

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE July 13-15, 2012  
IGNITE CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY POLICIES ~ **PLEASE READ  
BEFORE REGISTERING EVEN IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED IN THE  
PAST AS THERE ARE SEVERAL NEW POLICIES!!**

**REGISTRATION**

1. All teens and chaperones must complete the registration form which can be downloaded from the IGNITE web site. If you cannot access the registration form, or if you do not have Internet access, please contact the youth office and we would be happy to send you any form you need.
2. If you have a friend interested in attending that is not on our mailing lists: DO NOT PRINT A COPY OF THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR THEM – They must go to the web site and read all of the information themselves, along with their parents, who will have to sign that they have read all of the information. No one will be allowed to simply turn-in the name of a friend in order to register them; everyone MUST turn-in a signed and completed registration form.
3. All teens must remit a **\$40.00 nonrefundable deposit** with their registration form. St. Joseph & St. Patrick parishes will pay the deposit for any chaperone attending (but we will not refuse it if you choose to pay). ☺
4. All registration forms must be filled-out completely and SIGNED BY YOUR PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN. Chaperones can sign the bottom on their own behalf.
5. **All completed and signed registration forms as well as the nonrefundable \$40.00 nonrefundable deposit are due to the youth office no later than Sunday, January 8, 2012.** On-line registration for the on-campus conferences begins at 8:00am on Monday, January 10 and last year all four sold out in two hours. If I do not have your registration form and deposit by January 9, then we cannot guarantee your spot with us next summer.

**FEES**

This is what each family is expected to contribute:

1. The initial **nonrefundable** \$40.00 deposit
2. Whatever else you can afford to pay up to the total cost per person for the conference of \$175.00 (\$5 increase over last year). This may be paid in one lump sum or in smaller payments. **The final balance is due by Sunday, April 22, 2012. \*\*\*I need to make this clear so that people do not misunderstand this policy:** if you can afford to pay the full amount, please do. If you can't, please pay what you can. If money is a problem for your family at this time, simply pay whatever you can of the total amount, even if it is only the deposit. If the deposit itself is a problem, please contact me in the youth office and we will work something out privately and confidentially. **I will not allow someone who truly wants to attend this conference to miss it because of funding difficulties.** Please understand that the TOTAL cost of this trip is NOT \$175.00, the cost is whatever you can afford up to \$175.00. Besides, we also have additional transportation and T-shirts fees as well **which are not even included** in this registration fee that we ask for. We will be receiving money from generous parishioners that covers the cost of what some people cannot afford to pay. **If your family can afford to donate more than the \$175.00, then please consider doing so to assist those who cannot at this time.**
3. Personal money for meals while traveling and for snacks at the conference. (typically around \$25)
4. Personal spending money while at the conference. (typically around \$20)

**JUST LIKE IN 2011:** the cost of the buses and T-shirts will be covered through fund-raisers, parishioner donations and the youth ministry budget.

*If your teen has a job, I suggest that they contribute to the cost as well from their own personal money.* This might be a good time to introduce the concept of “tithing” to them (giving 10% of your gross income to the Lord). It will help them to “own” the trip a bit more. **On April 27, 2012, our final payment balance will be due to Franciscan University.** We are talking about A LOT of money here. *Our policy is that any teen who decides not to attend the conference after this date (barring sickness or other emergency situations) will forfeit their fees paid up to this point.*

## **FUND-RAISING**

In the past we have been fortunate to have had many generous donors toward our trip and I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit will again move peoples’ hearts to help us this year as well. However, as I mentioned in the last section, we must also help ourselves by asking families to contribute as much as they possibly can. In order to pay for the buses and T-shirts, we have scheduled a few fund-raisers. My philosophy on fund-raisers is that they must be: a) low risk, b) small time commitment, and c) high profit. That being said we will once again conduct our successful “5-4-1 Club” donor program, Relative Assistance Program and our Business Sponsor Program. The “5-4-1” fund-raiser does not require anything from the teens or families. We simply have a bulletin insert asking for money and parishioners generously give to us. For the “Relative Assistance Program” we ask that each teen write to *at least five* relatives asking for contributions to this trip (we will provide a form letter for this in February). The Business Sponsorship Program also requires no work on the part of the teens (I will write letter to businesses that advertise on the back of both parish bulletins asking for donations), **although if you own a business or know someone who does, I would appreciate any leads.**

## **CHAPERONES**

This year we have again decided that our chaperones will be drawn from our Youth Ministry Core Team. This is due to several factors, not the least of which is that they are already compliant with the Diocese of Harrisburg’s Youth Protection Policies and that they already know the kids and have experience working with them.

