



**Minnesota Women of Today
2023-2024 MNJOTS CIP
Youth of Today SPM
Youth...”Building Their Future”**

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Hello Youth of Today LPMs:

My name is Sandy Trossen. I am the State Program Manager for Youth of Today this year. I have been a member of Women of Today for twenty-eight years. My first 9 years were in the earlier St Joseph Chapter, before transferring to the Sauk Rapids Chapter. I have held several positions on the Chapter and District level over the years. This will be my first position on the State level.

My husband Paul and I have three adult children. I am a very involved grandmother with eleven grandchildren ranging in ages 3-19 years. I've worked in education and childcare and have been a child advocate for most of my adult life. I have been a voice at the Capitol for legislative change on child and youth issues. My work before retirement was as a union organizer for family childcare in multiple states. This work also led me to organize home health care and adjunct college professors.

Youth of Today is an area of great interest to me. Over the years I have worked with youth in many capacities. As a licensed K-12 teacher in Health and Phys. Ed, I spent many hours with youth. I enjoyed coaching gymnastics, track and girls' basketball over an 11-year span. Participating in Girl Scouting as a leader and Camp Director gave me many years of enjoying time with my daughters, as well as working with several other girls, and doing countless projects. Because I wanted to spend time with my children as they grew up, I became a licensed childcare provider and preschool teacher for 17 years.

My emphasis this year is youth homelessness. Nearly 5,000 youth in Minnesota experience homelessness and do not have a safe place to sleep. Youth make up nearly 46% of the homeless in Minnesota. While working with the Social Justice Committee at my church, I saw firsthand, children and families who were experiencing homeless. We provided overnight shelter and meals during the very cold winter nights for those children and families in need. I watched as children slept the night on the floor and went to school the next morning without a shower, change of clothes, tired, and not prepared for the school day. I chose building blocks as my logo to symbolize building a better future for youth and parents in Minnesota. My goal is to bring to light the reality of youth homelessness, and to explore ways that our chapters can help support and give hope to these children.

The Program Area of Youth of Today promotes ideas and activities that allow youth to participate in positive activities that improve their lives. An emphasis in this area is “Kids Week” which is during the month of August. The “Outstanding Young Adult Award” is awarded at Winter State Convention. This is an opportunity for chapters to nominate a young person who they feel should be honored for their contributions in their community.

I hope to provide chapters with information on youth homelessness, and how chapters can become involved. I encourage you to share with me any information your chapter has on child homelessness in your area. I also encourage chapters to locate organizations working with homeless youth in their communities. Find out how chapters can help raise awareness, learn the needs, and hopefully do a project to support homeless children.

I am looking forward to seeing how Women of Today chapters will impact child homelessness! It is a huge endeavor, but WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! Always feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Kid's Week is August 20-26. Show you care about kids by having your chapter organize a kid's event. This is a great time to plan something fun for kids before going back to school!! Big or small, all projects are a great way to make connections. Be sure to send me an email of what your chapter has done and how many members participated. Your chapter will be entered in a gift basket drawing at Fall Convention for participating. Three gift baskets will be given.

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Programming Success Points

Trimester 1 Presidential Bonus Points – Programming Area

- Submit Chapter Officer, Chapter Information, and Program Manager Sheets by June 30th (25 points)
- Submit Program Manager Trimester Report (25 points)

See MNWT President's Chapter Information Packet (CIP) for full trimesters Bonus SUCCESS Point Information.

Project Fair

I will have a booth at the Project Fair at Fall State Convention. Stop in at my Youth of Today booth on Friday evening during the Project Fair and act like a kid! Spin the wheel or pick a duck for a prize!! I will be selling hats to raise money for the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship Fund. Who doesn't need a hat – right? Get information on child homeless programs in our state!!

OYA Scholarship

This scholarship is a yearly honor awarded to 3 individuals that are making contributions to their community. Many chapters have a scholarship program at their local level. Why not send a nominee that you have chosen to the State level, with the possibility of them receiving another scholarship? If you do not have a scholarship program you still may submit a nominee who is in the 11th or 12th grade and who displays abilities in service, growth, and fellowship. The form to complete the guidelines is on the MNWT webpage under the YT section. If you have difficulties finding it, let me know and I would be happy to send it directly to you. If you can't decide on just one person, you may submit as many as you would like, however, each submission has a fee of \$25.00. This fee goes into the scholarship fund. As SPM I have the responsibility of raising money for this wonderful program. My goal is \$700.00. I will be selling hats at Fall State Convention to help reach my goal.

