

THE ROAD

ROMANS



YOUTH LEADER INFORMATION PACKET

DISTRICT
BLITZ 24

DECC, DULUTH MN - APRIL 19-21, 2024

Table of Contents

About District Blitz	3
Planning Checklist	4
Tentative Conference Schedule	5
Conference Overview	6-8
Conference Theme	9
Main Stage Lineup	10
Registration Information & Group Registration Form	11-12
Hotel Overview	13
Hotel Room Block Information	14-15
Housing Form	16
Medical Release Forms	17-18
Conduct Pledge	19
Get-Out-of-School-Early Form	20

About District Blitz

District Blitz is an annual student ministries conference hosted by the North Central District of the EFCA and CNC (Converge North Central). The purpose of District Blitz is:

“To provide a conference that challenges students to love God, love one another, and love the lost.”

It is our prayer that this event will help in the spiritual development and transformation of your students. We strive to accomplish this through teaching that is biblical, energetic, and challenging. As well as through worship times, practical workshops, and prayer rallies. Of course, there's lots of time for you to be together as a group, building and deepening relationships.

This conference is designed as a growth-level event. During our sessions there will be a "call" for students that may be new to understanding who Jesus is. However, the overall presentation of the conference is intended for students who are already Christians and wanting to grow in their walk with Christ.

We know that these conferences take a lot of time and work to plan, so please don't hesitate to contact us. Additional resources will be posted on our website: www.districtblitz.org

Blessings,

Glenn Olson & Nick Norgaard

Contact Info:

North Central District
Glenn Olson
651-592-6702
glennolson@me.com

Converge North Central
Nick Norgaard
320-247-0286
nick@troutcamps.org

Planning Checklist

Review this registration packet to get a general idea of what the conference will entail.

Calculate budget costs for the weekend, including transportation and meals. We suggest adding about \$15-\$18 per meal. Many groups bring supplies for meals and some hotels offer continental breakfast. You're in charge of running the numbers to figure out how much to charge your students. Make sure to factor in your leader's cost if necessary.

Get information into the hands of your students by the middle of January.

Register your group - Conference Registration opens February 1, 2024.

CNC Churches: Go to www.districtblitz.org using a credit card
Call Trout at 218-543-4565
Mail registrations to District Blitz, c/o Trout Lake Camps, 10173 Trout Lake Dr, Pine River MN 56474

EFCA Churches: Go to www.districtblitz.org using a credit card
Call Sharon at 612-338-1716
Fax forms to 612-338-1519 using a credit card.
Email Sharon at Sharon.Trucker@ncdefca.org
Mail registrations to District Blitz, c/o NCD of the EFCA, 3510 Hopkins Place N Building 4 Oakdale, MN 55128

Seating assignments are determined by your group's registration date. Payment must be received for your registration date to count.

Make hotel reservations. Please be as accurate as possible. A list of conference hotels and instructions are included in this packet. Be sure to call and confirm your hotel registration 14 days prior to the conference.

Add additional students and leaders to the group (\$15 late fee applies from April 8-19, 2024). All registrations are transferable, but not refundable.

Provide a primary email address. This is where additional conference information and your confirmation packet will be sent to.

Tentative Conference Schedule*

***A finalized Conference Handbook with the schedule will be emailed to you at least two weeks prior to the conference.**

Friday, April 19

- 1:00-3:00 Pre-conference prayer
- 6:00-8:30 On-site check-in at the registration area. *Head youth leader only*
- 7:15-8:00 Pre-rally prayer
- 8:00 Doors open
- 8:30-10:00 First Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 8:40-9:10 Head youth leader orientation meeting
- 10:00-10:45 Breakout Sessions by groups
- 11:00 In hotels
- 11:30 In hotel rooms and quiet for the night