That being said, Steubenville requires us to bring at least one chaperone per ten teens (but no more than 2 per 10). Depending on the number of teens coming this year, I may need a few more chaperones than what we can cover with the YMCT. If we encounter a situation where we do, then we will draw from any other adult/parent who has expressed an interest in helping for this year. *In case you may be considering this ministry opportunity, please know that chaperone candidates must be committed to growing in their spiritual life, be willing to serve the needs of the teens and be willing to serve as a “team player” with the other chaperones.* If this is you, please also consider the following:

Chaperones **must be at least 21 years old** (this is a requirement of Steubenville). You need not have attended a Steubenville Youth Conference in the past; we will train you. If you are interested in being a chaperone, please contact me in the youth office as soon as possible.

A diocesan policy of the Youth Protection Program requires all adult chaperones assisting on any overnight trip to have the proper background clearances to participate. If you have already been given a youth protection “badge” through our diocese, then you do not need to do anything further. If you do not already have a badge, then we will need to have you go through the background clearance process in order to become compliant with diocesan policies to be eligible as a chaperone, even if this is the only youth ministry event you plan on helping with all year.

Each adult chaperone will be asked to sign an application form from Franciscan University stating that they are in compliance with their home diocese’s youth protection policies (signed by the Bishop’s representative). These forms are normally due to the conference office by the beginning of May each year. This means that we have to have them done by the beginning of April to send them to our diocese.

In addition, all chaperones will be expected to attend the three Training Sessions (whether or not you have gone with us in the past), as well as the two pre-meetings and the post-meeting. The dates for the training meetings will be March 18, May 20 and June 24 from 12:00pm-2:00pm in the Youth Room. All chaperones are also expected to **make personal contact with your small group throughout the Spring** and attend a number of IGNITE youth ministry events throughout the Spring and early Summer. In this way you get familiar with the teens before we actually leave for the conference. This is not optional, you MUST be willing to come and get to know the teens in order to minister to them effectively on the weekend.

The major perk of being a chaperone (outside of being evangelized yourself) is that St. Joseph & St. Patrick parishes will pay for all of your expenses *except for your travel meals* (roughly \$15.00). Any chaperone wishing to help defray their costs can certainly do so.

## **PARENT AND/OR TEEN MEETINGS**

1. First time teen participants and their parents will be expected to attend a mandatory **ROOKIE MEETING** on **Monday, April 2, 2012 from 7:00-9:00pm in the Youth Room at St. Joseph.** At this meeting we will discuss logistics, Steubenville's mission, aspects of the conference, permission forms, behavior, dress code, etc. I will also answer any questions that you may have. *Please mark your calendars NOW* for this mandatory meeting.
2. **NEW POLICY:** All teens, chaperones and at least one parent of each participant are required to attend **BOTH** of the **TWO PRE-MEETINGS. The first is on Sunday, April 29, 2012 from 6:00-9:00pm.** The second is on **Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from 6:00-9:00pm.** These are not optional. Both meetings are in the St. Joseph gymnasium.
3. All teens and chaperones are required to attend the **POST-MEETING AND PARTY** on **FRIDAY, July 20, 2012 from 5:00-10:00pm.** This also is not an option. Teens who miss this meeting have not completed the necessary follow-up to the weekend. A pizza dinner will be served. This will be held in the *St. Francis and St. Clare Rooms* in the Parish Center.

Please make sure that your child requests off from work for these dates and times when applying for jobs in the summer just as they will be requesting off for the actual dates of the conference; and plan your summer vacations keeping these dates and meetings in mind. I have noticed over the past 16 years we have been going to this conference, that the teens who have had the most preparation and follow-up tend to have a more lasting impact on their lives from attending this conference.

Any other information that develops throughout the year will be made known to you via e-mail, our youth ministry web site, postcards, phone calls and/or bulletin announcements. **A promotional video for the conference is available for viewing at the conference web site at: [www.franciscanyouth.com](http://www.franciscanyouth.com).**

## **NEW POLICY: YOUTH MINISTRY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT**

This year we will **NOT** have a policy requiring teens to attend a certain amount of IGNITE events. This is one of the reasons **we are requiring attendance at TWO pre-meetings instead.** Of course, we hope that any teen attending Steubenville would know they are welcome to any IGNITE event at anytime.

Finally, all of the necessary forms, a calendar time-line and any further information for this conference will all be available on the IGNITE web site. If you have any questions or concerns after reading over all of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My goal is to make this experience as smooth as possible so that we can enjoy the weekend and allow the Holy Spirit to touch our lives in a deep and abiding way. I hope to see your registration cross my desk in the next month or so as we begin to look towards **Steubenville 2012 "The Ei8th Day"**.

*Scott M. Anthony*

Director of Youth Ministries, St. Joseph & St. Patrick Parishes, York, PA