

National Catholic Youth Conference ORLANDO DELEGATION 2017

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What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a powerful, biennial, three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic Teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones.

The schedule includes keynote presentations, prayer, workshops, liturgy, and opportunities to participate in reconciliation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as recreational activities, concerts, and exhibits. A key component of NCYC is the thematic park which is a blend of traditional exhibit booths with interactive areas featuring service projects, games, recreation, live musical performances, arts and sports. Learn more about NCYC by viewing their website:
<http://www.ncyc.info/>

NCYC is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM). The NFCYM is a nonprofit organization whose purposes are to foster the development of youth ministry within the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Orlando is a member of the NFCYM. Learn more about the NFCYM here:
<http://nfcym.org/>

What does NCYC as a pilgrimage experience mean?

Attending NCYC is more than just a vacation; it can be a life changing experience. The goals of a pilgrimage, especially for youth, should reflect the general goals for youth ministry found in Renewing the Vision. As a reminder, those goals are:

- To draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community
- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person

Why attend NCYC?

Youth and their adult chaperones attend NCYC because they want to:

- Gather together with other Catholic youth on a national level;
- Learn more about themselves and their relationship to God, and the Catholic Church;
- Celebrate their Catholic faith;
- Meet thousands of other Catholic youth;
- Share beliefs and experiences;
- Recognize their role in the life of the Catholic Church.

When and where will NCYC be held?

All activities for NCYC will take place at the Lucas Oil Stadium and Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 16-19, 2017.

What is the schedule for NCYC?

The official opening of NCYC begins on Thursday, November 16 with the Thematic Park opening at 12 noon. NCYC ends with closing liturgy at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 18, 2017, with Sunday, November 19, 2017 as a travel day. The full schedule of events will be posted at a later date.

Who can attend NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is open to all high school aged youth and their adult chaperones. Youth attendees must be in high school at the time of NCYC (November 2017). When promoting NCYC, don't forget to include this year's 8th graders, as they will be 9th graders in November 2017.

Who can be an adult chaperone?

Adult chaperones must be 21 years or older. Since this is an overnight event, there must be two adult chaperones for the first group of eight youth. After that, you must add one more adult for each additional eight youth. For example, 2 adults for 8 youth, 3 adults for 9-16 youth, 4 adults for 17-24 youth, etc. Be sure that you have both male and female chaperones in proportion to the gender make-up of the group.

All adults must be in current compliance with Diocese of Orlando Safe Environment Policy (i.e. all adults must have a completed the on-line safe environment training and fingerprint-cleared background check within the last 5 years). Access and safe environment training here:

<http://www.orlandodiocese.org/how-do-i/register-for-safe-environment-training/>

Will participants miss any school days?

Yes. NCYC participants will miss at least 2 days of school. Some schools may give excused absences. In the past, the NFCYM has provided a letter that students can bring to school officials in the fall to explain the great value in attending NCYC. The letter will be shared when it is available. Neither the NFCYM nor the Diocese of Orlando has any control over our schools allowing or disallowing excused absences for NCYC.

Who organizes NCYC at the parish level?

Since participants must register through their parish, each parish must have an adult Contact Person who will be the single point of contact between the parish and the Diocesan Delegation Leaders. In most cases, the Contact Person is the Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry. The Contact Person will lead the NCYC organizing effort in their parish. This includes forming a local parish planning team, promoting NCYC, recruiting parish youth, collecting fees and forms, and being a vital communication link between parish participants and the diocese.

How can my parish group participate in NCYC?

The Diocesan Delegation Leaders will pre-register all participants from our diocese. NCYC will not accept registrations from individual parishes. Adult leaders at parishes will be responsible for organizing, promoting and managing their own group.

What's included in the Diocesan Package for Orlando?

Our Diocesan Delegation Package will cover:

- Conference registration fees (not including late registration charges)
- Hotel accommodations for three nights
- Breakfast at the hotel on Friday and Saturday
- Diocesan dinner as a delegation
- Mass one morning as a delegation
- Teens receive – Diocesan zip-hoodie, backpack, water bottle and journal
- Adult Ministry Team Members - will receive a Diocesan zip-hoodie, slightly different design to identify them as an Adult Ministry Member, (making it easier for youth to recognize our adults quickly), water bottle, backpack and journal.
- Regular informational updates via e-mail plus ongoing support, guidance and assistance from your Diocesan Delegation Leaders
- Mandatory Parish Leader meeting (for all youth ministers bringing a group): **DATE TBD**
- Mandatory Adult Ministry Team formation meeting (for ALL traveling adults): **DATE TBD**
- Diocesan Pilgrim Retreat and Parent Gathering: **DATE TBD**

Depending on the amount for this year's registration fees, which have not yet been released, we are hoping to add boxed lunches and a diocesan tradeable item in this year's package, as well. Please note that travel is not included—each group is responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

More details will be available in the Parish Leader Packet at a later date.

How much is the Diocesan Package?

We are hoping to keep this package at the same cost as last year-- **\$450 per participant**. This is contingent upon the registration costs not yet released by NCYC, and the hotel accommodations. Please note that travel is not included—each group is responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

More details will be available in the Parish Leader Packet at a later date.

Hotel Information:

All hotel information will be shared at a later date, once the hotel is assigned. We try to book suite rooms when possible to keep down the cost. Suites accommodate 6 persons per room. Married couples may share a room. If an adult wishes to have their own room, an additional fee will be required and is based on space availability. Please contact your Diocesan Delegation Leaders for any such request.

How will we get from our hotel to the conference?

If our hotel is in walking distance to the stadium and convention center, it will be the responsibility of adult chaperones to accompany their group from the hotel to the conference and back. If we are not within walking distance ground transportation, buses will be chartered. More information will be released once the hotel accommodations are assigned.

Are scholarships available?

The Catholic Youth Foundation USA offers scholarship assistance for NCYC. Download a [Scholarship Application Form](#) to be submitted to a diocesan delegation leader. Deadline: May 5, 2017.

How do I register my group to participate in NCYC?

Once the NCYC posts registration information, we will make that information available to you.

Where can I get a copy of the NCYC logo?

The official NCYC logo has two versions and is available in English and Spanish. Logo files and usage policy will be posted at a later time on the NCYC website.

Are there opportunities at NCYC for youth besides being a participant?

Yes. There are three additional opportunities for your youth to be more involved at NCYC.

1. NCYC YOUTH ANIMATOR.

The Youth Animator Program is for young people with high energy and enthusiasm who also possess good public speaking skills, vocal music ability, and some rhythm. Youth animators take lead roles in general session programming by leading prayer, song, and movement from the main stage in the stadium. All youth selected to be animators will be asked to sing and perform basic dance steps and ritual movement whether or not it is their primary area of ministry. More information to come!

2. NCYC YOUTH AMBASSADOR.

The Youth Ambassador program is for young people with good people, public speaking, and/or leadership abilities. They do not need any previous experience, but should be comfortable with the possibility of speaking in front of large groups. Ambassadors welcome other participants to mega workshop and workshop sessions, determine if/when a room has reached its capacity, introduce and thank warm up artists (mega workshops) and speakers (mega and regular workshops), lead prayer, and introduce the evaluation process. More information to come!