

GOYA  
Parent  
Handbook

Kimisis Tis  
Theotokou  
Holmdel, NJ

# **Mission Statement**

**The goal of this group is to form bonds of fellowship with peers, to solidify Greek Orthodox Christian beliefs in the lives of teenage students while affording them the opportunity to express their faith.**

**Through our love for Christ, ourselves, and each other, the GOYA will strive to promote fellowship, worship, witness, and service in the upcoming year.**

**“Let no man look down upon you because you are young, but be an example of the believers in Word, Deed, Love, Spirit, Faith, and Purity”**

**I Timothy 4:12**

**This handbook has been prepared to familiarize the Kimisis Tis Theotokou parents with the functions and procedures of the GOYA.  
The information in the handbook has been provided by the  
Northern New Jersey Youth Commission.**

# GOYA History

It is important to note that these files are not the organizational records of the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) but are the personal files maintained by Andrew Kopan that represent his service to the Greek Orthodox Youth Movement on all levels-local, district, and national. In the 1940's Kopan was involved with local youth groups such as the Sionilli club, and the Orthodox Youth of Saint Constantine. These local groups expanded to citywide and district youth organizations that eventually evolved into GOYA, which was officially founded in 1951. After serving the organization in several different capacities Andrew Kopan was elected National Chairman of GOYA in 1958.

Concerned primarily with the destiny of the Greek Orthodox Church, GOYA stands for the preservation and perpetuation of Orthodoxy as a permanent way of life in America. Based on the precepts of the Orthodox Church, GOYA offered religious, social, cultural, educational, and athletic activities to its members. GOYA's National Headquarters were also headquarters for the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America, which were located in New York. GOYA was governed by National Council that consisted of a National Chairman, National Vice Chairman, National Secretary, National Treasurer, the Councilmen or women, and an Archdiocese representative. The next tier of GOYA's organizational structure was the Diocese and District level made up of Councilmen and Presidents. Each diocese's number of districts depended on how many churches in their area were members of GOYA.

With the support of the Archbishop Michael, the spiritual leader of the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America from 1949-1958, GOYA reached national and international status. It achieved phenomenal success in organizing the young people of the church (defined as anyone between the ages of 18 – 35) into a unified whole. By 1958, it brought into existence 240 chapters amongst the 375 church communities that make up the Archdiocese of North and South America. However, GOYA's organization suffered during the 1960's. It proved inflexible and unable to cope with the changing times and concerns of young people. A newspaper clipping and a report from 1973 document the demise of GOYA due to apathy among church members. In the 1980's and 1990's GOYA members organized reunions and celebrated the anniversary of GOYA's foundation.

# Eligibility and Membership

A GOYA member shall be between the ages of 12 – 18 or in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of that particular year. Should a GOYAN be 18 and turn 19 after September 1<sup>st</sup>, he/she may continue to participate for the duration of the year providing he/she is a high school student. No one may participate in GOYA if they have graduated high school.

Any Greek Orthodox teenager that meets the age and grade requirements is welcome to join. ALL GOYA members must register by filling out the necessary application and submitting a copy of their birth certificate (if they are new). GOYANS will receive weekly email updates from either [Holmdelgoya@yahoo.com](mailto:Holmdelgoya@yahoo.com) or [Goyameeting@yahoo.com](mailto:Goyameeting@yahoo.com) of our events/deadlines and will be able to participate in all the youth events for the state and our church provided that they are in good standing.

**The families of all GOYA members must be members of good standing of Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church, Holmdel, NJ.**

# Duties & Responsibilities of an Advisor

Youth Advisors **MUST** meet all the requirements set by the Archdiocese of the Greek Orthodox Church to be eligible. Youth Advisors shall be members in good standing within their respective parishes. They shall be active in the sacramental life of the Church. They are responsible to and shall be appointed and reassigned by their parish priest. Youth Advisors are required to pledge to uphold the teachings of the Orthodox Church.

