

## **So, What is the Specialist Home Team?**

The Specialist Home Team is made up of youth, selected from across Canada, age 14-19, who will be involved directly in leading the CLAY gathering, while having the opportunity to participate in many of the usual gathering activities like a regular Home Team. You apply as an individual (NOT as a group) to be part of the Specialist Home Team.

Members of the Specialist Home Team will work in one of the main areas of the gathering: Worship and Special Events; Stage Production and Technical Support; Communication and Media; Event planning, Registration and Administration; Creative and Performance Arts Support.

You will have 2 Home Team Leaders who will work with you, lead the pre-gathering training and be in residence for the whole week with the team. They will also coordinate your work schedule, assign roles and help develop your skills in your specialist area. Like any other Home Team, you will have Home Team meetings scheduled during CLAY.

Questions and Answers:

### ***Do I need to have any experience or previous training to be on the Specialist Home Team?***

Yes and No. No, you do not need a lot of experience but yes, SOME kind of prior exposure to your specialist area is definitely an asset. Look at the Specialist Home Team Descriptions to find out what kind of experiences we are looking for on each Team.

### ***Will I have any fun at the gathering, or is it all work?***

Specialists are a meaningful part of making the gathering happen! You will be mentored by professionals, develop real-life skills, all while having fun at many of the gathering events with your fellow team-members and leaders. We promise, you will not be working for the whole time. We believe the work you are going to be doing is fun too – whether setting up interviews, video editing and posting on-line, doing behind-the-scenes work with Special Events or Worship or being part of an Arts production group.

### ***How do I apply to be on the Specialist Home Team?***

Fill out the online application form found at [claygathering.ca](http://claygathering.ca)

The application deadline is \***December 15, 2017**\*. Please don't wait until the last minute to apply!

***If I am not selected for the Specialist Home Team, do I still have time to put in an application with a regular Home Team from my church, Synod or Diocese?***

Yes! If you are selected you will be contacted by early \***January 2018**\* and your application will be processed as a Specialist Home Team member (not as part of your team from home). If you are not selected, you will have time to register with a local Home Team if you want to come to the gathering *and* get the regular price.

***Can my friend and I both apply for the Specialist Home Team if we are from the same church or town?***

Yes but there is no guarantee you will both be accepted. You might be, but not necessarily. The Specialist Home Team will be made up of people from all across the country who have the skills and interests that we are looking for.

***Can I spend my down time with the Home Team from my church or town?***

The Specialist Home Team is your main team for the event, so the majority of your time will be spent with them, though there will be some opportunity to hang out with other friends at the gathering at certain times. All participants in the gathering (youth, leaders, guests) will be staying in the residence at Lakehead University, but your assigned accommodations will be with other members of the Specialist Home Team.

***Does it cost anything extra to be on the Specialist Home Team?***

No. You will still have to pay for your own full travel and registration fee as if you were a member of any other Home Team. If subsidies become available for the Specialist Home Team to cover the cost of your registration, details will be provided in early 2018. You will get two extra days in Thunder Bay with other members of the Specialist Home Team prior to the event at no additional cost to you!

***I really want to apply for this, but it's my first time going to a gathering and I am only 14. Are you just going to choose 17 and 18 year olds who have been to the gathering before?***

No. This opportunity is available to ANYONE who is the right age to come to the gathering. If you have an interest in this opportunity, and some experience with any of the specialist areas, please apply!