



# The American Cancer Society Relay For Life and DeMolay International Fact Sheet

## Mission

DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to lead successful, happy, and productive lives. Basing its approach on timeless principles and practical, hands-on experience, the organization opens doors for young men aged 12 to 21 by developing the civic awareness, personal responsibility, and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today. DeMolay combines this serious mission with a fun approach that builds important bonds of friendship among members in more than 1,000 chapters worldwide.

DeMolay is open to all young men with all kinds of interests. If members of a chapter decide they want to, they can devote their chapter's entire attention to basketball. If they want to focus on soccer, chess, video games, drama, mountain climbing, volunteering, or stamp collecting, that's OK, too. Each chapter has its own personality and each member has a chance to make the chapter what he wants it to be. Rather than focusing on any one thing, most chapters do a variety of activities. The organization is infinitely adaptable to the interests of the chapter members!

Another difference is DeMolay's emphasis on training you to be a leader. It doesn't happen by accident. When you join DeMolay, you're on the fast track to learn skills that will help you in school and through the rest of life.

## DeMolay membership requirements

In order to join DeMolay, you have to be at least 12 years old, be younger than 21, believe in God or a supreme being, and strive to be a good person. Since one of the qualifications of membership is that you believe in God or a supreme being, a lot of people ask whether DeMolay is a religious organization. The answer is no.

DeMolay teaches that one of the steps toward becoming a happy and successful person is developing strong faith in your beliefs and being true to them. But just as important, the organization teaches that you must have respect and tolerance for the beliefs of others. DeMolay doesn't teach a specific religion and doesn't require that you belong to any church. Membership is open for young men from all religions.

## Who runs the show?

Officers for each chapter are elected from among the membership. Those officers are responsible for running the chapter meetings and coordinating the responsibilities of event planning. Every six months, the chapter elects new officers so that different guys will have the chance to lead. The decisions of the chapter are discussed at chapter meetings and voted on by all members. The adult advisors can give input, but they won't interfere with the chapter's decision unless it's absolutely necessary. The overall direction and operation of the chapter is up to the members themselves.

## DeMolay and the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society and DeMolay began their partnership in 2009 and have agreed to have at least 50 DeMolay Relay For Life teams from across the country, with each team consisting of eight to 12 members and raising \$1,000. DeMolay will ask their chapters to commit to Relay For Life in a service capacity if they are unable to form teams.

DeMolay and the Society work to provide information about each other through both organization's meetings, publications, and on the Web.

- The American Cancer Society is represented at national DeMolay meetings.
- DeMolay provides a link from its Web site to RelayForLife.org.
- DeMolay and the Society communicate regularly to evaluate specific needs and opportunities for both groups.

## How to work with DeMolay International

- An American Cancer Society and DeMolay Tip Sheet is available in the Relay For Life community on The Link. Staff members are encouraged to print and provide the sheet to volunteers.
- The Society will display up to two banners (provided by DeMolay) at Relay events where DeMolay participates.
- Local Relay events with DeMolay participation should provide recognition for DeMolay teams at team captain meetings and at Relay.
- Please ensure DeMolay teams include DeMolay in their team name (example: DeMolay Cancer Crushers) and complete the required affiliation section online or on the scannable form.
- Send DeMolay team stories and photos to Division youth leads for production of national materials.
- DeMolay will encourage its young men to participate as team members, committee members, and in a service capacity in their local Relay For Life events. To locate a DeMolay chapter in your area, please visit [demolay.org/aboutdemolay/findachapter.php](http://demolay.org/aboutdemolay/findachapter.php).
- For more information about DeMolay International please visit [demolay.org](http://demolay.org).



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