Saturday, April 20

- 7:30 Breakfast on your own
- 8:30 Doors open
- 8:00-8:45 Pre-rally prayer
- 9:00-10:30 Second Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 10:45-11:15 Breakout Sessions by groups
- 11:30-12:30 Seminars / Workshops
- 12:30 Lunch on your own
- 1:00-6:00 Recreation and ministry options
- 4:00-5:00 Dinner on your own
- 6:00-7:00 Seminars / Workshops
- 7:10-7:40 Pre-rally prayer
- 7:20 Doors open
- 7:55-9:30 Third Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 9:30 Breakout Sessions by groups
- 11:15 In hotels
- 11:30 In hotel rooms and quiet for the night

Sunday, April 21

- 8:00 Check-out and breakfast before leaving for the rally
- 9:30-10:00 Pre-rally prayer
- 10:00 Doors open
- 10:30-11:45 Fourth Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 12:00 Lunch & head home

Conference Overview

Cost: \$75 per person (leaders and students)

Conference Sessions

Each conference session includes worship, student-led prayer, and Bible messages centered around our theme of “The Road - Romans.” Sessions will be engaging and include other interactive elements. We set up these sessions to be fun, encouraging, and challenging.

Please begin praying now for our speakers and worship leaders who will be leading these sessions.

Seminars/Workshops

We desire students to go deeper in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Because of this, we are offering a number of different seminars and workshops that will encourage them to live out their faith in all areas of their life.

Students and leaders can select two seminars/workshops to attend on Saturday that interest them. A list of all the available seminars/workshops will be included in the confirmation packets. You are able to review these with your students prior to the conference.

Breakout Sessions

Following each rally, groups will have a time to discuss and interact with what they just learned. We have a limited number of rooms, so larger groups will be assigned spaces. You may want to check with your hotel about open meeting spaces prior to your arrival.

Afternoon Activity Options & Ministry Projects

Youth groups will have the opportunity to help local churches and ministries by providing various services for them. We will have 300-500 spots available.

All projects will last approximately 90 minutes, including drive time (if necessary). More details on these opportunities will be available in your confirmation packet around April 1st.

Inflatables & Laser Tag - We have a couple free activity options at the DECC on Saturday afternoon. Your group is welcome to hang out with our staff at the DECC for the afternoon.

Prayer Time

About 45 minutes prior to each rally, we have a time set aside for students and leaders that want to commit our rally time to the Lord. This time is spent in both large group and small group prayer. We will also have students that pray for our rallies on stage during each session. Please consider finding someone in your youth ministry that is willing to start a prayer team prior to the conference.

"Be Still, Know God" Prayer Event

Want to help your students reach a new level of getting to know God through prayer as well as preparing their hearts for what God will do during District Blitz? Bring them to our "Be Still, Know God" prayer event in the DECC from 1:00-3:00 pm on Friday, April 19. There will be worship and prayer individually and in small groups. This event is designed to help students embrace intimacy with God through prayer and to learn different ways to pray. We can't think of a better way to begin your District Blitz weekend!

Note: This event is optional, but if you're able to come, we suggest eating an early lunch. This way you can be at the DECC by noon. ("Get-Out-Of-School-Early" forms are available on page 20). The event will run until 3:00 pm, at which time you will have a chance to check into your hotel, eat dinner, and then make your way to the conference registration area.

Meals

All groups will be responsible for their own meals while at the conference. Some hotels offer a continental breakfast and/or have refrigerators in the rooms. There are several fast food locations in the area, however, you may need transportation to get to them. There are grocery stores and pizza places that are less than 2 miles away.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A NATION-WIDE LABOR SHORTAGE AFFECTING THE STAFFING AT HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS. With this in mind, we STRONGLY recommend that you establish a meal plan for all your meals. We recommend making restaurant reservations TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT. And please be patient with the restaurants trying to serve thousands of kids with little staff.

Location & Directions

All Conference Sessions and Seminars will be held at the DECC.

