

MAKING THE MOST OF MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE



Whether this is your first time leading a back home group or you've been bringing youth for years, PYWA has gathered tips from seasoned youth workers to help you make the most of the Montreat Youth Conference.

1 ASK QUESTIONS

If you have any questions at all, ask. Other leaders, Montreat staff, and conference leadership all want you to have a wonderful experience.

2 ENCOURAGE SMALL GROUP PARTICIPATION

Small group sessions are the heartbeat of the conference. Emphasize the importance of participation with your youth and adult chapterones.

3 CHECK YOUR PAPERWORK

Before departing, make sure all of your paperwork is accurate. Whether permission forms/emergency contacts "in the cloud" or on paper, easy access to these details in case of an emergency. Leave a copy of this information with someone back home, too. Print locator forms, too!

4 GROUP BUILDING IS KEY!

Spending time building connection amongst the members of the back home group allows everyone to feel like they belong and helps ease the nerves of first time attenders. Pranks may seem fun, but break down community and hurt feelings.

5 FREE AFTERNOON PLANS

The restaurant, My Father's Pizza, in Black Mountain is delicious, and it is good to support the local economy. However, many groups go there on free afternoon, and the wait is crazy long. Go another night of the week.

6 CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS

Most groups create a covenant for the week. Clarify expectations the group has for one another, and include technology use. Clarify consequences for those who do not meet group expectations/rules. Model the behavior you expect from your youth. You are the adult and they will follow your lead!

7 FOOD

Whether you will eat meals in a house or in a dorm, make a plan for snacks. Consider designating snacks for each day of the week, for afternoon/evening, and for the ride home, so the snacks last throughout the week.

8 FREE TIME

Be sure to pack a few games and supplies for bracelet making or note writing. There will be some free time and while many youth will explore the campus, some will stay at the house and will be looking for things to do.

9 DEBRIEF

Though you will be tired, it is important to debrief each night. Offer an overview of keynote and worship. Review highs/ lows and messages heard in keynote, worship, and small group. Leave space for youth to share questions and to think about how they'll share experiences with others.

10 COMMUNICATION PLAN

Make a plan for communicating with parents and church leaders.