



How to Start a
Youth Event
IN YOUR AREA

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Introduction

Thank you for showing an interest in how to start a youth event! We're happy to share with you about running a successful youth event because it excites us to see young people all over the world become enthusiastic about working for God. This document also includes instructions for how to apply to become an official AYM Chapter.

Why Should You Start an Event?

So why should you start a youth event in your area?

1. To get fellow young people involved in spreading the light and love of Christ to their communities.
2. To provide a place where likeminded young people can socialize and connect.
3. To give young people the tools and encouragement they need to be a witness to others.

Prerequisites

A Strong Relationship with Jesus

Without Jesus, your efforts will be in vain. Put Jesus first, and make Him the priority. If God is the fore-leader of your event, He will guide in lead in all that you accomplish through His enabling.

Support

Whether from other young people, parents, or local church leaders, you will need support from others in order to get a youth event started in your area. Tell others about your idea. Be on the lookout for other young people who might share your interest.

A Team

In order to successfully perform a youth event, you will need help. This is why it is so important to get other likeminded youth on board with your idea. Get together with young people who are excited about starting a youth event and are wholly dedicated to the work of Christ. We recommend anywhere between 4 and 7 team members. By prayerfully coming together and letting the Lord lead, He will show each of you what your role should be.

A Venue

You will need to find a venue that is willing to host your event. This may be a church, a school, or some other organization. We encourage you not to start with something too big. Start with a church or school if possible. Churches in particular are very likely to support an endeavor such

as this and likely won't ask for compensation. In the future, you may want to consider compensating your venue. When just starting out, that can be difficult, so if you have a church that is excited about what you're doing, they will likely simply be glad you are there. Consider what conveniences your venue offers. We recommend finding a venue that can comfortably seat a decent number of people (200+). Even if you have 40-50 people at your event, the extra space is nice to have, especially on Sabbath when church members may also be attending.

Preparing

In this section, we will go into the finer details and discuss how to actually prepare for a youth event.

Start Small

Don't feel like you have to get a lot of people to come. Great things come in small packages.

Organize Your Team

Come up with a way to organize your team. Everyone should have a specific task within your organization. Here are some examples:

- Outreach Coordinator
- Venue Coordinator
- Meetings Coordinator
- Registration Coordinator

Meet and Plan

Meet regularly as a team, either in person or via phone/internet, in order to plan for the youth event. Start by making a timeline of what needs to happen and when it needs to happen. This will keep you on track in your preparations. Your agenda for each meeting should be based on the items in your timeline.

At the Event

In this section, we will discuss some tips that can help youth event leaders keep the event running smoothly while simultaneously interacting with the other young people and becoming as one of them (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Example

One of the most important roles each team member has at events is being the best example they can be to all the present attendees. Some areas that are especially important are listed with details below:

- **Attitude and Behavior:** Attendees will naturally look up to the leaders of a youth event, and therefore each team member has a solemn responsibility to replicate the attitude and behavior that Christ would have were He in such a situation. Some specifics might be:
 - Being genuine and friendly to everyone.
 - Encouraging a reverent atmosphere.
 One important aspect of behavior is maintaining your composure in the face of unexpected or difficult circumstances. Maybe someone you were counting on doesn't show up. Maybe you suddenly find out that the outreach materials you were promised aren't available. Maybe someone is unhappy with one of your team's decisions. Whatever the case may be, maintain your composure, and don't sweat it. Calmly but quickly think and pray for a solution. We firmly believe that God will honor your efforts and will provide help and wisdom when it is needed.
- **Device use:** Because the attendees of a youth event look up to the leadership, limiting device use as much as possible sets a positive example.
- **Dress:** We encourage you to dress with taste, neatness, and modesty. This will promote a good and safe atmosphere and will glorify God in the process.

Schedule

Sometimes it may be difficult to stick to your planned schedule, especially during the first couple events. We encourage you to do your best to stick to your planned schedule, but don't stress too much over it. You may sometimes find yourself in situations that can thwart your plans, but as time passes and you become more experienced in doing youth events, you will learn from the past and find that you won't be in this kind of situation nearly as often.

Dealing with Complaints and Complications

Dealing with complaints and complications can be tricky, but there are ways to deal with them if they are unavoidable. Prior to your event, discuss as a team how to handle any complications that could arise. It is helpful to think of how Jesus would handle such situations were He in your shoes.

After the Event

We encourage you to spend some time debriefing after the event has ended. Talk about what went well and what didn't go so well. Make note of the things that could be improved upon in future events.

How to Become an Official AYM Chapter

As we mentioned towards the beginning of this document, we want to see young people all over the world become excited about working for Christ. Organizations like GYC have made plenty of provision for young people 20 and older; however, we feel that something should be

done for adolescents and teenagers as well. This is why AYM exists. We would love to help you become successful in this endeavor, and we believe that together with you (Ecclesiastes 4:12), we can accomplish much through the power of God. As you read the following details about becoming an AYM Chapter, please prayerfully consider whether this may be God's calling for you.

Step 1: Express Your Interest

If you are interested in forming an AYM Chapter, start by letting us know through the contact form on our website (ayminfo.org).

Step 2: Host an Event

After you express your interest, form a team, and host a youth event. Two of our team members will be present at your event. Please keep in mind that at this point you would not yet be an official AYM Chapter.

Step 3: Become an Official Chapter

After your event is held, we will have further discussion and prayer to seek the Lord's will regarding whether we should move forward together in partnership. We'll be in contact with you!

Conclusion

Needless to say, we are very excited that you have read this document and have the desire to empower fellow youth to do God's work. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us! May the Lord lead you on this journey for His glory.