**High School Youth Conference 2020**

**Important Registration Change**

For those who get their registration packets in on time, you will not notice any changes to the process. *No registration packet will be considered complete until the complete registration packet has been received (all forms and payment).* What does this mean? Your registration packet will not be processed and you will not be registered to attend the conference until we have received the entire registration packet. If you turn in only a portion of your registration packet, then your packet will be set aside until we receive the entire completed registration packet. That means that you will possibly lose out on T-shirt orders, housing and in some cases even being able to attend. (Please note - I understand that you sometimes have to add a youth as a late add-on (please call our office and notify us). That will not create a problem for your whole registration packet. The problem is when a whole group is missing some or all of their registration packet.

**Diocesan Conference Registration**

1. Forms -- Please use only the diocesan forms to register the youth and adults from your parish as they will be **the only form of registration accepted by the Youth Office.** You may Xerox as many copies as needed. Please retain a copy of all forms submitted for your own records. All forms need to be properly completed and returned with payment to the Youth Office by **Friday, February 14, 2020**. Please ensure that the correct T-shirt sizes are written on the registration form as there will be no exchanges at the conference. Also, if ordering size XXL/2XL or XXXL/3XL, please submit an additional $2 per shirt. The largest size available is XXXL/3XL.

**Special Notes:**

* There are separate forms for registering and housing youth boys and girls, as well as adult males and females. Please review them carefully before completing.
* Everyone attending the conference must be registered by his/her parish; using the appropriate form, submit a signed medical release form, and pay the registration fee, **including chaperones**. The deadline ***(NO EXCEPTIONS)*** for early bird registration at the rate of $145 per participant (youth/adult) is **Friday, February 14, 2020**. Beginning **Monday, February 17, 2020,** the registration fee will be $155 per participant (youth/adult) and the final registration deadline is **February 21, 2020**. Any additions to your registration roster received after the early bird deadline will be at the $155 rate. Please understand that your registration packet is not considered complete until all forms are submitted and money received. **There are no refunds.**

1. Housing -- Housing at White Oak will be in two separate areas. We will be using both the motel rooms and the group housing (group housing holds 64 people). We will assign youth in groups of 4-5 per room. (Each of the motel rooms now have one bed and 2 set of bunks.) There will be no less than 3 adults per room. Please submit your housing lists accordingly. Housing is on a first come, first served basis. Once White Oak housing is full, the rest of the participants will be assigned to the Holiday Inn at their own cost. (Due to the increased demand for couple housing, we are no longer able to offer such accommodation.) For those needing housing accommodations for the disabled, please note that on your housing form.
2. Chaperones/Youth -- Please help us put on a great youth conference by ensuring the safety of our young people through adequate supervision. I would like to keep a 7:1 ratio of youth to adults. Please be sure to have adult male and female chaperones, 21 years of age or older and SAFE HAVEN trained. All adults should sit with their young people during all general sessions. Please remember that chaperones are responsible for their youth both day and night.

Persons under the age of 21 are not considered to be chaperones. They can be a helper, but should **not** be considered as chaperones. They will be housed as adults.

**Special Note: It is your responsibility to ensure that your youth understand and follow the diocesan youth conference guidelines.**

1. If you have a priest coming with your group, please let us know.
   * Will he need a room? If yes, will he need a room for Friday and Saturday or just one of the nights? (Please register your priest on the adult housing list.)
   * Will he be participating in any events (ex. Reconciliation/Mass)?

Reconciliation

Friday night reconciliation will be from 9:30-10:30 p.m.

Saturday night reconciliation will be from 9:00-10:30 p.m. (If we have enough priests, we will have reconciliation Saturday afternoon from 2:30-4:30 p.m.)

**White Oak Conference Center**

We are excited to return for a 28th year to White Oak. For those who have not been to White Oak, it is located 40 minutes north of Columbia off of I-77. The White Oak facility offers large conference and hotel-type accommodations, with a spacious stage and hall to allow us to configure the room to ensure that everyone has a good view no matter where they sit! White Oak lecture rooms allow us to offer numerous workshops for both youth

and adults. The most important aspect is that it is a large, modern facility which allows us to host many people while still comfortably meeting the needs of our group.