# Duties & Responsibilities of a Chaperone

Must be an adult over the age of 21 in good standing with  
Kimisis Tis Theotokou

## Duties

- Oversee the health and welfare of **ALL CHILDREN** attending the event under the direction of the GOYA Advisor
- Look after the posts that are assigned by the host church.
- Report any incidents to an Advisor of our church and the hosting community.
- NO smoking or drinking alcohol in front of the children

# BULLYING/INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

As Greek Orthodox Christians and members of GOYA **must value personal honor** or *philotimo* (love of honor). **Philotimo** stems from a respect for oneself, and from it flows many other positive attributes; dignity, respect, generosity, consideration, the love of others and a sense of right and wrong. As Clergy and Advisors, we are to maintain GOYA a safe and congenial environment for all participants, and to ensure that we uphold Christian tenets.

Please be advised that our GOYA, similar to schools, has a **ZERO TOLERANCE policy for BULLYING**. Please let us know if there are ANY remarks made either **via email, instant messaging, Facebook, any sort of online media or in person** while at GOYA functions so that proper action may be taken **immediately**. Please print out a copy of what was written and bring it to Mr. Marinos, Mrs. Milonas, Mrs. Papasavas or Ms. Panagakos so that we may discuss this matter with the other advisors from other churches (if applicable), the respective Goyans, their parents and Father George so that action to remediate the situation will be taken.

**Note that NO pictures of other Goyans or Advisors from our church or another church should be posted on any website/online media without their consent. There is a no tolerance policy in place and those that have misused any of the above mentioned media will be addressed.**

Please keep in mind that we will not allow the improper treatment of any members in our GOYA as well as mistreatment from or of GOYANS from other churches. Repercussions for inappropriate behavior will be decided upon by the Advisors and Fr. George, however if this becomes an issue and is taken to the state level, the Northern N.J. State Youth Commission will intervene and determine the resolution.

It is our intent to maintain a safe and pleasant environment for the benefit of all members. We know that you share the same concerns and appreciate your complete cooperation in keeping GOYA a fun and enjoyable group for our youth.

# Parental Expectations

- Parents should take into consideration the amount of time and effort that the advisors and instructors put into the program to ensure that our children are able to participate in every event scheduled on the State, District and Local levels.
- Parents should understand that the advisors are trying to help the youth grow as responsible and respectable Greek Orthodox Christians.
- Parents should understand that the success of our program depends on not only your help, but your support of all events.
- Parents should realize that their children do not need to participate in all of our GOYA activities. Parents along with their children must sometimes make choices as to what your schedules can handle.
- Parents should be willing and available to offer help for the success of the GOYANS and the future of the program.
- Parents should contact the advisors first if a situation needs discussion.
- Parents are responsible to:

Ensure GOYANS are respectful to Advisors and Chaperones

GOYANS are properly dressed for all events before arriving at the church.

- Girls should not wear miniskirts or shirts that reveal cleavage.
- Jeans should not be torn

Have GOYANS arrive on time for all events.

Pick up their GOYAN on time after every practice/event.

Money is paid for all events on time, with checks written out to:  
Kimisis Tis Theotokou GOYA.

GOYANS are to attend monthly meetings and mandatory religious events.

All concerns or suggestions should be put in writing and directed to the advisors.

They provide \$2.00 per GOYAN for a driver's tip for all events requiring a bus.

