



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How many attendance credits are required each year for my child/youth enrolled in Faith Formation classes?

A: All children/youth enrolled in Faith Formation should earn 25 attendance credits between June 1 and April 30 of the enrolled school year.

Q: What happens if my child/youth misses a Faith Formation class?

A: We no longer count absences for Faith Formation classes! If your child, or your family, miss a class, there is no need to turn in a doctor or excuse note. This is the beauty of the Explore Four model of faith formation! If you miss a class, your family gets to participate in an additional parish event. Just make sure you plan ahead and meet the minimum class session requirements for your child's ministry.

Q: Is it necessary to fill out a Reflection form each time my child/youth attends a **class**?

A: No, it is not necessary to fill out a Reflection Form each time your child/youth attends a class session. Catechists will record attendance in the classroom at each class session.

Q: How does the Faith Formation staff know when my child or family attends a **parish event**?

A: Each family will fill out an Explore Four Reflection Form at the conclusion of each parish event attended and turn it in to earn an attendance credit. This Reflection Form is documentation of your child/youth's attendance, and it also helps us know what kind of parish events our families are taking part in, and if a given event is worthwhile to host again, or if any changes need to be made to improve the event.

Q: How do I know which parish events qualify as an Explore Four attendance credit?

A: Parish events that qualify as Explore Four Attendance credits will be listed on the Explore Four Chart and will be advertised as qualifying events in the bulletin and on the Explore Four bulletin board located in the Holy Family Center. Stop by and check it out!

Q: Is there a specific number of events required from each of the Explore Four categories for my family enrolled in **Early Childhood Ministry**?

A: All Early Childhood families should aim to earn 25 attendance credits for the current school year. We would love to have you attend as many of the 22 scheduled classes as possible and at least one parish event from each of the other three categories listed as attendance opportunities!

Q: Is there a specific number of events required from each of the Explore Four categories for my child enrolled in the **Children's Faith Formation** program?

A: All children in grades 1-6 need to earn 25 attendance credits between June 1, 2019-April 30, 2020

- A **minimum** of 18 attendance credits must come from class attendance
- All remaining attendance credits may come from the Service, Faith Practice, and Social attendance opportunities. (children/youth must have at least one credit from each of these three categories per year)
- To receive attendance credit for any qualified Service, Faith Practice, and Social opportunity, each family will need to complete a Explore Four Reflection Form and turn it into the Explore Four Reflection Mailbox located in the Holy Family Center. Class attendance will be recorded in the classroom – no need to fill out a Reflection Form!

Q: Is there a specific number of events required from each of the Explore Four categories for my youth enrolled in **Youth Ministry**?

A: All youth in grades 7-12 need 25 Attendance Credits Required between June 1, 2019-April 30, 2020.

- A **minimum** of 16 attendance credits must come from class attendance
- All remaining attendance credits may come from the Service, Faith Practice, and Social attendance opportunities. (youth must have at least one credit from each of these three categories per year)
- To receive attendance credit for any qualified Service, Faith Practice, and Social opportunity, each family will need to complete a Explore Four Reflection Form and turn it into the Explore

Four Reflection Mailbox located in the Holy Family Center. Class attendance will be recorded in the classroom – no need to fill out a Reflection Form!

Q: How will I know how many attendance credits I've already accumulated during the attendance period from June-April?

A: The Early Childhood, Children's Faith Formation, or Youth Ministry office will provide a letter to each child/youth, just after Christmas break, giving an attendance update. However, we tried to make it really easy for families to keep track attendance on your own, by putting "check boxes" next to each class session and event on the 2019-2020 calendar and Explore Four Chart. Each time your child/youth attends a class or event, put a check mark next to that event on your copy of the calendar/Explore Four chart at home!

Q: Where can I get an Explore Four Reflection Form?

A: Explore Four Reflection Forms are available at Explore Four parish events, next to the Explore Four bulletin board in the Holy Family Center, and are also always available to print from the Faith Formation ministry webpages.

Q: Where does my family turn in a completed Explore Four Reflection Form to receive attendance credit?

A: Place completed Explore Four Reflection forms into the "Explore Four Reflection Drop Box" located next to the Explore Four bulletin board in the Holy Family Center. It is always a great idea to take a picture of the Reflection Form before submitting.

Q: Do Reflection Forms need to be turned in the same day as the parish event attended?

A: We encourage all families to fill out the Reflection Form before leaving the event to ensure the family does not forget to complete and submit the form. However, if you need more time to reflect on your experience, the forms may be turned in within one month of the parish event attended, with the deadline for ALL forms to be submitted no later than April 30 of the current school year to receive attendance credit.

Q: Does my entire family need to attend a parish event in order for my child/youth to receive an attendance credit for that event??

A: Entire family attendance is always encouraged. Most events require at least one parent/guardian to participate with a child or youth under 18 years old. However, there are a few opportunities available only for youth in grades 7-12 (These events are marked accordingly on the Explore Four Chart, and do not require parent participation for youth in this age group).

Q: I see Liturgical participation (usher, cantor, altar server, etc) is listed under Faith Practice attendance opportunities. Does my child/youth receive an attendance credit each time he or she serves at Mass?

A: No. Each child/youth that serves within the Liturgy may receive ONE attendance credit per year for serving in a specific liturgical ministry, not each time he or she serves at Mass.

Q: Will there be Explore Four Reflection Forms available at all Masses for our family to fill out after serving?

A: No, if your family or your child/youth serve during liturgy, please go to the Faith Formation webpage and print a Reflection Form, or pick one up in the Holy Family Center beside the Explore Four bulletin board. Then complete the form and turn it into the Explore Four Reflection Drop Box located next to the bulletin board in the Holy Family Center. (Taking a picture of each Reflection Form submitted is always a good idea!)

Q: What happens if my family attends so many parish events and classes that my children/youth have more than 25 attendance credits at the end of the year?

A: We would love to have this happen in every family! Please do not worry about turning in too many Reflection Forms or attending more than the minimum number of class sessions! We value the input on each Reflection Form and we would love to have every child/youth attend all class sessions that are offered!