

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT 2016**

### **What is National Youth Event (NYE)?**

NYE was founded in 1980 as a quadrennial gathering for youth of the United Church of Christ between the ages of 13 and 18 (the 18-year old should be no more than a summer high school graduate). The event centers on four pillars: *faith, leadership, service and social justice*, with a global emphasis for each. With more than three decades of transformative ministry with, to and by youth; NYE continues to evolve. Over the years, NYE has incorporated technology as a tool of worship, integrating social media platforms and becoming a paperless event; welcomed youth delegates from four continents; expanded to include non-youth visitors and guests; and in 2016, proudly welcome The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as co-hosts of the event.

### **What can we expect at National Youth Event?**

National Youth Event 2016 is scheduled from Tuesday, July 26 through Saturday, July 30, 2016. Over the course of 5-days and 4-nights; NYE attendees will be immersed in Worship, Workshops, Service projects and Social Justice Outreach. NYE is proud of its diverse and energetic platform of keynotes that include youth, young adults and adults; faith based and non-faith based; international voices and an eclectic mix of speakers and artists creatively interacting with our attendees on topics such as environmental justice, human rights and social justice, and leadership and faith formation. There are over 200 workshops over the course of two days, after-hours activities, morning sunrise exercise, a 24-hour youth hall called TIE (Theological Interactive and Educational Hall), special concerts, great food and lots of fun. Families and guests are welcome to attend, but program, workshops and all outreach is designed with youth

attendees in mind. Some programmatic elements will be exclusively for youth group attendees.

### **Walt Disney World as a Venue**

We're excited about Walt Disney World being our 2016 venue. Traditionally, NYE has been held exclusively on college campuses. In 2016, NYE will be held for the first time on a non-college venue at *Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL*. We are excited about the opportunities the Disney venue presents, including welcoming families to share in the NYE experience as visitors/guests. Still, NYE 2016 remains a religious, community immersed and youth inspired global event centered on faith, leadership, service and social justice.

### **Can youth attendees stay with their families?**

Families can choose to stay together, but we strongly encourage youth attendees to stay with their youth groups. We encourage youth attendees to fully experience NYE with their peers.

### **Will we have an opportunity to explore the theme parks?**

Registration for will include a pass for park admission. The program will include one full day for exploration of the Walt Disney World theme parks. Attendees can extend their stay after NYE concludes and add-on additional days to have fun with family and friends. We recommend adding additional days post the event as we will not be able to distribute tickets prior to July 26.

### **Safe Conduct Workbench**

National Youth Event complies with the Insurance Board's Safe Conduct Workbench. The Workbench's Safe Conduct Policies provide tools to help ministries develop and participate in the prevention of abuse. Services are available to all United Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Presbyterian

Church (USA) churches, related entities, and camps. With respect to varying policies set by congregations, conferences, associations and various settings; National Youth Event will adhere to Safe Conduct policies as outlined by the Workbench. A detailed overview of the Safe Conduct Workbench can be found at the following links:

United Church of Christ Youth Resources

[http://www.ucc.org/youth\\_resources](http://www.ucc.org/youth_resources)

Insurance Board Safe Conduct Workbench

[http://www.insuranceboard.org/safety\\_solutions/safe\\_conduct\\_workbench.aspx](http://www.insuranceboard.org/safety_solutions/safe_conduct_workbench.aspx)

### **NYE Safe Conduct Quick References**

- Our housing policy will only allow one youth per bed in assigned rooms.
- Youth participants are not permitted to share beds.
- Roommates must be of the same gender.
- Special needs requests must be submitted at registration for assistance as specified.
- Youth participants can be housed with family, but we recommend staying with your group.
- The youth to adult chaperon ratio is 8:1 with matching genders. If a group consists of 8 young women, one woman chaperon is required. If a group consists of 7 young women and one young man, both one woman and one man will be required to chaperon the group.
- Chaperons must be 21-years of age or no less than 3-years older than group's oldest youth.
- Youth must be accompanied by a group leader, parent or guardian in order to attend NYE.
- All attendees must review and agree to the NYE Safe Conduct

policies in order to register.

- NYE has zero tolerance for any forms of abuse. Violations can be grounds for dismissal.

### **NYE Green Goals**

Walt Disney World hosts large events year round. Disney strives to meet its long-term goal of attaining a “zero” state of net greenhouse gas emissions and waste, while conserving water resources when and wherever it can. National Youth Event will share in that mission and also recycling, being a “paperless” event and exploring creatively with the UCC and DOC Environmental Justice Ministries’ missions, respectively, as our platform to keep NYE Green. Here are some helpful websites attendees may explore to share in a Green NYE and beyond.

