

# Youth Programs Coordinating Committee Report to Annual Session 2022 Pacific Yearly Meeting

**Requests to Monthly Meeting Reps and PYM Committee Clerks:** Please share these links with your meeting. We encourage everyone to check the PacYM website for:

- Our regularly updated [intergenerational calendar](#)
- Our instagram @pacmyouthprograms
- Information and application forms for [grant funding from our Youth Programs Fund](#)
  - YPCC accepts year-round grant applications for youth and intergenerational projects and events, or event attendance assistance.
  - To see how Youth Programs Fund have been used [link to spreadsheet](#)

## Summary

The pandemic has impacted youth and youth programs at every level of our society. Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly meetings and youth camps have all struggled to find meaningful ways to safely engage young people during covid restrictions. Camps and gatherings were canceled completely for 2 years. Isolation, fear, uncertainty and disappointment, as events were planned and then canceled at the last minute due to surges, were experienced through the last year. Although our focus in YPCC is on youth, we see the toll it has taken on everyone. In-person gatherings are essential to the development of a sense of community for young people, and this experience of being part of a loving community is at the heart of the social, emotional and spiritual development of young people.

Now, as in-person events are gradually resuming, we seek ways to bring young people back into the Quaker community. The Youth Programs Fund has been crucial to enabling the Youth Programs Coordinator to run events through the pandemic. We are excited to support summer camp programs at Quaker Center and Woolman, Young Adult Friends Wilderness experiences and work camps, as well as gatherings with Friends of all ages at Annual Session as ways to grow our Quaker youth community once again.

## Successes

The pivot of Ben Lomond Quaker Center (BLQC) to allow a few Young Adult Friends to live on campus during some months of the pandemic greatly enhanced our young adult community. With support from the Youth Programs Fund, it yielded two young adult work weekends which were well attended for covid events with 12 and then 22 Friends. Some of the attendees had not been actively attending Quaker events for some time; others were completely new to Quakerism.

Continued guidance from the YPCC committee has enhanced the offerings of one of our repeat grant recipients - Young Adult Wilderness trips. This has yielded more registrants than ever before. We hope to continue to see more new faces.

Relationships between the YPCC, Quaker Center and Woolman have been strengthened and have led to more and stronger youth programming. We are hopeful that these connections will support staff transitions and the regrowing of youth programs at both centers.

## Challenges

State bill AB506 has changed the way youth serving organizations complete background checks. In an effort to enhance youth safety, the bill greatly complicates and actually undermines some of the processes that have been in place. Nevertheless, we have submitted the proper paperwork to become a

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registered agency with the CA Department of Justice and are doing the work needed to bring our organization into compliance, while not diminishing our protocols.

Shortened planning timelines, covid related cancellations and the irregularity of in-person events remain a challenge for most of our youth organizing.

This committee remains short staffed, as Nominating has been unable to fill vacancies. The basic functions of the committee have been maintained; however, there is no capacity for improvement or additional creativity.

We continue to seek effective communication methods to reach Friends of all ages, who are both new attenders and familiar Friends.

## **Opportunities**

Covid has impacted our programs across the board. Where once there were multiple standalone programs serving our Quaker youth community, now pretty much all those programs have new staff if they still exist at all. This gives us the opportunity to come together like a superhero team, and act in a more coordinated way. We're aiding Camp Woolman and Quaker Service and Art Camp at Ben Lomond to have outstanding summers. We're looking at ways to bring those camps together after this summer to have a more united future. In addition to those efforts there is an uprising of desire in North Pacific Yearly Meeting for a youth camp. There is potential in future years for staff to be hired for camps and yearly meeting youth work in an integrated way that supports more Quaker summer programming happening, by providing youth workers the option of work for the summer rather than just a week here and there. This will take cooperation from current and future staff as well as some volunteer support at times. This year we hope to rebuild our youth programs with more of a camp based approach. We hope those relationships will anchor kids and teens in the Quaker space and make Quarterly and yearly Annual Session more and more attractive offerings. While our historic quarter and yearly meeting youth committees are struggling to find volunteers, we're contemplating ways of shifting priorities and structure to make it easier to be a PacYM youth ally.

## **What's needed**

With the multiple staff openings at Quaker Center and Woolman we hope that the incoming and relatively new staff will be sensitive to, and excited about youth events. We need both camps to run successfully and feed our youth community with good experiences and excitement for future gatherings. We are working to bring the Quaker Camps closer into the yearly meeting community in hopes that both will support youth better together. We need volunteers for our youth related PacYM committees, (Childrens, JYM and YPCC) to support the vital work that makes gatherings and creation of the loving community for all ages possible.

## **LIST OF YPCC MEMBERS**

Alma Moon, Elinor Steffy, Kiernan Colby, Nancy Mellor, Nathan Secret,

Melissa Lovett-Adair, clerk. Keenan Lorenzato, ex officio as YPC

*Submitted by Melissa Lovett-Adair, clerk*