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

350 Harbor Drive
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-5573
www.decc.org

Parking/Transportation

Most of our blocked hotels are within walking distance to the DECC. Check a map to ensure your hotel is within walking distance. To keep your parking costs to a minimum, we recommend that you arrange for parking at your hotel and utilize the Skyway system. The parking lot at the conference location will have enough parking spaces to accommodate all vehicle types, including buses and trailers. Each time you have a vehicle enter the DECC parking lot you will have to pay a parking fee. We are currently negotiating reduced parking fee with the Duluth Visitors Bureau for our conference participants. You will have the option of parking your vehicles overnight at the DECC for the entirety of the weekend.

Health Forms & Medical Personnel

All students and leaders are required to bring a completed copy of the enclosed health form. These will be collected at registration. We understand you may have your own health forms, but we require the conference specific form. There will be certified medical personnel present at all locations and our largest hotels. In the event of an emergency, it would be best to call 911 or go directly to the hospital.

Head Youth Leader Orientation

The focus of this weekend is to minister to students. We trust leaders will set the example by following conference rules and encourage their students to do the same. The head youth leader for your group must attend a brief orientation on Friday, during the first rally (See schedule). This will be the time when we review rules, expectations, schedules, and answer any questions. We will have the rules and expectations printed in your conference handbook.

District Blitz – Theme 2024

The Road – Paul wrote a letter to the Church in Rome with a very specific map inside. The map isn't hidden or secret. The map wasn't even difficult to follow. Paul simply put to paper the truth - everyone has sinned, there's a cost to that sin, and we can't save ourselves on our own. Jesus' death and resurrection is a gift that covers the cost of sin, and once we put our faith in Him – we don't need to worry anymore. District Blitz is going to be all about Paul's road map. Can we use his map? Can we take his direction, apply it to our personal walk, and make our way down the road?



Romans Road

Everyone has sinned – Romans 3:10-11, 3:12, 3:23

There is an eternal cost for sin – Romans 6:23, 1:18

No one can save themselves – Romans 3:20, 3:27

Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty – Romans 5:8-9, 8:1-2

Accepting this gift – Romans 3:22, 10:9-13, 3:28

Assurance of salvation – 1 John 12:9, 1 John 5:11-13

Additional Scripture – Eph. 2:1-9, John 3:16-18, Romans 1:20-21, 5:1,12, 6:3-7, 8:38-39, 10:17, John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 6:2 and more...

District Blitz – Main Stage Line-Up



Speaker - Justin Wevers

Justin and his wife, Amanda, live with their 3 daughters in the Twin Cities. He works for a tech company and joyfully serves as an elder at Gospel Life Church - a church that tries to reach even the most skeptical people with the good news of Jesus.



Speaker - Jennifer Kvamme

Jennifer is student ministries catalyst at Centennial EFC in Forest Lake, MN, and author of *More to the Story: Deep Answers to Real Questions on Identity, Attraction, and Relationships*. She is wife to Greg, mom to three, and passionate about helping young people see the beauty of the gospel and apply it to all of life.



Worship Leader – KJ Haywood

KJ is a worship leader at Eagle Brook Church. One of his favorite parts of his role includes writing new music that engages people in worshipping God. He loves bringing exuberance to the worship experience and is looking forward to leading the students in worship.



Conference Emcees - Mike & Nate

Mike and Nate return for their billionth year of District Blitz Emcee and are hoping to make this year their best year yet! Mike and Nate have done comedy shows all over and for small groups and large ones. Even a show next to a cornfield with a donkey in the crowd (true story). They love bringing laughter, hope, and the joy of Jesus to audiences everywhere. Mike & Nate are like the conference glue that holds all the pieces together (you can start praying now).

Registration Information

In order to assure a smooth and quick registration the day you arrive in Duluth, please make sure you have completed all of the following items:

1. As Soon As Possible:

Familiarize yourself with the Conference Information Overview.

Make hotel reservations at local hotels. Some hotels fill quickly. We have provided you with the hotel block information (pg 16) which lists hotels that offer better than the public rates.

2. Between February 1 and April 19:

Register your group between February 1 and April 19 (see page 4 for details).

