

About the Armenian Church Youth Organization

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of the Western Diocese, **ACYO-WD**, was established in of 1949 in Fresno, California. Late Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan established the **ACYO** as a visionary foundation for all youth across the **United States of America** which has been enveloped into a long-lasting legacy. The children of Genocide survivors made every attempt to preserve their faith in their forefathers, their identity, their cultural heritage, and most importantly their faith. The **ACYO** was created to build strong and faithful Christian Armenian Americans who could grow within the Armenian Church and hold fast to the values of their people. This vision has been at the core of the **ACYO** for nearly four generations and has consistently been the instrument through which young men and women are trained to not only become faithful Armenian Orthodox Christians but the leaders of our Church and community.



Mission Statement

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of the Western Diocese of North America (**ACYO-WD**) actively integrates its members into the life of the church by providing opportunities for Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship in Christ according to the doctrines and traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

CYMA

The Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (**CYMA**) serves to unify and strengthen our Armenian community by establishing a bridge between the diaspora's youth and our homeland through participation in the social, religious, professional, and cultural life of Armenia.

If interested, be sure to follow us on social media!

Instagram: @cyma.wd
Facebook: Cyma WD



For more information and updates about future events, be sure to check out our website and follow us on these social media platforms!

Website: <https://www.acyowd.com>
Instagram: acyo_westerndiocese
Facebook: ACYO Western Diocese



ACYO-WD

Armenian Church Youth
Organization of the
Western Diocese



Frequently Asked Questions

What is ACYO-WD?

ACYO-WD stands for the Armenian Church Youth Organization of the Western Diocese.

ACYO-WD is dedicated to developing the Armenian Christian spirit in the young diasporan community.

How do I become an official ACYO member?

If you fall between the ages of 12 and 30, make sure to find your local parish to get in contact with the parish priest or the chairperson to receive updates on their upcoming events.

Once you join a parish, you will be asked to complete a membership form and pay our annual membership fee of \$10. If your parish does not have an ACYO, feel free to contact your Central Council to guide you with the steps needed to start your own ACYO chapter.

How can I get involved?

ACYO Central Council hosts multiple annual events that all members are welcome to attend.

Sports Weekend: A large-scale tournament, every Memorial Day Weekend, among ACYO chapters throughout the Western Diocese who compete in various sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, and more! To conclude the weekend, the winners of each chapter are presented with medals and trophies during an award ceremony to celebrate their success with their fellow peers.



Events

Junior and Senior Retreat: A spiritual weekend in the beautiful natural scenery of Hye Camp, dedicated to gathering our youth to take a moment to reflect, grow together in faith, build long-lasting friendships, and ultimately have fun! Junior Retreat is organized for youth ages 12-17 and is held in the spring, while Senior Retreat is organized for adults 18+ during the winter.



General Convention and Assembly: Our Convention is ACYO's official Annual Assembly, led by the spiritual guidance of our Primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, where our youth share their experiences, new ideas, and future events. Elections are held for the upcoming Central Council executive board, while the current Central Council navigates through the business sessions with chapter presentations, marketing tips, and diocesan programs offered to our youth.

For more information and updates about future events, be sure to check out our website and follow us on these social media platforms!

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Pillars We Stand By

Worship: ACYO celebrates our Christian heritage by participating in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays to strengthen our faith with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Events: Participating in Divine Liturgy, performing and attending vesper services, and community prayer.

Service: ACYO provides multitudinous opportunities to volunteer with peers during parish-hosted events and serving the less fortunate in our local communities and Motherland.

Events: Community service, volunteering at shelters, donating backpacks and school supplies to Armenia, helping out in local communities, and volunteering for major church events.



Education: ACYO deepens the knowledge of our faith, culture, history, and identity as young Christian Armenians in the diaspora by engaging in Divine Liturgy, spiritual retreats, conferences, and Bible studies.

Events: Bible studies, religious conferences, Armenian cultural lectures, debates, and discussions.

Fellowship: ACYO builds long-lasting friendships and organizes exhilarating events to create memories for young Armenians who share the same love for their Christian faith.

Events: Jeopardy and game nights, movie nights, hikes, lock-ins, bowling, barbecues, career fairs, and dances.