UCC Environmental Ministries

[http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries\\_do](http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries_do)

Disciples of Christ Green Chalice

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/environment/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/energy>

Carbon Fund (Calculate and Offset Carbon Emissions)

<https://www.carbonfund.org/>

### **What is Disney YES?**

The Disney Youth Education Series (Disney YES) explores global citizenship and how technology, communication and innovation have bridged cultural gaps around the world while navigating the international pavilions of Epcot® World Showcase. *Program Overview:* Students will gain the broadened cultural perspective that although people come from many different cultures, they all have similar needs, interests and issues. Youth will work with

small groups to explore how Disney YES program speaks to our faith values as a universal body in Christ.

**Is NYE an international gathering?**

Yes. NYE welcomes attendees from all across the world. Past NYEs welcomed ambassadors from at least four continents and speakers from across the diaspora. The four pillars of NYE: faith, leadership, service and social justice are explored with global awareness and relevance.

**What is the age group for youth attendees?**

Youth attendees must be between 13 and 18 years of age. We do not use grade levels. However, 18-year old *youth* registrants should be no more than a summer high school graduate.

**Can young adults, children and families attend that are not in the youth age group?**

Yes. NYE 2016 welcomes non-youth visitors and guests: Young adults (19-20), Toddlers & Children (12 and under) and Adults (21 and older). While the event welcomes visitors and guests, NYE remains a youth inspired event and some activities will be exclusively for youth. There is not a registration fee for attendees, 3-years old or younger.

**Is there a special registration rate for families, visitors and guests?**

No. The rates per person will be the same with the exception of TIE Hall partners & Toddlers.

**Are scholarships available?**

The subsidized rate for NYE provides scholarship to 100% of our participants. Rates are discounted by more than 60%, providing incomparable value for 1-week housing, meals, program and park

admission at a Walt Disney Resort. We encourage seeking additional scholarship from local, association, conference settings; fundraising; and community sponsors.

**What is the actual cost/unsubsidized rate for NYE?**

The actual cost per attendee for NYE is more than \$1,300 per person. We invite registrants to make an above-and-beyond offering in support of this inspiring wider church outreach. To learn more about becoming a sponsor/donor of NYE, please email [youth@ucc.org](mailto:youth@ucc.org).

**When is payment due?**

Full payment is due at the time of registration. Registration opens January 20 and closes May 27.

**Disney's Coronado Spring's policy indicates housing occupancy of up to 4-people.**

NYE will adhere to the Insurance Board's Safe Conduct Workbench for the duration of the event and with the safety and best interest of all attendees. Our policy permits one youth per bed. As Coronado's rooms have two beds max per room; only two participants can be assigned to a room. The Insurance Board's Safe Conduct policy will be NYE's covenantal guide for conduct.

**What's Parade of Banners and who can participate?**

Parade of Banners is an NYE tradition where UCC conferences (and now DOC regions) are invited to process during opening worship with banners displaying conference pride. We encourage all conferences and regions to bring a banner to NYE and designate youth to "parade" the banners during worship. This is always an energetic and fun element of worship. Email the dimensions of your banner, name of conference or region and contact name to [youth@ucc.org](mailto:youth@ucc.org).

**Will NYE engage community service?**

Yes. Coordinated through United Way, diverse projects will be available for youth participants ranging from environmental clean-ups to outreach with persons that are displaced or homeless. The limited service project opportunities are reserved exclusively for youth group attendees. In addition, limited social justice outreach opportunities will be available with select projects open to all registrants. For example, attendees may visit with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Both service projects and social justice opportunities will be available Wednesday and Thursday.

**Is there a special missional focus for NYE?**

Yes. *Locks of Love* non-profit provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. Attendees are encouraged to start growing out their hair to donate on-site. NYE's *Locks of Love Hair Salon* will be in TIE Hall, Tuesday through Thursday. Appointments can be made on-site for haircuts and donation. We will also accept hair donations sent via youth groups by non-attendees. Visit [www.locksoflove.org/](http://www.locksoflove.org/) for donor guidelines.

**Social Media**

NYE Hashtags: #NYE2016 #Believe2016 #StillspeakingYouth

Twitter: @TheUCCYouth

Facebook: United Church of Christ Youth

Website: [www.ucc.org/nye](http://www.ucc.org/nye)

**NYE Theme**

Believe

**Faith Formation**

Hebrews 11:1

I John 3:23

John 4:42

John 9:36

John 9:38

Luke 8:50

Mark 9:23

Mark 9:24

Mark 11:23-24

Romans 10:14

I Thessalonians 4:14