

# 2017 National Catholic Youth Conference FAQs

## **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 the promo video: <http://www.ncyc.info/>. NCYC is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM).

## **Who is the NFCYM?**

The NFCYM is a nonprofit organization whose purposes are to foster the development of youth ministry within the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Honolulu 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

More information on practical applications of a pilgrimage will be posted in 2016.

## **Why attend the 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 19. 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 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as they will be 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> graders in November 2017.*

### **Who can be an adult chaperone?**

Adult chaperones must be 21 years or older. There must be two adult chaperones for the first group of ten youth. After that, you must add one more adult for each additional six youth. For example, 2 adults for 10 youth, 3 adults for 11-16 youths, 4 adults for 17-22 youths, 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 compliance with Diocese of Honolulu Safe Environment Policy (i.e. all adults must have a cleared background check and complete the initial safe environment training). Access background screening and safe environment training here: <http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/>.

### **What is the NCYC Code of Conduct?**

There are separate codes of conduct for adults and youth. All attendees should review them. These are incorporated by reference in the Liability Waiver and Permission Forms. These will be available at a later date.

### **Will participants miss any school days?**

Yes. NCYC participants will miss at least 2 days of school. Some schools may give excused absences. 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 made available on our website: [www.catholichawaii.org/ooyam/ym](http://www.catholichawaii.org/ooyam/ym). Neither the NFCYM nor the Diocese of Honolulu 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 Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. In most cases, the Contact Person is the Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry or High School Campus Minister. This Contact Person will lead the NCYC organizing effort in their parish. This includes forming a local parish/school planning team, promoting NCYC, recruiting parish youth, collecting fees and forms, and being a vital communication link between parish participants and the diocese. See handout: **Organizing a Parish/School Group** for a step-by-step guide to assist in your planning.

### **How can my parish/school group participate in NCYC?**

The Diocese of Honolulu Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (OYYAM) must pre-register all participants from our diocese. NCYC will not accept registrations from individual parishes/schools. Adult leaders at parishes/schools will be responsible for organizing, promoting and managing your own group.

*Registration Fee, Transportation, and Meal information will be available at a later date.*

**Hotel:** The OYYAM has reserved a block of rooms.

- *How many youths to a room?* Youth will be housed four to a room in two-bedded rooms, separated by gender.
- *How many adults to a room?* Adults will be housed two to a room in two-bedded rooms, separated by gender. 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 the OYYAM for any such request.
- *Will we be staying in hotels by parish/school?* For the most part, hotel rooms will be assigned by parish/school to make the job of the adult chaperones as easy as possible. Each parish/school will need to provide the OYYAM with rooming lists. In an effort to reduce the over-all cost and to utilize our block of rooms effectively, if a parish/school does not completely fill each room, we may need to assign youth from different parishes/schools to share. If that is the case, the parish/school group leader will be notified first.
- *How will we get from our hotel to the conference?* 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.
- *What is the cost of the hotel?* Not available at this time.
- *What are dates the hotel is reserved for?* Not available at this time.

As soon as you know how many youth and adults will be attending NCYC, complete and mail **Form A: NCYC Parish/School Commitment Form** to the OYYAM. Because we are reserving our block of rooms early, we want to be sure that there is still space for your group. Do not wait until the last minute.

### **Are scholarships available?**

The Catholic Youth Foundation USA offers scholarship assistance for NCYC. We will post more information at a later time.

### **Do we have to use the NCYC hotel block?**

Your group can choose to make your own hotel reservations; however, NCYC charges an additional \$40 per person “non-use of hotel block fee”. If you choose this option, please contact the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

### **How do I register my group to participate in NCYC?**

All groups from the Diocese of Honolulu must register through the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. More information will be posted at a later time.

### **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.

### **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. For eligibility and requirements, contact the OYYAM.
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 forthcoming.