

2024 National Catholic Youth Conference FAQs

What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a powerful three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high-school age) and their adult chaperones. NCYC is the premiere Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from all across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ. The schedule includes inspiring speakers, prayer and liturgy, workshops, music and worship and opportunities to participate in reconciliation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as recreational activities including countless games, crafts, obstacle courses, meetups, live radio shows, challenges, and so much more! NCYC is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM).

Who is the NFCYM?

The NFCYM is a nonprofit organization whose purposes are to foster the development of youth ministry within the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese of Denver is a member of the NFCYM. Learn more about the NFCYM here: <http://nfcym.org/>.

What does NCYC as a pilgrimage experience mean?

Attending NCYC can be a life-changing experience. The goals of a pilgrimage, especially for youth, should reflect the general goals for youth ministry found in *Renewing the Vision*. As a reminder, those goals are:

- To draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community
- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person

See attachment, "What is a Pilgrimage Anyway?" for more information on NCYC as a pilgrimage experience.

Why attend the NCYC?

Youth and their adult chaperones attend NCYC because they want to:

- Gather together with other Catholic youth on a national level;

- Learn more about themselves and their relationship to God, and the Catholic Church;
- Celebrate their Catholic faith;
- Meet thousands of other Catholic youth;
- Share beliefs and experiences;
- Recognize their role in the life of the Catholic Church.

When and where will NCYC be held?

All activities for NCYC will take place at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California on November 14-16, 2024.

What is the schedule for NCYC?

The official opening of NCYC begins on Thursday, November 14, usually late morning. NCYC ends with closing liturgy at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 16. The full schedule of events will be posted at a later date.

Who can attend NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is open to all high school aged youth, accompanied by adult chaperones, to experience and encounter Christ. Youth attendees must be in high school at the time of NCYC. When promoting NCYC, don't forget to include this year's 8th graders, as they will be 9th graders in November 2024.

Who can be an adult chaperone?

Adult chaperones must be 21 years or older. There must be two adult chaperones for the first group of ten youth. After that, you must add one more adult for each additional seven youth. For example, 2 adults for 10 youth, 3 adults for 11-17 youths, 4 adults for 18-24 youths, etc. Be sure that you have both male and female chaperones in proportion to the gender make-up of the group. All adults must be in compliance with Archdiocese of Denver Child Protection Policies (i.e. all adults must have a cleared background check and be up to date with safe environment training). Chaperones must also agree to the Chaperone Guidelines/ Behavior Standards and complete the Adult Liability Waiver. All adults will also need to complete, sign, and submit and NFCYM/NCYC Legal Agreement, provided by the NFCYM.

What is the NCYC Code of Conduct?

There are separate codes of conduct for adults and youth. All attendees should review them. These are incorporated by reference in the Liability Waiver and Permission Forms. These will be available at a later date.

Will participants miss any school days?

Yes. NCYC participants will miss 2 days of school. Some schools may give excused absences. Neither the NFCYM nor the Archdiocese of Denver has any control over our schools allowing or disallowing excused absences for NCYC. The NFCYM will provide an excuse letter, if necessary.

Who organizes NCYC at the parish level?

Since participants must register through their parish, each parish must have an adult Contact Person who will be the single point of contact between the parish and the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry. In most cases, the Contact Person is the Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry or High School Campus Minister. This Contact Person will lead the NCYC organizing effort in their parish. This includes forming a local parish/school planning team, promoting NCYC, recruiting parish youth, collecting fees and forms, and being a vital communication link between parish participants and the diocese.

How do I register my group to participate in NCYC? All groups from the Archdiocese of Denver must register through the Office of Youth Ministry. More information will be posted at a later time. Your first step is to complete the group / parish registration form.

How much does it cost to participate?

Price below includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), airfare, ground transportation, 3 nights hotel – shared room*, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Thursday, November 14, check-out Sunday, November 17. • \$1200 per person. *Single rooms are available at an additional cost. Contact the Office of Youth Ministry for more information.

Meals: All parish/school groups / individuals are responsible for their own meals. Information on meal vendors at NCYC will be provided in future correspondence.

Hotel: The Archdiocese of Denver has reserved a block of rooms.

- **How many youths to a room?** Youth will be housed four to a room in two-bedded rooms, separated by gender.
- **How many adults to a room?** We do our best to keep adults housed two to a room in two-bedded rooms, separated by gender. Married couples may share a room. If an adult wishes to have their own room, an additional fee will be required and is based on space availability. Please contact the Office of Youth Ministry for any such request.
- **Will we be staying in hotels by parish/school?** For the most part, hotel rooms will be assigned by parish/school to make the job of the adult chaperones as easy as possible. Each parish/school will need to provide the Office of Youth Ministry with rooming lists. In an effort to reduce the over-all cost and to utilize our block of rooms effectively, if a parish/school does not completely fill each room, we may need to assign youth from different parishes/schools to share. If that is the case, the parish/school group leader will be notified first.
- **How will we get from our hotel to the conference?** Hotel is in walking distance to the convention center. It will be the responsibility of adult chaperones to accompany their group from the hotel to the conference and back.