
Helpful TIPS for a great IYC Experience



10-12 MONTHS OUT

- Get the date on your calendar: July 2-5, 2018; Indianapolis, Indiana
- Who can attend: 7th-12th grade graduates and their adult leaders
- Communicate the theme early and often; teach the scripture verse to your students.
Theme: “On Track” with Faith, Purity, Joy, Focus (Hebrews 12:1-3)
- Inform your students and parents, and keep the convention in their minds. You have the following available to help you: (www.iyc2018.org)
 - IYC2018 Flyer
 - Promo videos (on [IYC2018.org](http://www.iyc2018.org) site)
 - Prayer Guide (on [IYC2018.org](http://www.iyc2018.org) site in Spring of 2018)
 - Visit the website (www.iyc2018.org), facebook @ IYC, twitter @iycChog
- The more parents know, the more supportive they are of IYC. Meet with them at least three times to explain details, finances and expectations of your trip.
- Begin your fundraising early. For ideas visit www.iyc2018.org.
- Everyone attending IYC must be registered. This is a high school conference for seventh grade graduates to seniors in high school and adult leaders. There is a \$50 cancellation fee for any cancellation made ON or BEFORE May 11, 2018. Cancellations after this date will NOT be refunded. You may transfer a cancelled registration to a new attendee if done by May 11, 2018.
- When you register, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to access your registration group to make changes, add registrants, etc. We highly recommend you do this, so you will be able to make updates to your group and access your information as needed.
- We discourage those younger from coming. Sometimes we know there are rare circumstances where child-care isn't available. Anyone five years or older must pay the full registration fee. Children younger than five must be registered but will not be required to pay a registration fee.
- How many counselors will you need with you? We recommend having one responsible adult in each room of three same gender students. We recommend that counselors be 21 years of age or older and a formal background check be done on all your counselors. There are many websites that do this for a small fee. The minimum age to be a counselor is 18.

- Hotels and food are NOT tax exempt in the state of Indiana. We realize this is very inconvenient, but it's the law. We can't tangle with the law, folks! Make sure you figure taxes into your overall IYC budget when planning.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Registration Cost:</u> 		
Early Bird Bonus	\$130	Postmarked by 01/25/18
Early Bird	\$145	Postmarked by 3/22/18
Convention	\$160	Postmarked by 5/11/18
Onsite	\$175	Onsite
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put together your budget. (see sample at end of this document) Set deadlines for your students to get their money in. Here is a <i>sample payment plan</i>: 		
Payment 1	\$50-\$125 non-refundable deposit	Due October 1, 2017
Payment 2	\$200	Due November 15, 2017
Payment 3	\$100	Due December 31, 2017
Payment 4	Balance	Due by February 21, 2016

6-10 MONTHS OUT

- Housing – Reservations open on September 11, 2017 at www.iyc2018.org. Once your group has submitted at least one paid registration to Church of God Ministries for IYC2018, a housing packet will be emailed to your Main Group Leader with a code for the reduced room rate. Follow those instructions to make your housing reservations.
- We have worked very hard on hotel contracts, negotiating costs to be at the lowest rate possible per room night. To keep these reasonable room rates, we must meet our minimum guarantee with the hotels. Therefore, please understand that anyone not staying at the convention hotel will have a \$75 per person charge added to their IYC2018 event costs.
- Plan ahead and order pre-convention T-shirts. Pre-conference T-shirts will be available to order in March of 2018. Find them on the Resources page of our website www.iyc2018.org. This is a limited edition t-shirt that is only sold pre-convention.
- Host an informational/promotional meeting about IYC to get students, parents, and leaders interest. Feel free to use promo tools at www.iyc2018.org.
- A prayer guide will be available spring 2018 on the IYC website. You may copy it and share it with prayer groups in your church, those attending the convention, and anyone else in your congregation who might be interested. Plan special times of prayer for the convention.
- Make students and parents aware of volunteer opportunities at IYC at www.iyc2018.org
- Nominate students for the IYC2020 student leadership team to plan IYC2020 by March 22, 2018 by going to IYC2018.org. If you have nominated a student, remind them applications are due no later than April 29, 2018.

