

**Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church**

# **GOYA HANDBOOK**

**2015-2016**

*“Let no man look down upon you because you are young,  
but be an example of the believers in word, deed,  
love, spirit, and purity”*

1 Timothy 4:12

## **GOYA Board 2015-2016**

*Under the Spiritual Guidance and Leadership  
of Father Paul Pappas*

President	Marielle Marlys
Vice President	Florentina Sergiou
Treasurer	Lauren Galazzo
Secretary	Elena Patestos
Board Member	Emilio Emnace
Board Member	Steven Floros
Board Member	Brendan Hudak
Board Member	Anna Scott
Board Member	Andreas Sergiou

## **Name:**

The name of this ministry is known as the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA).

## **Eligibility to Participate in the Saint Barbara GOYA**

Junior GOYA will consist of Orthodox youth in middle school (6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Senior GOYA will consist of Orthodox youth in high school (9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

No one may participate in GOYA if they have graduated high school or are no longer attending high school. Age/grade requirements for GOYA events at the Metropolis level (such as Olympics, sports leagues, etc.) will be followed without exception.

All GOYA participants must register by filling out the registration every year, and paying the required registration fee. A medical form also must be filled and signed by a parent or guardian. The families of GOYA participants must be stewards in good standing of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Toms River, NJ.

## **Ministry and Mission**

The Greek Orthodox Youth of America, or GOYA, is the ministry to teenagers. Since GOYA is a ministry, the orientation and implementation of the program should reflect the Greek Orthodox Christian Faith, Tradition and Life.

GOYA is a ministry to middle and high school grade Orthodox Christian teenagers. Teenagers should be in sixth through twelfth grades to participate. It is recommended that the GOYA ministry be divided into two distinct groups, the junior GOYA ministry and the high school GOYA ministry.

The mission and goal of the GOYA ministry is to lead our young people into experiencing the Holy Orthodox Faith. By developing a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and becoming active sacramental members of the living Church, our young people will be equipped with tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation.

The National Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries recommends that GOYA ministry be based on the following four characteristics: Worship (Liturgia), Fellowship (Koinonia), Service (Diakonia), and Witness (Martyria).

### **WORSHIP, (LITURGIA)**

*“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand” (Psalm 95:6-7).*

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that God reveals Himself through Holy Tradition and Scripture. Worship is the sacramental expression of these, and is thus a very important element in ministering to our young people. It is important for GOYANs to be active sacramental members of the Church.

GOYANs can participate in WORSHIP through:

- Private and Corporate Prayer
- Participation in the Divine Services and Sacraments of the Church (not just Sunday, but the entire cycle of worship)
- Prayer services at GOYA gatherings
- Prayer for those who are sick or in need
- Observance of the Church calendar, including the pre-scribed Feasts and Fasts
- Study of religious books and writings

## **FELLOWSHIP (KOINONIA)**

*“Behold how good and pleasing it is when brothers dwell in unity”* (Psalm 133).

Fellowship is the way Orthodox Christians integrate their faith with daily life. It is sacred when Orthodox Christians gather together in our Lord’s name. The relationship of the Holy Trinity is the perfect model of Fellowship. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share perfect communion and exist in perfect love. By gathering together in fellowship, and by experiencing this love, we emulate the relationship of the Trinity, and develop our life in Christ.

GOYANs can participate in FELLOWSHIP through:

- Camp and retreat programs, church sponsored athletic programs, ethnic dancing, etc.
- Pan-Orthodox seminars under the guidance of the priest
- Film, video and multimedia presentations and subsequent discussions
- Performance of religious productions (plays, musicals, role-playing, etc.)
- Day, overnight or weeklong outings
- Volunteerism at the parish level
- Group discussions on various contemporary issues (books, movies, music)
- Church Attendance

## **SERVICE (DIAKONIA)**

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve . . .”* (Mark 10:45).

Christ came to serve, not to be served. Young people are urged to do the same. Therefore, we can honor and glorify God by loving and serving humanity in His name. Young people should use their God-given charismata (gifts) to serve.

Young people serve God by serving the Church. For Orthodox Christians, service to God and community is the way of life, the way of living one’s faith. As Jesus Christ our Lord said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16). For this reason, service is an integral part of the Orthodox Christian’s life.

Often times, we look at our youth and wonder how we can help them. We need to inspire them into a life of service. The question must be asked, “How can our young people use their God-given gifts for service to the needy, service to those less fortunate?” How can they be part of the people who respond to our Lord’s call in Matthew 25:31-46, to feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit those in prison. This is the true meaning of service.

### **GOYANs can participate in Service through:**

- Local work projects to beautify and maintain the parish
- Outreach to the elderly, the sick, the shut-in's, etc.
- Support of missions abroad and at home
- Contributing to Archdiocesan, Diocesan, and parish ministries (St. Basil's Academy, St. Michael's, Hellenic College/Holy Cross, etc.)
- Volunteerism in a local soup kitchen for the day
- Participating in short-term mission trips
- Allow them to be personally creative and innovative

### **WITNESS (MARTYRIA)**

*"For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard"*  
(Acts 22:15).

