



AREA YA CONFERENCES

Principles

1 PURPOSE

Area Sponsored Young Adult Conferences bring young adults (YA) together as “fellow citizens with the saints” (Ephesians 2:19). They build testimonies, strengthen individuals, and foster unity and personal growth. Conferences help strengthen YA by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. They help YA feel connected.

2 THE WORK OF SALVATION AND EXALTATION

Area Sponsored YA Conferences focus on The Work of Salvation and Exaltation and President Nelson’s invitation to Gather Israel. They help unite YA in faith and purpose as they focus on divinely appointed responsibilities –



Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ



Caring for those in Need



Inviting all to receive the gospel



Uniting families for eternity

YA plan Area Sponsored Conferences that help all to come unto Christ and assist in God’s Work of Salvation and Exaltation. Ensuring the conference is focused on one or more of these divinely appointed responsibilities, will help participants strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other, make and keep sacred covenants, minister to one another and serve those in need.

3 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Prayerfully consider the following questions which should serve as a guide in all stages of organising the conference. They will invite revelation, encourage creativity and increase your sensitivity to the needs of your specific area.

Questions:

- How will this conference bring YA closer to Christ?
- How will it unite the Rising Generation and assist in gathering Israel?
- How will it contribute to a spiritually resilient Rising Generation in Europe?
- How can the conference program meet the needs of the YA in your area?
- What positive impact might this conference have on the local community?
- In what way can you collaborate with members of the wider community?

See videos.

4 AREA PRESIDENCY APPROVAL

All Area Sponsored YA Conferences must be approved in advance by the Area Presidency (see “Request for YA Activity Approval”). Applications should be submitted by the relevant Area Seventy.

5 ALLOCATION OF AREA FUNDING

Area funding is requested to supplement participant fees and hosting stake/s contributions, to organise Area Sponsored Conferences. This enables YA organisers to secure an appropriate venue, accommodation and where needed, could assist with individuals or groups travelling long distances. Area funding requests will be considered based on the available budget. If approved, these events will be under the direction of the Area Presidency and the assigned Area Seventy.



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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Area Presidency

The Area Presidency provides priesthood direction for Area Sponsored YA Conferences.

6.2 Assigned Area Seventy

The assigned Area Seventy identifies, calls, and sets-apart YA Conference Coordinators, provides priesthood direction for the conference organising committee and hosting priesthood leaders, visits the assigned conference and supports the organising committee.

6.3 Young Adult Conference Coordinators

YA Conference Coordinators are a YA sister and brother called by the Area Seventy who lead in planning, preparing and conducting the conference. They also ensure the submission of a post-conference report.

6.4 Conference Organising Committee

A Conference Organising Committee is led by the YA Conference Coordinators under the guidance of a member of the hosting Stake Presidency. YA are assigned as Assistant Coordinators to be responsible for key aspects of the conference, i.e. budget, health & safety, registration, service & activities, catering, marketing & communication and venue. The exact structure of the Conference Organising Committee will be determined by the goals for the conference and local circumstances.

6.5 Conference Support Couple

A conference support couple will be assigned by the Area Seventy after discussion with the YA Conference Coordinators and member of the hosting Stake Presidency. The role and responsibilities of this couple will be under the direction of the YA Conference Coordinators. They will be in attendance throughout the duration of the conference to offer support where needed.

6.6 Additional Support

Additional support may be appointed to the Conference Organising Committee according to the needs of the conference. Support could be offered by High Counsellors, Stake Relief Society Presidency, S & I coordinators, humanitarian, interfaith or local community representatives, full-time missionaries and others.

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POLICIES & GUIDELINES

Please carefully study and follow Section 20 in the General Handbook. The conference is open for all Young Adults; members and non-members, willing to live church standards for the duration of the conference. Everyone should feel welcome.

See videos.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Conference Organising Committee and assigned Area Seventy prayerfully consider Section 3 as they develop the conference program. YA have reported that they appreciate a conference that:

- Is Christ centred and has daily spiritual highlights.
- Provides inspiring speakers and teachers.
- Provides an opportunity to engage with a General Authority or assigned Area Seventy and their spouse.
- Is flexible and unique to where it is being held.
- Is centred around well-planned service opportunities that make a real difference in the local community.
- Offers a variety of high-quality workshops from experts and interfaith speakers from the wider community.
- Provides opportunities to establish new interests and develop talents.
- Offers YA sufficient free time to relax and socialise between planned activities.



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INVITING YOUNG ADULTS TO CONFERENCES

All YA of the respective region should be invited to attend their Area Sponsored YA Conference. The YA Conference Coordinators and Organising Committee work with Stake Presidents and S&I coordinators to invite all YA, especially less active YA and non-member friends. Enrolment preference should be given to YA from the designated country or participating Coordinating Councils. Additional participants from other areas may be invited according to capacity. As you reach out to YA, prayerfully consider the following -

- How do we lovingly invite YA one by one?
- How do we creatively and effectively use technology?
- How do we reach out to those who do not currently attend Church?
- How will the Conference be inclusive to those not of our faith? How will we reach out and invite them?

See videos in which YA share their experiences with successful conferences.

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POST CONFERENCE REPORTING

The YA Conference Coordinators will submit a post-conference report for the Area Presidency. This report should include:

- A brief overview of the conference inc. photographs, schedule, classes, speakers, service etc.
- Uplifting experiences from the conference.
- Feedback; What went well? What would we do differently? (Consider Section 3)
- Statistics (number of members and non-member friends, geographical disbursement of participants by stake or district)
- A financial report including participation fee, budget etc.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

No. of months	Actions
24 months	Stake receive an assignment to host an Area Sponsored Young Adult Conference.
20 months	Young Adult Conference Coordinators and Conference Support Couple called and review the Area Sponsored YA Conference Guidelines
18 months	Conference Organising Committee called and begin meeting under the direction of the assigned Area Seventy or designated leader Conference Organising Committee receives training from Area Young Adult Advisory Couple
16 months	Determine a venue for the conference
14 months	Complete and submit 'Request for YA Activity Approval' form and submit to the Area Presidency Begin to submit invoices to secure venue / accommodation
12-0 months	Organising Committee meets regularly to plan conference
6-0 months	Send invoices to Europe Area General Accounting office
Within 1 month	Send post conference report to the Area Presidency