- Discuss with your students about dressing modestly; help your students understand the biblical truths behind dressing modestly. Visit www.iyc2018.org
- Research the location for any attractions, information about restaurants, or activities you may want to do outside of the convention times. Visit www.iyc2018.org
- Consider if you want to come a day earlier, or stay a day later. Often, this helps to avoid convention “traffic” and gives your group extra time to enjoy a great city!
- Figure the amount of extra money for students to bring, i.e., food (all meals are on your own), souvenirs, activities, etc. Onsite T-shirt sales will be available to students and leaders with a price range of \$12-\$18 per shirt.
- Download the IYC app. You can search International Youth Convention to find it.
- Make your decision on how you will travel to IYC2018, Indianapolis. Travel by planes may be less expensive than buses or vans depending upon your situation. Price it out to find your best option and secure your travel arrangements.
- Plan on doing the IYC mission experience. You must register by January of 2018. IYC2018 will partner with our friends from Lead222 to prepare a week-long missions experience for you and your students. Lead222 is a national coaching and mentoring ministry dedicated to building a community of student ministry leaders that sharpen one another in personal character and professional skills. <http://www.servantleadershipexperience.org/>
- STW donation – Offerings will be taken during 2 main services for Spread the Word. Since it started in 2002, more than \$840,000 has been given through STW to supply tools for evangelism around the world in over thirty-five countries. Our hope is that each person will bring \$25 for this offering. If you prefer, your youth ministry might do a designated fund raiser for this in advance. You can also give when you register for IYC.

3-6 MONTHS OUT

- Establish how you will stay in touch with your students while at the convention. Get cell phone numbers and let them have emergency numbers. Give parents emergency numbers.
- Make sure all IYC waivers have been turned in. They may be done online here: http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/forms/iyc_waiver
- Get waivers from your students for your local church. You can find a sample generic waiver form at <http://www.chogy.org/help-im-a-youth-leader/> scroll below to parental consent form.
- For a tentative schedule of IYC2018, check the website, IYC2018.org.
- **IMPACT Day** – We give back to our host city! On our IYC website will be a list of organizations, churches, and schools that we have talked with and are excited about partnering with us. You contact them to set up how you can help them on a designated IYC day. You may also organize something unique on your own or sign up for the onsite project in advance. It is your responsibility to sign up in advance as we have set aside one afternoon to give back. Go, and serve with love.

3 MONTHS OUT

- Ask for a commissioning time at your church. Many congregations have a special prayer time during the Sunday morning worship service, the week before groups leave to travel to IYC.
- Notify Church of God Ministries of any registration changes as far in advance as possible. The deadline for changes is May 11, 2018.

2-4 WEEKS OUT

- Have your final IYC meeting with your group. At that time, give them room assignments and go over final details. Make sure parents have your contact information in case of an emergency.
- Double check and confirm all your transportation arrangements and hotel reservations. Also, if you signed up with an offsite agency for IMPACT day, call and confirm your arrangements.

UPON ARRIVAL

- Check-in: Upon arrival, send one adult to the registration area to check in for your entire group. If your group can remain outside with the rest of the adults, it will help prevent congestion in the hotel lobbies. The hotel staff should be able to answer your questions about special needs you may have.
- Registration line: Check the convention schedule to find times for registration. When you arrive in the registration area, there should be people there to guide you through the process. There will also be signs to help you.
- If you registered in advance, your registration packet will be mailed to you two to three weeks before IYC. You will have a wristband for each registrant, a lanyard and name badge for each registrant. Double check your packet to make sure they are correct. Wristbands must be worn on the wrist at all times. If a wristband is lost or broken, a replacement will cost \$5. Lanyards with nametags must be worn around the neck at all times. A replacement will cost \$5.
- Program books can be picked up at registration. Any changes, additions, new registrations can also be done at the registration booths during regular registration hours on site.
- Service Seating: You will have a certain color wristband indicating your region. Each region will have a certain section to sit in each service. Check your program book for more information.
- Hotel etiquette: DO be courteous to hotel staff. DO be quiet and respectful in all areas of the hotel, especially early in the morning and late in the evening. DO observe curfews (no one is to be outside of their room after midnight and halls are to be quite after 10pm). DO clean up after yourself, and use room items properly so as not to cause damage. DON'T run or be rowdy in hotels.

DURING IYC

- Student conferences: There are many different options of conferences, on a variety of subjects. Have your students review the speakers and topics in advance. They may choose two conferences to attend at IYC 2018.

