



# YOUTH MINISTERS INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

Welcome to the St. Isaac Jogues Youth Conference We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about the conference weekend. Any high school student from rising freshman to graduating senior are invited to attend. This is a weekend filled with dynamic talks, exciting music, prayer, reconciliation, adoration, Mass and an awesome opportunity to grow in friendships.

It is an enriching experience for both you and the teens of your youth group to come to know God in a deeper and more personal way in a fun meaningful atmosphere.

The Conference is held on the grounds of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in a large tent in the field between the Visitors Center and the Pavilion. There will be times we will be in other areas on the shrine ground for workshops and activities. At the end of the day the teens and chaperones will be shuttled to the hotel for the night.

All groups must have at least one chaperone designated as the "Group Leader" and must have a chaperone that is gender specific meaning that Men chaperone male teens and Woman chaperone female teens. There should not be more than 7 teens per chaperone. All chaperone's must be over the age of 21. All chaperone's must comply with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany Safe Environment requirements or of your home diocese.

Check in is on Friday, at the hotel beginning at 4 pm. You will receive your room assignments, wrist bands and welcoming packs. Keys to rooms will be given to chaperones only, no teens should have keys given to them. You will need to make arrangements to arrive to the conference site via the transportation that brought you to the hotel for dinner which will be held from 5 pm to 6:45 pm. The Conference begins at 7 pm. Make sure the teens are prepared for the day, they will not be able to return to the hotel until the end of the evening.

On Sunday each room should be empty and cleaned up. All bags need to be packed and brought to the conference site. Check out is done prior to buses arriving at 8:45 am.

Please encourage your teens to bring the following items: toiletries, comfortable modest clothing, sleeping bag/pillow (some will be sleeping on the floor to save you \$\$ by putting 6 teens together in the room), towel, bug spray, sunscreen, rosary, bible, journal, pen, rain poncho and flashlight. Also consider bringing money for the snack shack (\$20 should be good). Food cannot be ordered at the hotel. Cell phones are permitted and we will encourage use at certain times during the conference but must be shut off during conference talks, Mass and adoration.

How much does the conference cost?

The conference cost is \$200 per person and for that it includes everything including the hotel costs. Each room has 2 double beds.

The hotel costs are as follows;

- 4/ROOM ADULTS or 6/ROOM TEENS=\$200 EACH
- 3/ROOM = \$217 EACH
- 2/ROOM = \$250 EACH
- 1/ROOM - \$350

Can we come part of the weekend?

The conference is designed to evangelize to teens best when they have the whole weekend experience and that includes the overnights at the hotel. Please do everything you can to stay the entire weekend and for the overnights. It is our experience with the teens, coming one day is awkward but coming for the whole weekend dissolves any awkwardness a teen may feel and completes the experience. Friday evening is the time that the teens and the youth ministry adults bond and make new friends By Saturday morning the teens are more comfortable, they have made new friends and the conference is a beautiful experience for all involved.

If you can only attend part of the weekend we still need a registration form. For Saturday only the cost is \$100, attendance on Friday only is \$50, Sunday attendance is a Mass that is open to everyone to attend and there is no cost.

Is there a Scholarship available?

We do not want to see any teen turned away because of financial difficulties, we do have scholarship forms available upon request. Scholarship money is available but it is limited, we trust completely in God's provision to ensure each teen who wants to attend the conference will be financially covered. Fundraising is a great way to help families out with the cost of the conference. Parish scholarship donors either partial or full are also a great way to provide monies to teens so they can attend.

What kind of Security is provided on the bus?

There is no conference security on the bus. Each group will provide their own security for their own people.

What kind of Security is provided at the conference site?

There is a full time Security staff in plain sight of all attendees providing security for the conference. They cover all of the grounds and entrances and exits to be sure no one is at the conference that does not belong there. They are there to address any concerns attendees may have and to help control and assist those who need additional help. They are not there to keep track on any individual. All groups are required to know the whereabouts of all their teenage attendees at all times.

What kind of Security is provided at the Hotel?