Man is both a spiritual and physical being. The spiritual reality is not always expressed in the material world. In order to be true to oneself and to the Orthodox Christian Faith, young people should strive to exemplify faith. They must be a witness to their faith, offering a convincing word and verbal expression of this faith, to those they come in contact with.

### **GOYANs can participate in WITNESS through:**

- Attending spiritual classes and reading about the faith
- Sharing the faith with one another and with others outside the group
- Becoming ambassadors of Christ to people we come in contact with
- Inviting a non-Orthodox friend to a Church service or GOYA event
- Sponsor a booth at a local Church Festival or community event to share the Orthodox Faith
- Start a book of the month club with your Orthodox friends and invite non-Orthodox friends as well

### **Nominations and Elections**

The Goya Board consists of nine (9) positions, including (4) Executive Board positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All registered GOYANs are eligible to vote, provided that they meet the minimum required points according to the GOYA POINTS SYSTEM. Graduating seniors are not eligible to nominate or vote.

Board positions are limited to Senior GOYANs who have actively participated in Saint Barbara GOYA for at least one year, and who have accrued the required number of GOYA POINTS. The offices of President and Vice President are reserved for high school juniors or seniors.

Nominations are held annually at the May General Meeting. Nominations remain open for one week. GOYANs who have accepted nominations are required to provide a short biography.

Elections are held two weeks after the nomination meeting on a Sunday, directly after church. A past Advisor and/or an advisor whose child is not running should be asked to coordinate and run the nominations and elections.

## **Nominations and Elections (Cont'd)**

Once the Board is elected, they will meet and vote on the specific positions. No Board member will serve on the same position for more than a year unless no one is running for this position.

Board members are required to attend at least 6 of the 9 board meetings per year with exception of special circumstances submitted in writing and approved by the priest. If this requirement is not met, the board member is automatically removed from the Board and an alternate will be appointed by the priest.

## **Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members:**

### ***President***

The President presides at all meeting. The President creates an agenda with the other members of the board utilizing input from the Parish Priest and Advisors. The President should communicate regularly with the Advisors and the Parish Priest. The President should participate in the planning of events with any committees that are chaired. The President will attend and represent our church at the State Meetings.

### ***Vice President***

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve. The Vice President shall assist the President when called upon. They shall attend the State Meetings when the President cannot.

### ***Secretary***

The Secretary shall take minutes and record all business transacted at each meeting making sure that the minutes are complete. These minutes should be emailed to the appropriate participants. Board meeting minutes should be emailed to the board, the Parish Priest and the Advisors. General meeting minutes will be emailed to all GOYA participants. The Secretary shall attend the State Meeting when the President and Vice President cannot.

The Secretary will be responsible for reading all mail received for the Goya.

The Secretary will be responsible for the registration of all participants and ensuring that attendance is recorded for all meetings. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining a book for each meeting and each general meeting. It will be his/her responsibility to ensure in his/her absence that someone else on the board takes responsibility for the attendance.

### ***Treasurer***

The Treasurer receives all money of the organization and is responsible of maintaining accurate record of receipt of money for each event. He/she is responsible, along with an Advisor, for the deposition the money in the Saint Barbara GOYA bank account.

## **Duties & Responsibilities of an Advisor:**

Youth Advisors MUST meet all the requirements set the Archdiocese of the Greek Orthodox Church to be eligible.

### **An Advisor should:**

- ❖ Be a responsible, capable, honest and fair adult
- ❖ Set an example with his/her own behavior
- ❖ Enjoy spending time with young people
- ❖ Be responsible to, appointed and assigned by the Parish Priest
- ❖ Be a member In good standing within his/her own parish
- ❖ Be active in the sacramental life of the Church
- ❖ Understands and practices democracy and encourages leadership development in young adults.
- ❖ Required to pledge to uphold the teachings of the Orthodox Church.

## **Duties & Responsibilities of Advisor Assistants and Chaperones**

Must be an adult over the age of 21 and in good standing with Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Toms River, NJ. Chaperones must pass a background check.

### **Advisor Duties:**

- ❖ Oversee the health and welfare of ALL CHILDREN attending the event under the direction of the Advisor.
- ❖ NO smoking or drinking alcohol in front of the children.
- ❖ In case of a problem that came into the knowledge of the chaperone she/he must seek for an Advisor immediately.

## **GOYA Code of Conduct**

- ❖ Each GOYAN will come to GOYA Ministry activities with an open heart and mind, ready to have fun, learn, and grow in their faith.
- ❖ Each GOYAN will fully participate in the GOYA Ministry activities that he/she attends.
- ❖ Each GOYAN will treat the clergy, advisors, fellow participants, and visitors with love and respect.
- ❖ GOYANS will not bring tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, fireworks, or pornographic material to any GOYA Ministry event, and will not use them at any GOYA Ministry event. Each GOYAN understands that their parent will be notified, and they will be sent home at their parent's/guardian's expense if they fail to meet this expectation. In the event illegal drugs or weapons, law enforcement will also be contacted.
- ❖ Each GOYAN will wear appropriate clothing while at GOYA Ministry activities. No clothing worn by a GOYAN will exhibit vulgar, suggestive, gang related, or irreligious language or images. No clothing worn by a GOYAN will advertise or promote the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, weapons, or violence. Each GOYAN will wear clothing that covers their stomach and underwear. Each GOYAN will dress in a modest fashion and understand that the dress code will be enforced at the discretion of the Advisors.