Add additional students to your group until April 19 (\$15 late fee applies from April 8 - April 19).

**Remember, registration fees are transferable within your youth group, but non-refundable.*

Look for a confirmation packet that will be sent to you two weeks prior to the conference, This will include maps and recreation information.

3. Sometime Before April 19:

Make sure all of your students, parents, and leaders are familiar with the Conduct Code and Responsibility Pledge (p. 19).

4. On April 19:

On-site check-in will be from 6:00-8:30 pm on Friday, April 19, in the registration area, at DECC. The head youth leader should come and check in your church. Please bring a copy of your Group Registration Sign-up Sheet, with the exact number of students and leaders in your group, and one complete set of health forms for your group.

**Please do not bring your youth group into the check in area*

Pick up your seating assignments and wristbands. (**Note:** Wristbands serve as tickets to the conference and must be worn at all times. Broken wristbands may be turned in and replaced. Lost bands will cost \$15).

Group Registration Form

Note: This form is necessary only if mailing in a check. If you're paying with a card, please register online at www.districtblitz.com.

Church Name:

Date:

Person Completing Form:

Church Address:

City/State/Zip:

Church Phone:

Your Phone:

Your Email:

Registration Type (circle):

Original Registration

Additional Registration #1

Additional Registration #2

(If you are sending in additional registrations, please include only the numbers of NEW registrants.)

Head Youth Leader Attending (required):

Head Youth Leader Cell Phone:

	Number Registering
Middle School Boys	
Middle School Girls	
High School Boys	
High School Girls	
Youth Leader (Male)	
Youth Leader (Female)	
Total Registering =	
x ___/person	\$
Total \$ Enclosed	\$

CNC & other denominations make checks payable to Trout Lake Camps. EFCA Churches make checks payable to EFCA.

Hotel Information

You are responsible for securing housing arrangements at one of the local hotels. Pages 14 and 15 have information on the hotels that have blocked off a certain number of rooms for us at our conference rate. You can see the number of rooms blocked, cost per room, and other information here.

The hotel costs and number of people per room should be taken into consideration when calculating price per person for your trip. Please confirm with your hotel what type of room you are getting and the max count per room.

All hotels will release the unused rooms one month prior to the conference, but hotels usually book up long before then. We recommend contacting your selected hotel as soon as possible.

When you call, identify yourself as being part of the **"District Blitz Conference."** Let them know how many rooms your group may need and ask for the rate listed below. All hotel prices are subject to a 13% state & local tax. Check-in time is after 3:00 pm on Friday and check-out is by 12:00 pm on Sunday.

****IMPORTANT:** Any unclaimed hotel rooms below will be released to the general public on March 1st 2024. Don't wait to book your hotel rooms at the best rates.

Youth leaders, like students, are expected to comply with hotel rules. You are responsible for the conduct of your youth group. We want our attitudes and actions to be the best possible testimony in the name of Jesus Christ.

Make sure to book under the hotel block name: **"District Blitz Conference"** otherwise, you will NOT get the best room rates!

Hotel Block Information

Make sure to book under the hotel block name: “**District Blitz Conference**” otherwise, you will NOT get the best room rates!

