

## **Travelling Youth Group Resources and Ideas**

### **(to accompany the Travelling Youth Group Template)**

Goal of Travelling Youth Group: To help youth from different United Churches to build friendships and find safe spaces to be themselves and have fun with others. This may also grow into a community where youth who are not church-connected can learn about a God and a community who loves and celebrates people for all the wonderful variations in nature that God has created.

In order to get Travelling Youth Group happening regularly and keep it happening for the long haul, we should think about sustainability:

- Financial (for participants and host churches)
  - The only cost to participants would be getting there.
  - Home-grown activities and a simple snack.
- Environmental:
  - Plan dishwashing into schedule to avoid use of disposables.
  - Encourage carpooling where possible.
- Staff & YAAY involvement
  - Host church does the planning & leading
  - Regional staff (Twila) can do the promoting
  - YAAY members can be encouraged to attend as participants &/or helpers and also to let participants know about upcoming events

Planning your event:

You may wish to use the Template that was created by some young people. It could help to bring some continuity to events, but should not curb creativity, so feel free to deviate from it as much as you wish.

The idea is to open up your church home to others who maybe don't have an active youth group &/or to increase the critical mass of your own group (if yours is small or non-existent), allowing youth to work and play with others beyond their own church.

The program could be built around a theme, a full body activity, a brain activity or a hands-on activity. If it's mainly one, it would be good to break it up with some of another, since we learn in many different ways. Try to include some faith content that could be done through song, visuals, drama, creative prayers, or Bible games so we remember what and who it is that brings us all together.

There should be:

- a nametag station for all participants and leaders upon arrival
- Intentional mixing and practice using one another's names.
- maybe one or two routine pieces that are repeated as we move from one host church to the next for comfort/familiarity reasons, and to build a simple faith practice that youth can use elsewhere in life.
- A snack at some point in the evening. It can be simple like cookies and milk, or chips and pop, or any other things like fruits, veggies, crackers, cheese. If finances are an issue, I think popcorn and powdered iced tea could be made for a large group for under \$15 total.
- If reading is involved, assume there may be someone who is uncomfortable reading, whether outloud, or to themselves - plan a way to allow people to participate without having to read. One idea is to acknowledge it out loud. Ex: We know not everyone loves reading, so since this activity requires reading, please ensure that at least one person in your group is happy to read aloud. The task can be shared if you have many people who love to read.

Ideas for event content:

- Games circuit (could be done with board games or active games)
- Short movie clips with discussion questions in between
- A dance, with plans to help people mix during the dance, ex. teaching a line dance or an old-time dance like a butterfly, doing a snow ball dance, a conga line, a dance with specific moves done as a group
- Freeze Frame Film Festival (family-friendly movies from around the world) is held at the Franco Manitoban Cultural Centre in March. Choosing one of the weekend movies and hosting a pot-luck at your church before or after. When we did this, it was advertised to come as a family or as a youth group, providing your own driver to get from church to CCFM/FMCC.
- Exploring a theme with worship, music, dance, games, writing, theatre...
- Home made Escape room
- Volunteering at Winnipeg Harvest
- Educational program at a museum (such as Indigenous Land Claims Program at St. Boniface Museum)
- Soccer, baseball, ultimate... on church grounds or a nearby park
- home-made mini golf in your church
- Cooking and sharing of cultural foods

- Outdoor movie night (Central Park by Knox, could welcome in diverse community)
- Photo booth (possibly with a theme like superheroes)
- Talent sharing
- Scavenger hunts (could bring back physical items, photos, or info)
- Making the snack as part of the event (decorating cookies...)
- Watch a play, or create a play
- Paint rocks for Cancer Care with inspirational messages/paintings

#### Additional thoughts brainstormed by young people (March 2020)

- Music is good (see list of favourite songs below)
- Picking songs specifically that have actions/movement (finding more new ones, but having the familiar ones as well)
- Using the talents of the youth, or energetic adults, to draw on for live music if possible, but second best would be to sing along with videos or audios created by youth (we have some that were created during the pandemic)
- Games give them a way to interact with each other, without having to come up with conversation
- Movement is key. They cannot be sitting for the whole time.
- Not only active though, because not all kids like to be active. A mix is good.
- Icebreakers = games that can be joined in as people join
- Offering an option for a quieter activity
  - Foldy Foldy Draw Draw (aka: Telestrations) is a good low-motion game
  - Adult colouring pages could be there as a back-up plan for someone who needs quieter time

#### Favourite Songs:

- My Lighthouse (Rend Collective) - <https://youtu.be/j2ullkA1OI0>
- Praise the Mother – (Michael Stillwater) - <https://youtu.be/qjS4UecFeEc>
- Go Make a Difference (MV 209) - <https://youtu.be/i7w6hxOiOA8>
- Draw the Circle Wide (MV 145) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3GLfuxYcRU&list=PLhZoy4eJPIk550syJkO9J9ImaHDop3wk3&index=4>
- Siyahamba /We are Marching (VU 646) - <https://youtu.be/UcogMTjkOG0>
- Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCQyvFE0-wA&list=PLhZoy4eJPIk550syJkO9J9ImaHDop3wk3&index=2>
- Mungu Ni Mwema/Know That God is Good (MV 104)
- Your Love is Amazing (MV 26)
- Uyai mose/Come All You People (MV 2)
- Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord - [https://youtu.be/Kx\\_st-rP\\_Wg](https://youtu.be/Kx_st-rP_Wg)
- Like A Rock (MV 92)
- Jump for Joy (good for more Junior groups) (MV 48) - <https://youtu.be/0TifrY2k5CM>

- Over My Head (MV 88)
- This is the Day (MV 122)
- Dance with the Spirit (MV 156)
- Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord
- I'm Keeping My Eyes on Jesus (Junior groups)
- I Danced in the Morning (VU 352)
- What Can I Do (MV 191)

To chat about your ideas, check out a date, or advertise your event, email [tmacnair@united-church.ca](mailto:tmacnair@united-church.ca) or call Twila at 204-781-8124.