- YMI (Youth Ministry Institute): While the students are attending conferences, come to the YMI event that is just for adult leaders! Spend time worshiping and learning with other leaders from around the country. Our goal is to encourage, equip, and support you in your ministry with students.
- College age students are free to attend YMI or student conferences. Since IYC is targeted at high school students, there are no specific college age conferences.
- What to bring to IYC: Bible, notebook/journal, pen, Spread the Word offering, extra spending money for t-shirts and other merchandise, etc.
- Bringing cell phones is encouraged. They will help you to keep in touch with those in your group and allow you to easily access the IYC app. They also may be used interactively during certain parts of the convention. However, during services, conferences, and venues, please turn phones to vibrate or silent so they do not disturb the users or those sitting nearby. Make your own rules with regard to use of cell phones during convention activities. We suggest you limit use to taking pictures, using Bible apps, and taking notes.
- What not to bring to IYC: tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, inappropriate clothing, skateboards or scooters, laser pointers, noisemakers,
- Plan to attend the Leader's meeting. We require you to have at least one leader present to represent your student ministry. See the schedule in the program book.
- We always need many adults to help during the response time in services. Please come and bring other adult leaders to the Designated Prayer Counselor's meeting if possible. See the schedule in the program book.
- Exhibitors: Many different organizations have come with information to share with you and your students. Take the time to visit the exhibit booths. Pick up free resources and information, learn about some great opportunities, and purchase some curriculum or IYC merchandise to take home with you!
- Be prepared for life change, for your students to be transformed!

AFTER IYC

- Your students will be given an IYC devotional on the last day. Use the IYC devotional guide with your students to reinforce what they have learned and help them to continue to grow over the next 30 days. We encourage you to have accountability as a group.
- Schedule a time for your group to share about IYC with your congregation. This can be a time of brief testimonies, or even a video prepared in advance. Also, take the time to allow sharing with students in your ministry who were not able to attend IYC. Several weeks after IYC, you will receive an update about what God did at the event. Share this information with your students and congregation as well.
- We see IYC as a launching pad, not just an event. There will be tools available to you that can be used to help you and your students make a difference in your community when you get home.
- Acronyms you may hear or see to help you know the lingo:
 - **YMI –Youth Ministry Institute.** This is a training and connection time for adult leaders and college age students during IYC. See the program book for times and locations.

- EL – **Emerging Leaders**. We desire to create a community of high school students on the journey to discover their call to Christ-center leadership. Students have the opportunity to say “yes” to the calling that God has placed on their lives. At IYC we will have an Emerging Leaders Gathering to encourage and equip those who are serious about being Christ-centered leaders. See the IYC schedule.
- SLT -- **Student Leadership Team**. This nominated and chosen group of student leaders from around the country will help plan for the upcoming IYC. During their time of service, they make site visits to the IYC city, and are given opportunities to grow spiritually and develop their leadership gifts.
- YMT – **Youth Ministry Team**. This is a team of four youth pastors who work with the Director of Youth and Family Ministries to give representation for youth ministry across the United States and Canada. They help cast the vision for Church of God youth ministries, and are actively involved in planning and directing IYC and other CHOG youth events.
- YNT – **Youth Network Team**. This team consists of qualified, gifted Church of God ministry practitioners distributed regionally across the United States and Canada, and exists to build authentic community among youth leaders.
- STW – **Spread the Word**. This is a teen missions endeavor to help students give financially to provide tools for evangelism around the world. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been given, and tools have been sent to over 30 countries.
- IA - **Intern Academy** – The Intern Academy is a network of internships nationwide that are accountable to teaching the same principles of personal leadership and ministry. It connects and resources certified IA coaches with young people pursuing a call to ministry through internships who desire to serve and impact the church. Go to www.internacademy.net to learn more.
- **STW Internships and A.One.8** - There are a limited number of mission internship opportunities for students who have completed their junior year of high school to those who graduated high school up to 28 years of age (short to long term). More information can be found at <http://www.chogy.org/internships>

SAMPLE BUDGET

Each group will have to come up with its own scenario, but the following is a hypothetical budget to get you started on the right track:

Meals: 12 meals during the convention @ \$12 per meal	\$144
Registration: Pre-convention registration (Remember the registration fee increases as the convention gets closer.)	\$130-\$175
Hotel: 4 persons per room for 3 nights @ \$118 nightly	\$88 + taxes
Parking at hotel	\$30 per day
Parking for sightseeing	\$10-\$15 per day
Travel cost	Varies for each group
Sightseeing	Check online for ideas and group rates
Mission Experience (if group is participating)	\$345
Emergency fund (Suggested for unforeseen expenses.)	\$30 per person