

Off-Site Application

An off-site is a chance for youth participating in the social action conference to leave the church and participate in social justice work in the community. Youth who choose to participate in an off-site event are representing the OMD YAC and youth in general. During the off-site youth will be expected to follow all of the conference rules and any other guidelines set by the YAC co-chairs, Social Action Coordinators, or adult sponsors chaperoning the offsites.

SAC 2014 BACKGROUND

All SAC off-site activities and many of the on-site ones will be centered around the theme of getting to know Bhutanese refugee youth and their culture. Most of the major cities in the Ohio-Meadville District have established communities of Bhutanese refugees, whose families had immigrated from the neighboring Himalayan country of Nepal (and observe Nepali traditions) over the past 100 years to Bhutan. In a fit of nationalistic fervor, political turmoil, and resulting violence during the 1990s, over 100,000 of these people relocated to camps in Nepal. The US government offered to accept 60,000 of these refugees, with the first arriving in 2008. Currently, about 8,000 live in the Erie, PA, area. The UU Congregation of Erie's main social justice emphasis for 2014 is working with this community. There are both Buddhist and Hindu refugees.

Saturday Off-Site and On-Site Descriptions

1:30-2:30PM	OFF-SITE PART 1: OMD YOUTH MEET BHUTANESE YOUTH (no limit). All youth going offsite will participate in this opportunity to meet and interact with Bhutanese youth in first a large group setting and then break into small groups. This event is planned to be held in a community center near where most Bhutanese in the Erie area live. NOTE: The small groups will be separated by males and females corresponding to Nepali cultural norms.		
3:00-5:00PM	OFF-SITE PART 2 – OPTION A: ERIE ART MUSEUM (limit 20 youth). Tour an art exhibit and participate in art and songs of the Bhutanese community.	OFF-SITE PART 2 – OPTION B: CITY CENTER OFFICE REFURBISHMENT (limit 20 youth). Painting and cleaning and (weather permitting) outside work to prepare a new office for the Erie Bhutanese Community Association.	OFF-SITE PART 2 – OPTION C: COMMUNITY CENTER EXTENDED VISIT (no limit). All off-site youth not participating either the Art Museum or Office Refurbishment will stay at the Community Center to continue visiting with the Bhutanese youth—talking, playing games, etc.
5:00-5:30PM	RETURN TO UU CONGREGATION OF ERIE		
5:30-7:00PM	ON-SITE: PREPARE BHUTANESE DINNER (limit 8 youth). Our Bhutanese guests will teach you to cook a traditional Bhutanese meal for the Saturday evening con dinner. YOUTH NOT GOING OFF-SITE WILL HAVE FIRST PRIORITY IN BEING SELECTED.	Youth not helping to prepare our Bhutanese dinner can either participate in the Saturday evening worship planning or have free time.	

TURN THIS COMPLETED PAGE IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT SOCIAL ACTION CON 2014

PLEASE NOTE: Events are filled on a first come, first serve basis. Going on the off-site requires bringing these signed forms to the Con. Without the form youth, will not be allowed to go on the off-site. We will have activities for youth not attending the off-site as well.

OFF-SITE OPTIONS: Please indicate your first (1), second (2), and third (3) choices below. Parents who do not give permission for all options need to note that at the bottom of the form.

Erie Art Museum _____ City Center Office Refurbishment _____ Community Center Extended Visit _____

ON-SITE (check if interested; leave blank if not interested): Prepare Bhutanese Dinner _____ You can select an off-site above AND this, although youth not going off-site will have priority in being selected.

OFF-SITE AND ON-SITE PERMISSION FORM

I _____ hereby give permission for my son/daughter _____ to attend one of the above stated events on March 15th, 2014 with the Ohio Meadville District's Youth Adult Committee. I understand that my child will be going off of church property under OMD YAC supervision, that the separate participant medical information in the youth registration is tied to these events as well as the conference, and that the OMD YAC will follow Section 4 Article 2 (4.2) of the OMD YAC Executive Policies Document on transportation during YAC events. I also understand that my child is still to be in accordance with the rules set forth by the OMD YAC for this conference, and like every OMD YAC event I am still financially responsible for my child's transportation home if disciplinary actions are taken because of a rule infraction occurring off-site.

My youth may only attend the specified offsite(s) (please list): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____