

Project Phoenix Pod (P2Pod) Frequently Asked Questions

What is Project Phoenix?

Project Phoenix is the rebirth of the former Lutheran Youth of North Seattle (LYONS). From its formation in 1998 through 2019 LYONS served as a cooperative ministry for middle and high school students from a number of ELCA Lutheran churches in the north Seattle area. In addition to monthly activities, a highlight of LYONS was the annual “Dinner Theater” produced by the youth, LYONS staff, and an energetic team of volunteers. In 2019, LYONS became Project Phoenix after a shift in church demographics.

What is the Project Phoenix Pod?

It is a hybrid classroom/youth ministry program that has two main focuses:

1. Provides a safe online classroom learning location option for students during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
2. Provides an established routine for face-to-face interaction between peers where they can build healthy relationships, establish enduring bonds, and grow in their personal faith journeys.

Where does the P2Pod meet?

The P2Pod is hosted at Ballard First Lutheran Church’s Haavik Hall, 2006 NW 65th St, Seattle, WA 98117 office: 206-784-1306 access to Haavik Hall is from the north facing building entrance adjacent to the church’s parking lot.

When does the P2Pod meet?

The Pod’s operating hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 08:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Who can attend the P2Pod?

Any middle or high school students (grades 6-12) who have an association with Project Phoenix: Ballard First Lutheran, Queen Anne Lutheran, Saint John United Lutheran or Phinney Ridge Lutheran church members, their friends, and other local community members. Enrollment is limited to 10 students.

Do I have to be a Lutheran to enroll?

Project Phoenix welcomes all students who wish to explore their personal faith journey. Project Phoenix focuses on Lutheran churches in the north Seattle area, but membership in a Lutheran church is not a prerequisite for enrollment. Periodically, Lutheran pastors will interact with the students to help guide them in their personal faith discernment.

How much does it cost?

Enrollment is free of charge. The Project Phoenix Board of Directors and Ballard First Lutheran Church are underwriting the costs associated with operating the Pod. Parents of students are asked to volunteer and attend some hours a week for each of their enrolled students so that the Pod can have two adults present at all times (to satisfy our Youth Protection Policy).

What does a normal day look like at the P2Pod?

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. arrive with lunch and all supplies needed for the day
- Class and homework based on your student's individual school schedule
- Lunch around noon (or whenever their schedule allows)
- Afternoon class, assignments, and homework
- Wednesdays 2:30-3:20 p.m. group faith or social activity with a Lutheran pastor
- 3-3:30 depart

Why enroll in the P2Pod?

Community is a critical element of our human experience we are all missing during this pandemic, and the loss of community is more acute for our youth. The Project Phoenix Pod is an opportunity for our youth to attend their regular classes, but do so together in a group setting (while still physically distanced). The Project Phoenix Pod provides a community school work environment for your youth to engage in limited social and community activity as a group, and provides a positive environment in which to learn and develop new friendships and connections. The Project Phoenix Pod will also provide some faith-based and service activities as overlapping school schedules allow.

Does the Project Phoenix Pod follow current public health guidelines?

Yes! We offer each student their own work space (50 square feet) with at least six feet of distance from other youth not in their own homes. All workspaces are sanitized daily, and a temperature check and health screening is given each day before any youth, volunteer, or staff member is permitted to enter. Masks are required to be worn at all times when indoors, and when not actively eating or drinking. Adults monitor and enforce cleanliness and social distancing practices.

Does the Project Phoenix Pod provide any materials for my student?

At the Pod location we have secure high-speed wifi internet access and extension cords for student laptops and other necessary electronics. Students should bring all other school and project materials they need themselves. We currently have no secure overnight storage location at the Pod.

Is lunch provided?

No, students should bring their own lunch, and snacks. We do have limited capability for refrigeration and reheating.

Are there group activities other than schoolwork? Yes, as overlapping schedules allow, we have socially distant activities such as:

- Music, singing and playing piano
- Personal faith discernment
- Games (some indoor, some outdoor)
- Arts & crafts
- Group outings for nature exploration (with parent permission)
- Community service projects

That said, ensuring students have adequate time for completing their normal school activities and assignments is our first priority for our time together.

How much supervision is there?

There are at least two adult volunteers or staff present with youth at all times, all with current background checks. All Project Phoenix Pod activities take place in a large common space or outdoors, weather permitting.

How can I learn more?

Our Pod Guide, Kevin Peterson, will be offering periodic virtual welcome and information sessions for parents and prospective students. Email podguide@roaringlyons.org for more info.