Hotel	Nightly Price Per Room	Room Type	Phone Contact	# of Available Rooms in Block (Per Night)
Radisson Hotel Harborview	\$139.00	2 Queens	Sheila Johnson 218-727-1490	90
Canal Park Lodge	\$179.00	2 Queens (City Side)	Becky Loop 218-279-4055	69 (0 available)
	\$179.00	2 Queens (Lake View)		
	\$179.00	2 Queens (Lake w/ Balcony)		
	\$179.00	2 Queens (Lake View w/ Patio)		
	\$179.00	2 Queens (accessible)		
The Inn on Lake Superior	\$207.99	2 Queens (Lakeside)	Shelly Howard 218-529-7710	50
	\$181.99	2 Queens (Poolside)		
	\$198.99	2 Queens / Sofa (Bridgeview)		
	\$189.99	2 Queens / Sofa (City View)		
	\$215.99	2 Queens / Sofa (Lakeview)		
	\$307.99	King / 2 Queens / Sofa (Bridgeview)		
	\$323.99	King / 2 Queens / Sofa (Lakeview)		
	\$189.99	King / Sofa (accessible)		
	\$198.99	King / Sofa (Bridgeview)		
Edgewater Hotel & Waterpark *Prices do not include waterpark tickets	\$174.99	Waterpark View Studio	Shelly Howard 218-529-7710	30
	\$179.99	2 Queens (Lakeview)		
Hampton Inn – Canal Park	\$189.00	2 queen city view	Chelle Gustafson 218-720-3000	70
	\$199.00	2 queen partial lakeview		
	\$209.00	2 queen lakeview		

Hampton Inn – Canal Park (continued)	\$189.00	king city view		
	\$199.00	king partial lakeview		
	\$209.00	king lakeview		
	\$249.00	1 room king suite		
	\$269.00	2 room king suite		
The Suites Hotel at Waterfront Plaza	\$119.00	Studio King suite	218-336-1265	50 (25 available)
	\$119.00	Studio double suites		
	\$129.00	One bedroom king suite		
	\$129.00	Poolside double suite		
	\$169.00	2 King bedroom suite		
	\$169.00	Whirlpool king suite		
	\$199.00	2 bedroom condo		
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites – Downtown Duluth	\$139.99	2 queens	Rebecca Holoppa 218-249-9003	100
Comfort Inn - West	Call for details		218-628-1464	-
Days Inn - Duluth Lakewalk	\$125.00	2 Queens	218-529-7710	20
Lift Bridge Lodge	\$255.49	1 king bed	Casey Syracuse 218-727-1378	40
	\$265.49	1 king bed		
	\$275.49	2 queen beds		
	\$285.49	2 queen beds		

*Make sure to book under the hotel block name: “**District Blitz Conference**” otherwise, you will NOT get the best room rates!

Hotel Housing Form

Please mail, fax, or email this form directly to your hotel no later than two weeks before the conference.

Church Name: _____ Housing Dates: April 19-21, 2024

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Church Phone: _____ Head Youth Leader: _____

Youth Leader Email: _____ Youth Leader Cell Phone: _____

Boys Rooms	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	

Girls Rooms	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	

Place an asterisk (*) by the names of your youth leader(s) in each room.

Medical Release Form (student)

District Blitz Conference, April 19-21, 2024

Because of the increasing sophistication of our hospital systems, we have found it necessary to have signed parental release forms in the unlikely event of some serious injury requiring hospital treatment. Since many hospitals will not administer any medical treatment to a minor without some parental consent, this release form gives us permission to take your child to the nearest available medical facility and have the necessary medical treatment administered.

Parents/Guardians please read and sign the statement below. This provides permission to seek whatever medical attention may be necessary. It also releases North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, CNC (Converge North Central), Trout Lake Camps, and / or the church's personnel from any liability against personal injury or loss.

We understand the arrangements and believe that necessary precautions and plans for the care and supervision of the child will be taken during this conference. Beyond this, we will not hold responsible North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church, CNC (Converge North Central), Trout Lake Camps, or any of the conference staff. In case of emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give the Student Ministries Conference leadership, staff or other emergency medical personnel the permission to act on my behalf in seeking emergency medical treatment for this child in the event that such treatment is deemed necessary by the conference or church staff. I give permission to those administering emergency medical treatment to do so using those measures deemed necessary. I absolve the North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church, CNC (Converge North Central), Trout Lake Camps, and/or church personnel from liability in acting on my behalf in this regard, so long as they are not grossly negligent.

