

Invitation to Join the Formation Co-Op: A Journey of Listening, Trust, and Transformation!

Dear **Partners in Ministry**,

Greetings from **Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp** and the Formation Co-Op!

We are excited to invite your congregation to be part of the [Formation Co-Op](#), a collaborative initiative of the [ELCA Youth Ministry Network](#) in partnership with the ELCA, supported by a four-year Lilly Grant.

The Formation Co-Op partners with congregations to explore innovative youth ministry practices to root young people in a lifelong, transformative faith in Jesus Christ. We are now launching Group C, the final phase of the grant, and we are doing so in a regional hub model in collaboration with five Lutheran Outdoor Ministry sites. **Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp** is proud to serve as one of these hub sites.

What Participation Looks Like

Each hub (including ours) will gather 4–5 congregations into a local cohort. Together, these Congregation Teams will:

- Attend four in-person Co-Op Training Retreats, 2 @ at **Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp**, and 2 down the mountain in a centralized location, guided by our staff.
- Engage in monthly team meetings using provided resources and agendas.
- Conduct listening sessions with youth, leaders, and their wider faith community.
- Explore and implement innovative approaches to youth ministry for their context.

This is not a plug-and-play curriculum or program. Instead, the Co-Op offers a framework and a set of guiding commitments that help each congregation shape ministry that is both faithful and contextual.

Is Your Congregation Ready?

The Co-Op does ask for commitment, curiosity, and collaboration. To help you assess your congregation's readiness for this work, we encourage you to complete the [Congregation Readiness Assessment Tool](#) with your key leaders before applying. This is not a test — it's a discernment tool to help you start the conversations that will lay a strong foundation for your Co-Op journey.

Join Us

- Read the [Formation Co-Op Overview and Congregation Expectations](#)
- Complete the [Congregation Readiness Assessment Tool](#)
- Apply to Join **Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp's** Group C Hub <https://forms.gle/uJ3rvRk5YejDcnA47>

- **Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp: Fort Collins, CO**



- **Hub Guides:** Lori Bode, Missie Bonser, Julie and Eric Schranck
[Sky Ranch Website](#)
- **Required Hub Dates:**
Application Deadline: November 1, 2025
Co-Op Training #1: January 9-10, 2026 at a TBD hotel and congregation in the Denver area
Co-Op Training #2: May 8-9, 2026 at Sky Ranch
Co-Op Training #3: September 18-19, 2026 at Sky Ranch
Co-Op Training #4: February 6, 2027 at a Denver area congregation
- **Registration Fee: \$750 per Congregation Team.** Includes program, Guide accompaniment, and housing and meals for up to 5 team members at each of the Co-Op Trainings.

If you sense that God is inviting your congregation into a new season of learning and faithful risk-taking, we would be honored to accompany you. This work takes time and trust — but we believe it's worth it.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please reach out to us at **970-493-5258**.

In partnership and hope,

Lori B. Bode (*she, her, hers*) [What's this?](#)

Executive Director

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