There is a full time security staff provided at the hotel while the conference people are there. That is to say the security staff will be available at the hotel on Friday night from 10pm until 7am and again on Saturday night from 10pm until 7am. The security staff are there to be sure no one outside of the conference staff and attendees will have access to any attendee rooms. The security staff will also be aware of any one leaving their rooms for any reason and will notify the adult chaperones if their teen is causing any difficulties or disruptions in their rooms. In any situation where there is need of an adult to enter any room it will be the sole responsibility of the adult chaperones to address those needs. Security staff are forbidden to enter any room held by youth attendees. During the evening, if a room is causing a disruption of any kind the security staff will notify the appropriate adult to enter said room and address the situation.

Where will room keys be kept?

The conference rules require that all group leaders keep keys to their attendee's rooms. It is permitted for youth to have keys as long as their leaders also have these keys. Security will have keys to all rooms in case an emergency access is required. There will be no access to the rooms once all attendees leave the hotel for any given day unless it is an emergency. If said situation arises, the needs must be reported to the Medical tent and the people involved must be escorted by conference staff.

What food will be provided at the conference?

There are 5 regular meals provide to all attendees of the conference. They are as follows; Friday dinner is provided on the Campus grounds from 5pm until 6pm; Saturday and Sunday breakfast is provided at the Hotel. Saturday Lunch and Dinner is provided at the Shrine grounds. There is also a snack shack available for all attendees at the close of each evening session on Friday and Saturday. No food is allowed to be delivered to the hotel for any (adult or teen) attendee. Please be sure to notify every one of the rules and anyone who breaks this rule will be required to pay for the food and then forfeit the food over to the security staff that will be sure not to let the food go to waste. Water bottles and water are provided for each attendee during the conference.

Can anyone bring their cell phones?

Cell phones have full coverage on the conference campus and can be used but only during free time or break time. In an emergency, attendees are asked to be respectful of the environment while using their phones and remove themselves if it is causing a distraction. The conference requires all phones to be put away and silenced during all talks or presentation. Please be aware there will be many people at the conference and phones look alike so if you misplace your phone chances are it may be lost forever. Be careful with keeping track of your valuables and please, if you find something that is not yours bring it to the control desk or security.

How much free time will there be?

There are meal times and small group times that can be considered "down time" spread throughout the conference experience so that everyone does not get overwhelmed. There is also a block of time on Saturday afternoon (4pm to 5:30pm) given to those who want some time alone or some time playing games with others.

Can I go back to the hotel during the day?

No. All attendees are required to stay on the campus grounds during the time the conference is being held. If there is an emergency then the people involved must go to the medical tent and report the problem. If there is such an emergency the people involved will be required to provide their own security and/or chaperones for the person in need.

What should I bring to the conference?

Hotel rooms for adults are four to a room and for youth are 6 to a room. Each room has two queen size beds and so sleeping bags and pillows may be required for anyone sleeping on the floor. Be sure to bring proper clothing to accommodate the predicted weather. Clothing must also be appropriately conservative and covering. No exposed underwear, butt cracks or cleavage is permitted. Please be sure to dress so as not to be a distraction to anyone else around you. Rain coat or poncho. Comfortable shoes – you will be outside most of the day. Bug Spray, Sunblock, Toiletries Change of clothes and towel for slip & slide. Please take note that the slip & slide require shorts and a T-shirt, **no bathing suits allowed**. Optionally you can bring spending money for the snack shack or vendor items available.

How do we keep up to date on the latest news on the Youth Conference?

Follow the St Isaac Jogues Youth Conference on Social Media:

Web: <http://www.joguesyouthconference.com>

Email: [joguesyc@gmail.com](mailto:joguesyc@gmail.com)

Twitter @joguesyc {#SIJYC}

Facebook ~ St. Isaac Jogues Youth Conference

Instagram ~ joguesyc

YouTube ~ St Isaac Jogues Youth Conference

After the conference, now what....?

1. Fill out the survey monkey, info will be in the bags
2. The conference is about an encounter with our lord Jesus Christ. Life is made up of encountering moments and these encounters need to be maintained with the youth after the conference. If you would like ideas on how to do that contact us at the conference and we will be happy to assist you.

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them” Pope Francis, Evangelium Gaudi

“Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfilment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us.” - Pope Francis, Lumen Fidei

“The evangelization of the person and of human communities depends totally on this encounter with Jesus Christ.” - Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, November 13, 2007