Name of Child: _____

Signature of Parent / Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

If Parent / Guardian are not available, please call person below:

Name: _____ Relationship to Student _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

May we administer over-the-counter medications? (e.g., aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, antibiotic ointments, etc.) _____

Additional comments regarding medical history, allergies, penicillin, drug reactions, use of over-the-counter medications, etc., that may be needed in treatment: _____

Medical Release Form (adult)

District Blitz Conference, April 19-21, 2024

Because of the increasing sophistication of our hospital systems, we have found it necessary to have all attending youth leaders and adults provide the District Blitz Conference with a release form in the unlikely event of some serious injury requiring hospital treatment. This release gives us permission to provide a quick response to any medical treatment that may need to be administered.

Please read and sign the statement below. This provides permission to seek whatever medical attention may be necessary. It also releases North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, CNC (Converge North Central), Trout Lake Camps, and/or the church's personnel from any liability against personal injury or loss.

I understand the arrangements and believe that the necessary precautions and plans for my care will be dealt with and handled well and in a professional and timely manner. Beyond this, I will not hold responsible North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, CNC (Converge North Central), Trout Lake Camps, and/or any of the conference staff. In case of emergency I understand that every effort will be made to contact my emergency contact. If they cannot be reached, I hereby give the District Blitz Conference leadership, staff or other emergency medical personnel the permission to act on my behalf in seeking emergency medical treatment in the event that such treatment is deemed necessary by the conference staff. I give permission to those administering emergency medical treatment to do so using those measures deemed necessary. I absolve the North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, CNC (Converge North Central), Trout Lake Camps and/or church personnel from liability in acting on my behalf in this regard so long as they are not grossly negligent.

Name of Adult Leader: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

In case of an emergency, please contact:

Name: _____ Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Relationship to Adult: _____

Additional comments regarding medical history, allergies, penicillin or drug reactions, use of over-the-counter medications, etc., that may be needed in treatment: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Conduct Pledge

We want to remind each youth leader and student that we are representing Christ in Duluth. Therefore, our speech and conduct should be glorifying to God (I Tim. 4:12; Col. 3:17). Please discuss this page with your group before the conference. We are looking forward to the best District Blitz Conference ever and hope that you will be a part of making it happen! Your cooperation is vital and greatly appreciated.

Conduct Code

My model for conduct and attitudes is the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will observe all rules established by the conference directors and will follow the code given by my church.

- For my own safety sake, I will not leave the rally area unless given special permission by my Youth Pastor/Leader.
- I will attend all scheduled rallies and sit with my group.
- No excessive public display of affection
- Any free time given to me will be used wisely. I will, at all times, respect the property and safety of others.
- No members of the opposite sex are allowed in hotel rooms.

I will (in travel to and from the rally, and during the conference) avoid all questionable activity and things which would be offensive to Christ, my parents, my church, the rally and others.

Responsibility Pledge

My goal in attending is for spiritual growth and to enjoy and develop friendships. I accept the responsibility for my conduct at the District Blitz Conference.

I realize that my participation in questionable behavior will end my stay at the conference.

I understand that my parents/guardians will assume financial responsibility due to property damage/loss caused by me and travel cost if I am asked to leave early (only after parents have been called).

My family and I will be praying that this conference will be an enriching experience for our entire youth group.

We have read and agree to follow the conduct code and responsibility pledge.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Get-Out-of-School-Early Form

District Blitz Student Conference

April 19-21, 2024

DECC, Duluth, Minnesota

Dear School Officials/Teachers:

Please be informed that my child, _____, will be away from school on Friday, April 19, 2024, beginning at _____. I have given my son/daughter permission to attend a District Blitz Conference. I would appreciate it if you would make them aware of any assignments which they may miss on that Friday. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian

Get Out of School Early Form

District Blitz Student Conference

April 19-21, 2024

DECC, Duluth, Minnesota

Dear School Officials/Teachers:

Please be informed that my child, _____, will be away from school on Friday, April 19, 2024, beginning at _____. I have given my son/daughter permission to attend a District Blitz Conference. I would appreciate it if you would make them aware of any assignments which they may miss on that Friday. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian