



Light Their Path

Youth of Today

MNJOTS CIP

2018/2019

yt@mnwt.org

www.mnwt.org

Sharla Kilen
19134 170th St
Greenbush MN 56726

My name is Sharla Kilen, and I will be assisting as the Youth of Today State Program Manager for 2018-2019! It was not on my radar to be back on Executive Council, but after seeing Brenda reach her goal to be State President, and when I found out this area was vacant last year and still unfilled this year, I felt that tug to help "Lead the Way" this year!

I've been a member of the Greenbush Women of Today for 25 years, and I was honored to be asked to join by our very own State President-Brenda Sather. It only felt right to go along on this amazing journey with her this year!

I have been married 27 years to a farm boy and my high school sweetheart, and we have two children—Brady who is 20 (his WT claim to fame is being born the weekend I was co-chairing Fall State 1997-so darn I had to miss convention!), and Alyssa who is 17 and a Senior this year. As a disclaimer, time with my family and sitting in the bleachers watching volleyball and basketball will come first this year with our baby graduating! But I look forward to serving in this area in any way I can.

Youth of Today has been one of my favorite programming areas, but I have been a little out of the loop the last few years, so I look forward to learning right along with you too! I've been active in many other youth activities—a 4-H Leader, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) adult leader, Church Youth Group leader, Girls Lead, Basketball & Volleyball Mom, and of course Youth of Today LPM many years. I've chosen a theme of 'Light Their Path' as I feel our youth are in desperate need of good role models in their lives, as they try to navigate their way on their own journey. I look forward to helping us discover how we can serve our Youth while instilling the value of service in them!

KIDS WEEK ~ August 13th-17th 2018

I LOVE Kid's Week, and I look forward to your Chapters flooding my email with your Kids Week plans for this year! I'll share some of your project ideas via Facebook.

Here are some ideas our Chapter has tried over the years:

- *Family Night Picnic
- *Wildlife Demonstration
- *Painting Party
- *Free Freezie Pops
- *Back to School Bingo - or Book Bingo
- *School Supply Drive
- *Craft Projects
- *Pajama Party at the Library
- *Street Fair/Bouncy House
- *Relay Races / Quarter Dig in the sand
- *Pool Party & Pool Olympics & Late Night Swims
- *Movie Night in the Park (have a rain backup plan!)
- *Egg Drop from the tower at a local park (We bring boxes and packing supplies—kids pack a raw egg, climb the tower and let it drop! Then comes the fun of unwrapping to see if their egg survived or scrambled.

Start planning your Kids Week activities and SHINE!

Upcoming Dates:

MNJOTS.....June 1-3
 US Women of Today convention...June 7-10
 MNWT Webinar seriesJune 27
 Founders Day.....July 1
 LPM Fast Starts dueJuly 15
 Kids Week.....Aug 12-18
 Day at the Diamond.....Sept 9

1st Trimester Goal & Incentive:

Have 30 chapters email me with their Kids Week activities!
 If I hear from you, your chapter will go in for a drawing to win a **FUN KIDS BASKET** to be given at Fall State!

if you will light a lamp for someone it will brighten their path .

GIRLS LEAD!

One project I am SUPER excited to share with the Minnesota Women of Today is Girls Lead! Girls Lead began in 2009 by a member of the Warroad Women of Today (way up here in District 2) ~ Kim Hrubka, who served as our District Director this past year.

Girls Lead is a community-based leadership experience for middle school or junior high girls that connects them to community service organizations. The organizations teach and inspire leadership, community action and civic engagement with girls in their local communities. The mission is to empower and equip young women to have positive relationships with self, others, and community.

Watching girls go through the program and come away with confidence and learning more about themselves and their unique strengths has been very rewarding. The program began by offering week-long Girls Lead camps once a year for a handful of girls at various college campuses. The focus has now shifted to bring this experience to a more local level by offering day-camps. Girls Lead program staff work in partnership with a local community service organization (like Women of Today) to deliver the program.

This summer, our Greenbush chapter will be facilitating a day-camp for 6th-8th grade girls with a Super-hero theme as they discover their Super Hero qualities! Kathy Magnusson, who works with Peacemaker Resources of Bemidji, will be facilitating the day camps.

I'm excited to unveil more about this program as the year progresses, and our goal will be to hold day camps in some chapters across the state of Minnesota. If this sounds like an opportunity you would like to bring to your chapter and your community, email me at yt@mnwt.org.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ADULT AWARD

Another exciting aspect of the Youth of Today area is the Outstanding Young Adult award—this is a great opportunity for your chapter to recognize an amazing youth from your area!

The Outstanding Young Adult award has been presented by the Minnesota Women of Today since 1974. It is a scholarship project designed to recognize young adults who show excellence in leadership abilities and involvement in community activities.

Nominees must be in 9th-12th grade.

Nominations are due November 1st, and it's never too early to start thinking of a deserving nominee! The award is presented at Winter State.

Application forms can be found on the www.mnwt.org website—go to the Book of Forms page in the Members drop-down box, and find the OYA application form in the Recognition:Leadership category, which can be downloaded or printed.

Youth Resources:

www.peacemakerresources.org {re: Girls Lead!}

www.4-h.org

www.cpyu.org (*Center for Youth and Parent Understanding—a faith based website and resources*)

www.bbbs.org (*Big Brothers/Big Sisters*)

www.girlscouts.org (*Building Girls of Confidence, Courage and Character*)

What organization can you or your chapter join forces with in your community? Share your ideas and resources!

Quote Corner ~

“Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” Martin Luther King Jr.