

## **Junior Yearly Meeting – What to expect for parents and sponsors of teens**

Teenagers are invited to participate in Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). In keeping with Friends' practices, JYM members select officers and committees as needed, hold business meetings, meetings for worship, worship sharing, and come together in community through fun activities and games.

**For all attendees under the age of 18** - an adult sponsor or a parent must be on site at all times for each person under the age of 18, including day attendees. ***A signed medical history form and parental release form, with sponsor signature if parent will not be attending, must be turned in for the teen to participate in the program.***

### **Why come to JYM?**

When we gather at Yearly Meeting, teens will work together to develop our community, learning to use Quaker process to live together for a week. The JYM community is based on the Quaker values of love, respect, integrity, honesty and mutual responsibility. Many Monthly Meetings do not have enough teens to create a sense of community, so teens may not attend their local meeting. At JYM a much larger group of teens gather to develop friendships, try out leadership roles, and witness the power of the Spirit. This is an opportunity for teens to practice Quaker process and claim it for themselves. By learning with their peers and struggling to reach unity, they grow as Quakers.

### **Is my tween/teen ready for JYM?**

The program is directed toward and run by teens 13 -18. Some Friends are ready earlier than others for the opportunity to participate in a spiritual community led by their peers using Quaker process and values. For others, the rigor of sitting in business meetings is too much, and they would prefer the structure and activities of the Middle School Program. If you would like to discuss your youth's readiness for JYM, please feel free to call parent and JYM adult clerk, Melissa Lovett-Adair at 805-543-2791.

### **How are teens supervised?**

JYM is essentially a self governing community, guided by Quaker values and the Community Expectations, with adults providing support, guidance, and safety as needed. In addition to adult committee members, we have day and night Friendly Adult Presences (FAPS) who will be supporting our youth in their program.

### **Support Groups**

Each teen will be assigned to a small Support Group with a FAP, which will meet daily. Support Groups foster adults and teens getting to know each other better and promotes a feeling of belonging in the community for all. Your teen's Support Group FAP will be your contact person should you have questions or concerns about how your teen is doing.

### **What are the Community Expectations?**

The PYM wide expectation that we all remain free from drugs and alcohol is enforced in JYM. In addition the teens agree to abstain from sexual relations. Violations of these expectations will lead to a teen being asked to leave JYM, and possibly PYM. At a business meeting on the first night JYM will develop additional Community Expectations to promote inclusion and keep every one safe. We have found that teens take ownership of Community Expectations when they actively participate in creating them. If there is a violation of the Community Expectations, it is brought to the JYM M&O to address. The teens are expected to be actively involved in the program. If we become aware of any teen not participating we will first bring it to JYM M&O to try to find ways to engage the youth in the program. If this proves unsuccessful, we will inform their parent or sponsor, who will then assume responsibility for the teen. A copy of the past year's Community Expectations is available on request.

### **What about sleeping accommodations?**

JYM will provide two separate supervised spaces, one for boys and one for girls, where teens can sleep on the floor. Teens can also share a room with a parent or sponsor in the JYM dorm building, and younger teens attending JYM for the first time sometimes prefer this. This is also a good alternative for teens of any age that prefer a quieter sleep environment, or who would like to go to sleep earlier. The parent or sponsor is responsible for supervising any teen sleeping in a dorm room during the night. The teens will agree to lights out time as part of community expectations, and we anticipate quiet time in the dorm by 11, and lights out by 1am.

### **What is the schedule like?**

Look for a sign at registration to find JYM on arrival. During the opening plenary session an announcement will be made and teens will leave together to begin the JYM program. There will be a parent meeting after the rise of the first plenary to introduce parents to the program and answer questions. Every day there will be a teen run business meeting regarding the day's program and plans. Other activities will include interest groups, Worship sharing, games, Capture the Flag, and a service project. We will join the wider PYM community for intergenerational events. The JYM schedule will be posted, however changes may occur as the whole community makes decisions in business meeting. We will make every effort to announce and post changes as they occur.

### **Respectful Relationships**

Young Friends will host an evening with the teens focused on respectful relationships. The majority of the time will be spent discussing how Quaker testimonies and Quaker ideals can be lived in romantic relationships with other people. Boundary setting, self respect, dealing with expectations from your partner, how to feel safe in a relationship, acceptance of your own sexual orientation, and how to communicate with your parents/guardians are all topics that may be explored. The evening will also include a presentation on Sexually

Transmitted Infections (STIs) and birth control methods. While optional, teens in the past have found this to be a very meaningful experience and we hope parents will support their teen's participation.

### **How can parents or sponsors support the teens and JYM?**

1. Expect you teen to check in with you daily during PYM. Meals are a good time for check ins.
2. Set appropriate limits to meet the needs of your teen. Most younger teens sleep with their parents the first year in JYM.
3. Give your teens space to learn and grow.
4. Be available to help if needed.
5. Speak to JYM adult committee members if you have a concern.
6. Talk to your teens about their experience after PYM.
7. Provide feedback to the JYM committee.
8. Help your teen get together with other teens in your area during the rest of the year.

If you have any questions about the program please contact committee clerk Melissa Lovett-Adair, 805-543-2791 or [mladair@charter.net](mailto:mladair@charter.net).

Please be sure to fill out your teen's Parental Release and Medical forms. They are available at the registration web site. Teens will not be allowed to participate in the program until these forms are received.

We are excited by the great program developed by JYM for this year and look forward to seeing you and your teen at PYM.

In the Light,

The JYM Committee

and teen officers

Melissa Lovett-Adair, Clerk  
David Mackenzie  
Stephen Myers  
Sarah Bottom  
Jeanette Norton  
Sue Torrey  
Sue Rios  
David Lederman  
Joseph House

Hana Castanedo, co-clerk  
Jayden Navarro, co-clerk  
Laura Adair, co-clerk  
Eli Fowler, M&O clerk  
Rose Mackenzie, M&O  
Gabe Kittle, M&O  
Grady Fowler, M&O  
Thomas Rios, M&O