## **GOYA Code of Conduct (Cont'd)**

- ❖ Each GOYAN will use appropriate language and will not curse, use obscene hand gestures, or participate in vulgar conversations. GOYANS will not harass Advisors, fellow participants, or visitors in any way.
- ❖ Each GOYAN will treat the property of others and the church with respect. Each GOYAN will understand that he/she will be held responsible to pay for any property he/she willfully or recklessly damages, destroys, or steals.
- ❖ Each GOYAN understands that for the safety and the safety of themselves and others, Advisors may search bags and belongings on GOYA Ministry excursions. The GOYAN will be present if their items are searched and will be advised as to why their belongings are being searched.

## **Parental Expectations**

- ❖ Parents need to take into consideration the amount of time and effort the Advisors put into the ministry to assure that our children are able to participate in every event scheduled on the State, District and Local levels.
- ❖ Parents need to understand that our youth are learning by our example and we should ALWAYS try to act accordingly.
- ❖ Parents need to contact the Priest or Advisors first if a situation needs discussion.
  
- ❖ **Parents should ensure that:**
  - They are aware of all events.
  - GOYANS are properly dressed for all events.
  - GOYANS are on time for all events.
  - GOYANS are picked up on time after every practice and/or event.
  - Money is paid for all events on time.
  - GOYANS are to attend monthly meetings and mandatory Events.
  - All concerns or suggestions should be put in writing and directed to the Priest.

## **GOYA POINTS SYSTEM**

In order to provide a well-balanced GOYA program, GOYAN are encouraged to participate in activities which represent each of the Four Circles of Youth Ministry (Worship, Witness, Service & Fellowship) as developed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. By diversifying their activities, GOYANs will gain an enhanced GOYA experience and will have more opportunities to learn and live the Orthodox Faith.

The GOYA POINTS SYSTEM provides each GOYAN the opportunity to “earn” points through participation in various activities. Activities will be assigned a point value, so that each GOYAN will have the ability to accumulate points throughout the year. A pre-determined number of points will be required to participate in certain GOYA events such as the Surprise Trip, Outdoor Olympics, and the Mission Trip. Points will also be used to determine which GOYANs will be eligible to serve on the GOYA Board for the following year.

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Introduction:**

The objective of the GOYA Athletic Program is to promote a Christ-centered experience. As a component of Youth Ministry, GOYA Athletic Programs introduce young people into a viable relationship with Christ and his Church. They foster knowledge of Christian values, fellowship and sportsmanship in conjunction with athleticism. By modeling Christian conduct, a coach, and athletic director and a parent can help GOYANS reflect on the action of God in the events of their lives. We are directed by St. Paul that “every athlete exercises self-control in all things” (1Corinthians 9:24). As such, all advisors, coaches, parents, youth workers and participants are subject to the By-Laws of the New Jersey Diocese Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, the Archdiocesan GOYA Guidelines and these Athletic Guideline and Regulations.

### **Goals:**

The Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) was founded as a religious movement for Greek Orthodox teenagers. The fundamental characteristics are Diakonia (Service), Martyria (Witness), Liturgia (Worship), and Koinonia (Fellowship). Youth Ministry is concerned with the Christ-centered experience of the total person. Therefore, athletics are an important component to Youth Ministry.

The purpose of GOYA Athletics is to provide and promote recreational activity that will lead toward the development of Orthodox Christian ideals in the youth served. GOYA Athletics not only promotes good manners and sportsmanship but also reaches for spiritual; ideals through these sports.

GOYA Athletics can be an opportunity for young people’s participation in the Church through fellowship, witness, worship and service. It can be an effective influence in the formation a young person’s Orthodox Christian value system and lifestyle.

## **COACHES REGULATIONS**

1. The GOYA Coach is primarily a minister to youth with a gift of reaching out to young people through athletics.
2. The Coach must be aware that he/she has a tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education of the student athlete, and thus shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
3. The Coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with the players, officials, clergy, parents, and spectators, the coach must strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
4. The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use.
5. The Coach shall promote the entire GOYA program and direct his/her program towards the philosophy and objectives of the program.

6. The Coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the rules and is responsible for communicating them to team members. The spirit and letter of the rules should be regarded as mutual agreements. The coach shall not attempt to circumvent the spirit of letter of the rules.
7. In case of an incident concerning our GOYANs, the coach should immediately report that to an Advisor or the Priest.

**RULES:**

1. No GOYAN is allowed to be dropped off at the Gym if the Coach or the Advisor is not there.
2. No GOYAN is allowed to drive himself/herself to any away GOYA event under any circumstances.
3. Being active in the sacramental life of our Orthodox faith is the priority. Therefore NO GOYAN is permitted to participate in any game on Sunday if he/she doesn't participate in the Sunday morning Liturgy.
4. The use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, foul language, fighting or harassing others will result into the removal from the team for as long as the Priest would decide.

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