**\*\* Please know that we would like your children to participate in as many events as they would like. If you have a financial hardship please see either Fr. George or an Advisor privately for assistance. \*\***

# Athletics

## Prayer

Lord, Jesus, Christ, we thank you for bringing us together and we ask You to send Your blessings upon us that we may have the strength to make use of our athletic abilities for the good of the game and in the spirit of respectful sportsmanship. Bless us to avoid situations of bad temper and cheating and protect us from injury. Above all, enlighten us to play together as a unified team knowing that whether we win or loose, we represent You and Your Church. Amen

## Introduction:

The objective of the GOYA Athletic Program is to promote a Christ-centered experience. As a component of Youth Ministry, GOYA Athletic Programs introduce young people into a viable relationship with Christ and his Church. They foster knowledge of Christian values, fellowship and sportsmanship in conjunction with athleticism. By modeling Christian conduct, a coach, an athletic director and a parent can help GOYANS reflect on the action of God in the events of their lives. We are directed by St. Paul that “every athlete exercises self-control in all things” (I Corinthians 9:24) As such, all advisors, coaches, instructors, parents, youth workers and participants are subject to the By-Laws of the New Jersey Diocese Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, the Archdiocesan GOYA Guidelines and these Athletic Guidelines and Regulations.

## Goals:

The Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) was founded as a religious movement for Greek Orthodox teenagers. Its fundamental characteristics are Diakonia (Service), Martyria (Witness), Liturgia (Worship), and Koinonia (Fellowship). Youth Ministry is concerned with the Christ-centered experience of the total person. Therefore, athletics are an important component of Youth Ministry.

The purpose of GOYA Athletics is to provide and promote recreational activity that will lead toward the development of Orthodox Christian ideals in the youth served. GOYA athletics not only promotes good manners and sportsmanship but also reaches for spiritual ideals through these sports.

GOYA Athletics can be an opportunity for young people’s participation in the Church through fellowship, witness, worship and service. It can be an effective influence in the formation of a young person’s Orthodox Christian value system and lifestyle

# INSTRUCTORS REGULATIONS

1. The instructor shall promote the entire GOYA program and direct his/her program towards the philosophy and objectives of the program.
2. The GOYA instructor is primarily a minister to youth with a gift of reaching out to young people through athletics.
3. The instructor must be aware that he/she has a tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education of the student, and thus shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
4. The instructor must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of their profession. In all personal contact with the players, officials, clergy, parents and spectators, the instructor must strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
5. The instructor shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use. This means that as an instructor, you should not smoke or drink in front of the GOYANS.
6. The instructor shall be thoroughly acquainted with the rules and is responsible for communicating them to their group members. The spirit and letter of the rules should be regarded as mutual agreements. The instructor shall not attempt to circumvent the spirit of letter of the rules.

# GOYA PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Boys Basketball:	Every Tuesday/Thursday	5:30-7:30 & 6-8 pm
Girls Volleyball:	Every Tuesday	7 – 9 pm
GOYA Dance:	Every Monday	7:30 – 9 pm
Sights & Sounds:		
Choral Speaking	TBA	TBA
Instrument Group	TBA	TBA
Singing	Every Monday (Nov. – March)	6:30-7:30 pm
Religious Singing	Every Monday (Nov. – March)	6:00-6:30 pm
Play	Every Sunday	following church
Olympics:		
Soccer	TBA (after Sights and Sounds)	TBA
Track	TBA (after Sights and Sounds)	TBA

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

Goya Meetings	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday *
Sunday Church Attendance (mandatory)	Sundays of games
GOYA Charity/Social	usually the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday
District and State Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday/Tuesday
Officers & Advisors Meeting	Prior to Goya meeting

Please visit our GOYA calendar at:  
[www.calendar.yahoo.holmdelgoya](http://www.calendar.yahoo.holmdelgoya) for up-to-date  
information on events and practices.