**Registration Forms Enclosed**

Registration/General Information Materials Parent Permission/Adult Forms

Packing List Code of Conduct Youth/Adults

Emergency Contact Numbers Pizza Order Form

Map to White Oak Chaperone Letter

Workshop Submission Form Priest Attendance/First Aid Form

Registration/Housing Form Student Insurance Roster Form

(Note: For driving directions from your specific location, please use an internet search engine such as mapquest.com: 633 Mobley Highway, Winnsboro, SC 29180)

**High School Youth Conference General Information**

Date: March 6-8, 2020

Start Time: Friday registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m.

End Time: Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m.

Location: White Oak Conference Center, White Oak, SC

Participants: Students in Grades 9-12 may attend

Cost: $145.00 per each participant (youth/adult) - Early Bird Registration **before** **February 14, 2020.**

$155.00 per each participant (youth/adult) - registration **after** **February 17, 2020.**

**Scholarship Information**

There are a limited number of scholarships available on a first come, first serve basis.

**Upon Arrival at the Conference Site**

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m. in front of the classroom building (Those groups arriving after 8:00 p.m. will not be able to enter Beacham Hall until after the Opening session is complete.) Upon arrival, you will be directed to parking. **Please do not bring your entire group to the registration tables.** All participants but the sponsoring adult, including chaperones, should wait in their vehicle until registration is complete. If you have any questions or changes, please report to the “trouble-shooting table” located in the registration area.

**Special Note:**

* We will only accept replacements/changes of the same gender. (For example, Johnny gets sick the day of the conference; you may not send Suzy in his place.) If you have changes the day of the conference, we will not be able to exchange the shirt which was on the original order form for a different size.

There is to be absolutely **NO room switching** without prior written permission from the Director of Youth Ministry. People will be assigned to rooms to help us ensure that there are enough beds for everyone, but more importantly, it is imperative that we know in which room participants will be staying in the event of a nighttime emergency.

When you register, you will receive an envelope for your group containing:

1) A list of the adults/youth registered from your parish.

2) Name tags for each participant which MUST be worn the entire weekend. Name tags will contain the following information: First and last name, parish, and city. Name tags are $5.00 to replace.

3) A schedule for the weekend.

4) T-shirts for all registered participants.

5) Housing assignments.

**Packing List**

Appropriate Casual Clothing

Sweatshirts/Jackets

Toiletry Items

*\*Towels and linens are provided.*

\*\* Do not bring IPods, DVD players, electronic games, or cell phones. At past conferences, we have had several items stolen. Do **NOT** bring these items to the conference.

\*\* Cell phones are not allowed on inside Beacham Hall.

**Friday Meal**

Again this year we will be selling pizza and sodas. I am happy to offer you a meal option of pizza from Pizza Hut in your choice of either cheese or vegetarian pizzas. The cost for either pizza is $12.00 each. Those wishing to do so may purchase sodas from the White Oak staff for $1.00 each.

If you wish to order pizza or sodas for your group, simply complete the enclosed order form and return it with your registration packet by the deadline of **February 14, 2020.** When you arrive on Friday night, your pizza will be waiting for you. We ask that you arrive between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. in order for your group to have plenty of time to eat before the conference begins at 8:00 p.m.

**Free Time**

On Saturday afternoon, the youth will be given free time. The youth are invited to participate in several different team sports tournaments; including volleyball, dodge-ball, kickball and Ga-Ga ball. Sign-ups for these sports will take place on Saturday morning at the cafeteria.

**First Aid Station**

We will again have a first aid station set up in Beacham Auditorium. We are in need of either doctors, nurses, or EMT’s who would be willing to help “man” this station. If you know of someone willing to help, please fill out the enclosed form. Free registration for those assisting.

**Emergency Contact Numbers**

Please use these numbers only in the event of an emergency!

White Oak Conference Center (803) 635-4685

Jerry White, Director of Youth Ministry Cell Phone (843) 709-9025

(Texting is always better because the signal reception is poor!)

**Banners**

Each parish group is invited to make a banner that represents the theme and occasion of the weekend. Banners will be judged by the Conference Committee and ribbons will be awarded to the top three. We ask that each banner be made so that it can stand by itself. (For example, use PVC pipe, wooden dowels, etc.) Banners should be no larger than 4’ x 6’.

**Workshops**

We are always looking for people to give workshops for the conference. If you or someone you know would like to present a workshop, please fill out and return the enclosed workshop form by **February 14, 2020.**

**Extra Money**

Please let your youth know that speakers/presenters will be selling T-shirts and CD's. Also, we will be taking up a collection for the Diocesan Youth Scholarship fund during Sunday Mass.

**Rules**

Please read and review the rules with your adults and youth for DYC 2020 that are enclosed. Thank you!