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# Helpful TIPS for a Great IYC Experience

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## 10–12 MONTHS BEFORE IYC

- Get the date on your calendar: July 4-7, 2021; Orlando, Florida
- Who can attend: 7th–12th grade graduates, grads from 2020, and their adult leaders
- Communicate the theme early and often; teach the Scripture verse to your students.  
**Theme: 20/20: Clarity in LOVE, LIFE, FAITH, and HOPE (I Corinthians 13:12–13)**
- Inform your students and parents, and keep the convention in their minds. You have the following available to help you at [www.iyc2020.org](http://www.iyc2020.org):
  - Theme information
  - FAQ section with LOTS of info
  - Promo videos and downloadable logo
  - Downloadable schedule
  - Prayer guide (available spring of 2020)
  - Use your church bulletin and newsletter
  - Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- If you are a main group leader and do not receive our IYC e-mails, contact us at [iyc@chog.org](mailto:iyc@chog.org) and ask to be added to the list!
- 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.iyc2020.org](http://www.iyc2020.org). It is better to do three great fundraisers than ten average ones.
- Everyone attending IYC must be registered. This is a high school conference for seventh-grade graduates to seniors in high school and adult leaders. We are also inviting the Class of 2020 graduates, since IYC2020 was postponed and this would have been their last IYC. You may transfer/substitute one registrant for another if changes happen in your group. There is a \$50 cancellation fee for any cancellation made ON or BEFORE May 10, 2021. Cancellations after this date will NOT be refunded.
- When you register, you will receive a confirmation e-mail 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 (than the age range above) from coming. Sometimes we know there are rare circumstances where childcare 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.
- Your church may apply for tax exemption in Florida. If approved, you may use this to remove the sales tax portion from your hotel cost. Information about how to apply may be found here: [http://floridarevenue.com/taxes/businesses/Pages/nonprofit\\_sales\\_tax.aspx](http://floridarevenue.com/taxes/businesses/Pages/nonprofit_sales_tax.aspx).

## 6–10 MONTHS BEFORE IYC

- Get your group registered! **Registration is open now** at [www.iyc2020.org](http://www.iyc2020.org). Here is cost information:

- **Registration Cost:**

Life-Change Rate	\$155	06/16/20–01/15/21
Regular Convention Rate	\$165	01/16/21–03/14/21
Late Registration	\$175	03/15/21–05/10/21
Last minute/At-the-Door	\$190	05/11/21–07/04/21

- Put together your budget (see sample at end of this document).
- Set deadlines for your students to get their money in. Here is a *sample payment plan*:

Payment 1	\$50-\$125 nonrefundable deposit	Due August 1, 2020
Payment 2	\$200	Due October 1, 2020
Payment 3	\$200	Due December 1, 2020
Payment 4	\$200	Due by February 1, 2021
Payment 5	Balance	Due by April 1, 2021

- **Housing—Reservations are now open.** When you register your group (or at least register yourself as group leader/team captain) you will receive the housing packet in the confirmation email. The packet will include the link/codes for IYC2021 hotel discounts. 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 IYC2020 event costs.

- Be careful not to reserve more rooms than you will use. Due to attrition issues in the past, rooms canceled after the hotel cutoff date of June 4, 2021 will be charged one night's lodging per room.
- Host an informational/promotional meeting about IYC to determine student, parent, and leader interest. Feel free to use promo tools at [www.iyc2020.org](http://www.iyc2020.org).
- A prayer guide is available 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.
- Discuss with your students about dressing modestly; help your students understand the biblical truths behind dressing modestly. Visit [www.iyc2020.org](http://www.iyc2020.org).
- Research the location for any attractions, information about restaurants, or activities you may want to do outside of the convention times.
- Consider if you want to come a day early or stay a day later. Often, this helps 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.
- Make your decision about how you will travel to IYC2021, Orlando. 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.
- Consider doing a pre or post-IYC mission experience. We recommend contacting Lead222 for any projects they may have available. 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: <https://www.lead222.com/missions-home>.
- STW donation—Offerings will be taken during two main services for Spread the Word. Since it started in 2002, more than \$875,000 has been given through STW to supply tools for evangelism around the world in thirty-seven countries. Our hope is that each person will bring \$15 for this offering. If you prefer, your youth ministry might do a designated fundraiser for this in advance.

### 3–6 MONTHS BEFORE IYC

- 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 if they need to contact you on site.
- Make sure all IYC waivers have been turned in. **Waivers must be done online and are required for any student who will be under the age of 18 at the start of IYC, July 4, 2021.** They may be done online [here](#).
- Download the IYC app. You can search International Youth Convention to find it (Available spring of 2021).

- **Impact Day**—We give back to our host city! On our IYC website in the spring of 2021 will be information about how to sign up for a project. You may also organize something unique on your own if you prefer to do so. 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 BEFORE IYC

- 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. Remember, if you created your own account during registration, you can make your own changes online!

## 2–4 WEEKS BEFORE IYC

- 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, check to make sure you know the time and location of your Impact project.

## UPON ARRIVAL

- **Check-in:** Upon arrival, send one adult to the hotel 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 convention 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. Please 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 and late in the day. DO observe curfews (no one is to be outside of their room after midnight and halls are to be quiet after 10 PM). 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 2021.
- 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 we are inviting the Class of 2020 to come this year, we hope to offer a student conference just for them!
- 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 regarding the 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, or anything else you know does not belong at a Christian convention.
- 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

- **We see IYC as a launching pad, not just an event.** We encourage you to use the tools provided to follow up and have accountability as a group after IYC has ended.
- Your students will be given access to 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.
- 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.

- Here a list to help you know the lingo for acronyms you may hear or see associated with IYC:
  - **EL—Emerging Leaders.** We desire to create a community of high school students on the journey to discover their call to Christ-centered 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.
  - **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](http://www.internacademy.net) to learn more.
  - **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.
  - **STW—Spread the Word.** This is a teen missions endeavor to help students give financially to provide tools for evangelism around the world.
  - **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.
  - **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.