

## **Introduction**

Our district has a committee that many people don't know about or don't understand what it does. This committee is the Youth Adult Committee, or YAC for short. YAC's main function is planning conferences for the youth of the district.

## **Conferences**

There are usually four or five conferences every year. One of these is a conference for junior high youth from seventh grade through ninth grade. Another conference is a conference for senior high youth from ninth grade through age nineteen. YAC holds one specialty conference that is a social action conference for senior high youth from ninth grade through nineteen. The other kind of conference YAC plans is an all-age conference for both of the age groups. There is usually one all-age conference every year but sometimes YAC decides to have two. Each conference starts around eight o'clock Friday night and ends around ten o'clock Sunday morning.

Conferences have many purposes some of which are to bring UU youth in the district together, to teach youth about many different topics and to do social action work in the communities that we hold our

conferences in.

Conferences have a very regular schedule. Each conference starts around eight o'clock Friday night and ends around ten o'clock Sunday morning. Each conference has a theme that YAC votes on at the YAC planning meeting. Attendees can choose from workshops that are related to the theme of the conference. There is also a theme-related activity in which all of the youth attending the conference participate. This activity is usually some sort of game or craft that is easy for all of the youth to do. There is a youth-style worship on both nights. The Friday night worship is planned by the youth group at the host church, while the Saturday night worship is planned by the youth who attend the worship workshop earlier that day. There is a talent show that anyone at the conference can perform in that is followed by a dance on Saturday night.

## **Conference Rules**

There are rules that are enforced at every single conference. These rules are: no violence or weapons; no drugs, alcohol or tobacco (which includes adult sponsors and youth over the age of 18); no sex, overt or covert; no vandalism; "no means no"; and other site specific rules. The

"no means no" rule means that if someone is doing something that makes another person uncomfortable, the person can say "no" and the other person must stop. If the behavior does not stop, it is considered a rule infraction and is dealt with accordingly.

If a rule infraction occurs the youth co-chairs and adult co-chairs discuss the infraction and decide on the punishment depending on the severity of the infraction. (Such as: being immediately sent home from the conference at the youth's expense, being banned from one or more conferences, or being banned from all conferences.)

There are not, however, any rules regarding free speech or censorship at conferences. Generally, teenagers in our society like to push the envelope just to get used to the barriers that society sets for them. Therefore, if youth come home from a conference talking about things that they heard spoken while at the conference, please remember that these conferences are attended by teenagers who are still trying to figure out what is appropriate and what is not.



### **Becoming a YAC Member**

Any youth in the district can become a member of YAC. All they have to do is attend two YAC meetings (not including the short ones that we have after each conference), and they have to sign the membership book. There are usually YAC meetings to plan each conference, starting on Friday night and ending on Saturday afternoon. The summer YAC meeting usually lasts until Sunday afternoon to allow time for officer elections, workshops and trainings.

### **Contact Information**

Any other information about OMD YAC, conferences, officers and rules can be found at the OMD website in the YAC section. To find more in-depth information about all of the subjects in this pamphlet, read the YAC Bylaws, which can be found at the YAC website. The website is [www.umd.uua.org/yac](http://www.umd.uua.org/yac) and has lots of helpful information for people who want to learn more about YAC. You can also find the contact information for all of the YAC officers at the website. There are also many documents that can be useful to first-time attendees and their parents, such as the First Time Attendees Packet and the Guidelines on Expression.

# Everything You Need to Know



# About YAC Youth Conferences

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