\* Meeting dates may change depending on special events

# 2010-2011 GOYA Advisors and Instructors

GOYA email address – [Holmdelgoya@yahoo.com](mailto:Holmdelgoya@yahoo.com)  
Website – [www.kimisis.com](http://www.kimisis.com) – look under GOYA

Reverend Father George H. Dounelis

## Advisors:

George Marinos

Lucy Milonas

Rosanna Panagakos

Theodora Papasavas

## Advisor-in-training:

Eva Hiras

## Sports Instructors:

Basketball: Tony Patras

Volleyball: Matt Bistrimovich

Olympics: Bill Parlamis

Sports Coordinator: Tom Protentis

## Sights and Sounds Instructors:

American Singing Group: Lucy Milonas

American Play:

Choral Speaking: Christie Bontales

Dramatic Pairs:

Greek Folk Dancing: Mrs. Chakalos

Greek Singing Group:

Instrument Group: Peter Kousouris

Instrument Solo: Lucy Milonas

Monologue (Greek and English):

Religious Singing Group: Lucy Milonas

Singing Solo: Lucy Milonas

# Sights and Sounds

## CATEGORIES

### 1. ART-18" x 24" and mounted

- A. Opaque Painting – Oils
- B. Opaque Painting – Acrylics
- C. Opaque Painting – Tempera
- D. Watercolors
- E. Pen and Ink
- F. Pencil
- G. Pastels
- H. Cartoons – Create your own characters.
- I. Collage-A mixture of textures or materials portraying a theme.
- J. Posters-A statement; extends a message like an ad or about something.
- K. Sculpture
- L. Computer Art
- M. Scratch Board

### 2. HANDICRAFT

- A. Woodworking-Decorative \*
- B. Woodworking-Functional\*
- C. Woodworking-Furniture\*
- D. Molded Ceramics
- E. Hand molded Ceramics
- F. Needlepoint
- G. Soft Sculpture
- H. Sewing
- I. Embroidery / Cross Stitch
- J. Macrame
- K. Rug Making  
size restrictions 2' x 4' x 2
- L. Flower Making
- M. Jewelry-Original Design
- N. Jewelry-Kit
- O. Molded Candles  
(wicks not required)
- P. Freeform Candles  
(wicks not required)
- Q. Original designs on ready made clothing.
- R. Original Design on ready made items
- S. Stained Glass  
(lead/brass came, copper foil)
- T. Decoupage
- U. Mosaics (ceramic, glass, tessarate, stone or other hard material-no tissue)

### **3. LITERATURE**

**A. Essays**

**B. Short Stories**

**C. Poetry**

### **4. VISUALS** (maximum of three (3) photos in each category per participant)

- A. Black & White Photography (Mounted)
- B. Color Photography (Mounted)
- C. Computer Enhanced Photography (Mounted)

## **SOUND CATEGORIES**

### **1. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES**

- A. Singing Solo**
- B. Instrument Solo**
- C. English Monologue**
- D. Greek Monologue**

### **2. GROUP ENTRIES**

- A. American Singing Group**
- B. Religious Singing Group**
- C. Instrument Group**
- D. Greek Folk Dancing**
- E. Choral Speaking**
- F. Greek OR American Play**
- G. Greek Singing Group**
- H. Dramatic Pairs (in English)**

# OLYMPICS

## 1. INDOOR ACTIVITIES

### Junior and Senior Division

Chess  
Backgammon  
Table Tennis  
Checkers  
Wii activity

## 2. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Co-ed Volleyball (H.S. Junior & Seniors ONLY)

### Track and Field

Distance Runs  
Sprints  
Relays  
Shot Put  
Long Jump  
Softball Throw  
Swimming (individual and relay)

# 2010-2011 General Monthly Calendar

\*Meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month unless otherwise noted\*

September:	Holy Cross Celebration Kick off Dance Car Wash
October:	Mr. & Miss GOYA Pageant Bible bowl and Dance
November:	Bowling Tournament Youth Sunday- Bake sale
December:	Christmas Party Nursing Home-Caroling Christmas Dance
January:	Bridges Basketball/Volleyball Play-offs
February:	Valentine's Dance
March:	Sights & Sounds
April:	Oratorical Festival District Religions Retreat
May:	Indoor Olympics Outdoor Olympics Nominations of Officers
June:	Election of Officers Church Festival Car Wash
July:	Camp Good Shepard
TBD:	Ski Trip GOYA Social Nights Lock-In