I also encourage monetary donations of any amount. Chapters who donate \$25.00 or more will be entered into a drawing for a special gift at Fall State. ***I have a goal of receiving 12 scholarship nominations by November 1st.*** OYA nominations should be EMAILED to the Awards Committee Chair. I understand that November is months away, however this nomination requires some planning. It is important to think about a candidate who your chapter feels is outstanding and deserving of the nomination. So, start thinking and planning early! ***For each scholarship nomination I receive, I will donate a requested item to a children's homeless shelter. So please put some thought into nominating an OYA.!!!***

Important Dates

Fast Starts Due - July 15, 2023

Kid's Week - Aug. 20-26

Outstanding Program Manager Due -
Sept. 2

Project of the Tri – Due Sept 2

Programming Report Due - Sept.2

Fall Convention – Sept. 22-23

OYA Scholarship Nominations Due
November 1

Be sure to consult the MNWT official calendar at www.mnwt.org, under Events to ensure that other key dates are not missed.

MNWT Webinar Night is June 28th.

Finding Programming Projects in Outlying Areas, Manage Change, Social Media Guidelines. This will be an interesting and informative webinar! I encourage chapter members to join!!

Facebook

Are you following the Facebook page for the Programming areas? If you have not liked this, I encourage you to give it a like. You will receive useful information regarding programming. This is a shared site by all Programming areas. The posting schedule for each area is as follows: Saturday and Sunday the Programming Vice President will post. On Monday the Community Connections SPM will post. Tuesday the Living and Learning SPM will post. Women's Wellness SPM will post on Wednesday. Priority area Crescent Cove will post on Thursday. I will post Youth of Today happenings on Friday. I welcome Youth of Today pictures, projects, and activities to post and share!

Sandy's Trimester Challenges

1. Participate in Kids Week – send me an invitation or email me information on what your chapter did for Kid's Week and how many members participated. Pictures are welcome. Chapter will be entered in a gift basket drawing at Fall Convention. 3 baskets will be drawn. Yt@mnwt.org
2. Make a donation of \$25.00 or more to the OYA scholarship fund. All names will be put in a gift card drawing at Fall State Convention.
3. Email me the name of a potential OYA nominee that your chapter is considering nominating for the YOA Scholarship by Aug.15th. (I will donate an item for each name received to children's homeless shelter.)
4. Locate and make a list of programs or facilities in your local area (city, county) who provide services for children who are experiencing homelessness. Email me what you have found and receive an incentive gift.

Youth Homelessness Information:

Many children and youths are homeless in our state. School officials are seeing children record their address as their car. Others are sleeping on floors in overcrowded shelters, outside in tents, or wherever they find a place they can stay. They attend school in the clothes they slept in, without eating, or without school day preparation. Younger children are sometimes with parents who are experiencing homelessness and seeking help. Other children get placed into temporary situations because of parent domestic violence, job loss, or drug and alcohol abuse. Older youths are often on their own to find places to stay. Some have been asked to leave their home because of their gender identity. This leads to so many unfortunate experiences such as school graduation decline, trafficking and mental illness to name a few. Many people think that county agencies or various organizations are taking care of the homeless children and youth situation. They are to some point but the problem is increasing. It is important to create awareness and to identify agencies, school and county assistance programs, shelters, churches, food shelves, and other services who are currently working with child and youth homelessness. As caring people, our chapters may discover ways to give assistance to homeless children through service hours, projects, donations, and community awareness. If we want to eliminate child homelessness, everyone needs to get involved.

Project of the Trimester & Outstanding Program Manager Nominations

***I will be looking for Youth of Today Project Nominations and Outstanding Program Manager Nominations. If your chapter had a project that was fun, unique, or created awareness of youth in the community, consider sending in a project nomination for Project of the Tri. Whether your project was big or small, we love them all and worth a submission! Nominations are due Sept. 2nd to Youth of Today SPM.

Also: I will be looking for Outstanding Program Managers for Youth of Today. I encourage your Programming Vice President or Chapter President to consider nominating you for your excellent leadership in Youth of Today!! Nominations due Sept 2nd to Youth of Today SPM. ***

Fast Start for Local Program Manager (LPM) Due July 15, 2023

1. Attend an Orientation (district, local, LOTS, or one-on-one with your chapter Programming Vice President.) Date attended:
2. Write down your goals for the year. Send to your Chapter President or PVP and your District Director. Date sent:
3. Write to your District Director, introduce yourself and share your goals and ideas for the year. Date sent:
4. Review the programming trimester report for your area by July 15. Date reviewed:
5. Review the Local Program manual to educate yourself on being an LPM. Date Reviewed: