



Youth & Family Ministry Certification School is a 15-day training opportunity providing Biblical and theological foundations for youth workers, as well as hundreds of practical ideas for connecting with children, youth, parents, and other caring adults. You will be introduced to youth ministry leadership development that is holistic and integrative. Cert School offers fundamental concepts and cutting edge research upon which to build an understanding and practice of youth and family ministry. This intensive continuing education opportunity is available to undergrad and prepare lay and ordained professionals and volunteers for doing youth and family ministry in congregations and other ministry settings.

HEAR WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING...

I am so grateful that I came to Wartburg Seminary's environment for my training as I have had MANY awesome experiences in God's creation but to feel another awesome moment where many of our spiritual leaders are being trained was a great testimony. Thank you!

SARA, Iowa City, IA

I attended this course as a way to evaluate its usefulness and relevance in training Youth and Family Ministry Staff. Well researched, well grounded, well taught. It exceeded my expectations and therefore I can, without hesitation, highly recommend this course.

PASTOR JAMES, Alberta, Canada

My time there was life changing, I came home with the peace I had been craving! My focus is no longer on 'doing' but on 'being' the person God created me to be! What freedom! Thank you for that time!

LINDA, Nevis, MN



For more information please contact:



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Interweaving Your Story, Our Story, and God's Story



CERT SCHOOL CENTERS AROUND THE STORIES, as we listen to and learn from one another. In fact, we take listening so seriously that our curriculum is designed around this theme of story and the interweaving of our stories.

We, as individuals gifted by God, have been shaped by our own histories and journeys. We call that **MY STORY**. Cert School hopes to both honor your story and challenge you to reflect on your calling, your ministry, and your daily habits.

By coming together and learning as a group we are able to listen and grow through the expression of others. We listen in our ministry contexts to the stories of our youth, their families, and friends. **YOUR STORY**, in our curriculum, grows through the encounter with one another.

As children of God, we exist in relationship with one another and with all in God's world. **OUR STORY** is shaped by how we interact and live together in community and as community, locally and globally.

All of our stories, whether we realize it or not, are shaped by **GOD'S STORY**. God as creator, sustainer and savior is working throughout history, the present and the future, weaving all stories together.

What does certification mean?

Certification in youth and family ministry by Wartburg Theological Seminary is recognized as foundational for ministry by many congregations and synods across the country. Certification in youth & family ministry is our way of recognizing your hard work and passion evident over the course of three weeks. By the time you leave, you will have covered the basics in theological foundations, biblical studies, current research in youth and family ministries, best practices, and more.

Who are the people that come to Cert School?

- Congregational staff working in the areas of children, youth, and/or families
- Volunteers from a variety of ministry settings
- Ordained clergy desiring an intro or refresher in youth and family ministry
- You!



Visit The Center for Youth Ministries at www.wartburgseminary.edu or The Youth and Family Institute at www.tyfi.org for the Cert School calendar.



THE CERT SCHOOL STORY goes back over a decade. Twelve participants gathered for our very first certification school in October 1994 at The Center for Youth Ministries, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. Since then nearly 900 individuals have completed this unique training opportunity. During the summer of 2006, The Center for Youth Ministries officially partnered with The Youth & Family Institute in Minneapolis to provide additional Cert School locations and to continue developing our cutting edge curriculum. We now offer four to five schools per year across the country.

What does Cert School cost?

Cost is \$2500 which includes tuition, activities, lodging, and food onsite for the days Cert School is in session. Lodging is also included for those that will be staying during the weekend, but weekend meals are on your own.

What happens during Cert School?

Every day is different! We spend our time in class, in small group discussion, in worship, in group building activities, and so much more. Your days are packed from sun up to sun down, with a few evenings thrown in every now and then. Each Friday evening through Sunday evening is free, for leisure or travel home. There is never a dull moment!