches.



CEF's **Summer Ministries** include a host of thrilling outreach opportunities through local **5-Day Club®**, **Christian Youth In Action®**, and **Camp Good News®** ministries.



Let's talk about...

Christian Youth In Action[®] (CYIA[™])



What: *CYLA* is a unique short-term summer missions program specifically designed for junior high and high school-aged students and young adults.

When: *CYLA* has been held every summer all over the United States and beyond since 1971. In the Evansville Area Chapter, the program lasts for 6 consecutive weeks.

Why: *CYLA* participants learn to share the gospel boldly and effectively with children by conducting 5-Day Clubs and other children's outreaches in the greater Evansville area of southern Indiana.

Through this ministry, Christian youth are equipped to jumpstart their personal ministry and service to Christ in a life-long outreach that starts in their own community.



Who can participate in CYIA?

Christians age 14 and older may apply for full training responsibilities as Summer Missionaries (SMs). Those 15+ may choose to either raise support to earn wages over the summer or volunteer. SMs are trained in all *5-Day Club* components.

Christians ages 12-13 may apply as Missionary Assistants (MAs) who receive most of the regular training responsibilities and serve as volunteers. MAs are trained to assist in most club components except in teaching the Bible Lesson and Counselling the children for salvation and other needs.

What do *CYIA* students do all summer?

CYLA begins with several weeks of intensive group and individual training. From how to hold and handle flashcard visuals to the finer points of preparing an evangelistic Bible Lesson or Missionary Story, *CYLA*ers are fully equipped for ministry!

After training, *CYLA* participants work in teams of 3-5 (with adult supervision) to hold 5-Day Clubs each week (Monday-Friday) within the chapter ministry area as scheduled by the local *CEF* chapter. Participants may also help with other *CEF*-coordinated outreaches (such as VBS, Fair Ministry, and/or *Camp Good News*) throughout summer as available.



How does support raising for CYIA work?

Just like real missionaries headed for the mission field, each *CYLA* participant is responsible for raising support to help cover

part of their training costs, materials, and salary (if not volunteering). Local *CEF* staff coaches and assists participants throughout the process of sending support letters to family and friends, thanking their supporters, and following up with a brief written ministry report at the end of summer.

Do all CYIA participants raise support?

It is requested that all *CYLA* participants raise a minimum of \$500 each. This is to ensure that the program costs incurred by the local chapter (which apply to all program participants) including training, travel expenses, teaching materials, and other provided resources are covered.

Participants age 15 and older (Summer Missionaries) may choose to earn a small salary* on a per-club service basis and will therefore be asked to raise additional support to help cover payroll costs.

**Wage rate information is given for acceptance in post-application interview.*

What about volunteer CYIA participants?

CYLA participation may be done on a volunteer basis, wherein eligible participants receive no salary/wages for the summer.

Any participant under the legal hiring age of 15 at the time of the 6-week program will participate on a strictly volunteer basis.

All Missionary Assistants (MAs) are considered volunteers regardless of age.

Summer Missionaries (SMs) being at least 15 years old at the time of the ministry program may choose **either** to volunteer or to participate for a modest salary/wage over the summer.

Where is **CYIA** training held?

Pre-training and Post-training weeks are held locally either at the local *CEF* office building or, if there are many participants, a relatively central church or other such available space.

The Main *CYIA* training is generally held on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana.

What is taught at **CYIA** training?

The main purpose of *CYIA* training is to prepare Christian young people for evangelistic ministry. For this reason, the following topics are covered in the training:

Pre-training (Week 1)

- The Wordless Book (how to use the colors and symbols with corresponding Bible passages to share the gospel)

CYIA Main training (Week 2)

- The importance of evangelizing children
- Using the Bible for an evangelistic children's lesson
- Teaching children: using a lesson text
- Teaching children: using/handling visual aids
- Preparing a fun and engaging Missions Story
- Memorably teaching a Memory Verse
- Holding meaningful song time
- Maintaining order and control in a children's class setting
- Conducting fun and appropriate game times for children
- Counseling children for salvation/other needs with the Bible



- Teamwork: How to hold a *5-Day Club*

Post-training (Week 3)

- Putting it all together: practicing each club element (individually and as a team)
- On-the-field missions: Conducting the first instructor-supervised 5-Day Clubs

Where do *CYLA* students teach over the summer?

The 5-Day Clubs and other outreaches conducted by *CYLA* student teams may be held potentially anywhere in the local *CEF* chapter area of service at churches, individual homes, parks, and other common/community spaces.



How is student transportation handled over the summer?

CYLA participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation (parents, carpooling, driving themselves, etc.) to local meetings such as pre- and post-training.

For the Main *CYLA* Training (held out-of-chapter), the local *CEF* office provides group transportation to and from campus.

During the summer ministry, arrangements may vary slightly based upon club location, *CYLAer's* address location, and whether participants yet have valid driver's licenses. *CEF* local staff (sometimes with the help of parents or other adult volunteers) will help coordinate participant transportation needs.

What is the *CYLA* summer schedule?

While the specific dates and times will change slightly from year to year, the general 6-week schedule* for *CYLA* (which usually begins within the first two weeks of June) is as follows:

Week 1: Pre-Training (may be held for 3-5 days)

Week 2: *CYLA* Main Training (may be held for 5-7 days)

Week 3: Post-training

Week 4-6: Summer Ministry (5-Day Clubs, etc.)

End-of Summer Wrap-Up and Testimony Party: held for the local ministry team as a final wrap-up/farewell time for celebration and testimonies from the summer (parents, families, and friends are also invited)

(Optional) Annual *CYLA* Praise Gathering: held by and hosted by the *CEF* State Office (Indianapolis) in early-mid August for all the current summer's *CYLA* students and staff

**Some specific dates, times, and other details may vary with each year.*

Check with your local CEF Chapter coordinator of summer ministries for all current details and changes.

Can a participant miss any part of the 6-week program and still participate?

While it is preferred that participants be available to serve for as much of the 6-week program period as possible, in the event of family commitments or other important responsibilities, some flexibility may be allowed.

All *CYLA* participants must be available to satisfactorily complete the *CYLA* training requirements before beginning the summer ministry.

Program applicants are asked to indicate any known summer commitments on the CYIA application. Any major schedule or time issues requiring special adjustment or exception may be discussed with local CEF chapter staff coordinating summer ministries. All local CYIA program acceptance, decisions, and exceptions are ultimately determined by the Local Chapter Director/Local Coordinator.

What responsibilities does a parent of a CYIA participant have?

As the parent(s) of a CYIA participant, your responsibilities are relatively minimal. Undoubtedly, the most important support you could give is to join us in prayer for your CYIA student and the summer ministry program.

While it is certainly not required, you are also more than welcome to participate in the summer ministry program by:

- hosting a *5-Day Club*,
- helping to transport/chauffer the summer ministry team or team members to training and/or club(s) as needed,
- hosting and/or helping provide food, games, etc. for the End-of Summer Wrap-Up and Testimony Party.

Contact your local chapter coordinator of summer ministry to get involved or for more participation suggestions, ideas, or needs that you can help with for the current summer.

Find the full CEF Statement of Faith and Child Protection Policy at cefevansville.online/about-us



CEF of Evansville

Chapter & Contact Information

Area of Service

Greater Evansville, Indiana Area: Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Pike,
Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties

CONTACT

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