



YSA Activities in the Europe Area

GUIDELINES FOR YSA, PRIESTHOOD LEADERS AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEES



Young Single Adults

OBJECTIVE

Increase faith of Young Single Adults in God the Father, His son Jesus Christ and the atonement and provide opportunities for meaningful social interaction and service through YSA conferences.

GOALS

YSA conferences...

- provide a spiritual experience in a safe environment
- are inclusive (1 Nephi 18:24: putting all of our seed into the ground) with as many YSA from the respective region participating as possible
- inspire for continuing scripture study and service after the conference experience
- provide an opportunity to meet other YSA, make friends or find an eternal partner

At each YSA conference, participants will be invited to

- pray and read their scriptures daily
- always attend Church
- participate in Institute of Religion
- become self-reliant
- honor their covenants

STANDARDS

All participants commit to the behavior found in For the Strength of Youth when they sign up for a conference. Appropriate clothing is appreciated.

The atmosphere at a YSA conference should be spiritual, social, and service-oriented.



Priesthood Leaders

INTRODUCTION

All multi-stake Young Single Adult (YSA) Conferences are held under the direction of the Area Presidency. YSA conferences follow a carefully balanced program of classes, devotionals, and activities for Young Single Adults ages 18 through 30.

OBJECTIVE

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Priesthood Leaders (Continued)

FUNDING AND ENROLMENT

A number of regional YSA conferences throughout Europe will receive Area funding to supplement the participant's fees. Enrolment preference will be given to YSA from the designated country or region. A small number (maximum of 20%) of additional participants may be accepted from other regions. These participants will be expected to pay the full cost without the subsidy from the Area funds.

The regional YSA conferences typically include:

- Cape Verde
- England
- France and French-speaking Switzerland, and Belgium
- Germany, Austria, and German-speaking Switzerland
- Italy and Italian-speaking Switzerland
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland
- Scotland and Ireland
- Eastern Europe: Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova
- Adriatic North and South

All other multi-stake YSA conferences, while still requiring approval by the Area Presidency, will be funded by the local unit budget allowance¹ of the hosting stake. Small participant fees may be appropriate, but leaders should ensure that all Young Single Adults have the opportunity to participate without incurring unreasonable personal costs (see Handbook 2, 16.3.7).

APPROVAL PROCESS

All multi-stake YSA conferences must be approved in advance by the Area Presidency. (see attached YSA Conference Planning Guide)

The Europe Area YSA Conference Planning Guide must be used for all multi-stake YSA conferences.

Applications should be submitted to the Area Seventy assigned as priesthood advisor for YSA under EUA-YSA@ldschurch.org.

¹ see Handbook 1, 14.7.2

Priesthood Leaders (Continued)

STANDARDS

All participants commit to the behavior found in *For the Strength of Youth* when they sign up for a conference. Appropriate clothing is appreciated.

The atmosphere at a YSA conference should be spiritual, social, and service-oriented. Anyone involved in one of the following five behaviors, will be asked to leave the conference:

- Participating in or encouraging immoral behavior of any kind, including breaking the law of chastity or viewing pornography in any form.
- Shoplifting, theft, or vandalism of any kind.
- Breaking the Word of Wisdom, including possessing illegal substances.
- Possessing weapons or firearms of any kind.
- Doing anything harmful to yourself or others, physically or spiritually.

MEASURES

Conference Director Couples, together with their organizing committee, will send a post conference report to the Area Presidency. To measure if a conference has met its objectives, four indicators will be reviewed:

- Number of YSA attending conferences
- Percentage of YSA from the respective region participating
- Young Single Adults attending priesthood or Relief Society meetings before and after the conference (reported by MLU)
- Institute enrolment before and after conference (reported by S&I)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Area Presidency

- Assign an Area Seventy to serve as the priesthood advisor for YSA in the area
- Assign other Area Seventies to oversee and provide priesthood direction for each session
- Approve the budget, location, and date of each conference
- Approve Area Director Couples, the YSA Administrator, and the Conference Director Couples
- Set the theme for the YSA conferences for each year

Priesthood Leaders (Continued)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

YSA Priesthood Advisor

An Area Seventy is assigned as priesthood advisor for YSA in Europe.

- Makes recommendations and provides training for the Area Director Couples, the YSA Administrator, and the Conference Director Couples
- Approves conference committee members other than the Conference Director Couple
- Communicates with other Area Seventy who are assigned to oversee their regional conferences
- Manages communications and budget

Area Seventies

- Provide reports on conferences and the indicators
- Provide priesthood direction for conference committees and priesthood leaders as assigned by the Area Presidency
- Recommend and sets apart Conference Director Couples and conference committee members
- Provide support and guidance for hosting local priesthood leaders
- Attend the assigned conference and supports the Conference Director Couple

Area YSA Director Couple

- Provide training for Conference Director Couples and their conference committee members
- Review recommendations for Conference Director Couples
- Are available to Conference Director Couples by telephone during conferences to provide support
- Report to Area Seventy Priesthood Advisor

YSA Administrator

- Provides administrative support by tracking conferences, callings, and budgets
- Manages materials for YSA conferences
- Prepares reports on enrolment, participation, and post conference follow up

Priesthood Leaders (Continued)

- Reports to Area Seventy Priesthood Advisor

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conference Director Couple

The Conference Director Couple have oversight of the conference and are responsible for the spiritual aspects. They will be supported by two YSA coordinators.

- Direct the organizing committee and the conference itself
- Will be on-site throughout the conference and have responsibility for the spiritual aspects of the conference
- Teach in formal and informal settings each day
- Meet and counsel with YSA who are not following the standards
- Be role models

Conference Committee Members

- A member of the presidency of the hosting stake
- **YSA Coordinators:** A young single adult brother and a sister. The brother should be a returned missionary. Both should be worthy to attend the Temple and be role models for other YSA.
- **Assistant Coordinators:** Assistant coordinators can be called as needed.
 - Health & Safety Coordinators (required)
 - Facilities Coordinators
 - Registration Coordinators
 - Food Coordinators
 - Materials Coordinators
 - Activities Coordinators
 - Website Coordinators
- **Health Counselor(s):** At least one health counselor should be assigned to each YSA Conference session.

Priesthood Leaders (Continued)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Group Leaders:** Group Leaders are adult married couples. They are key to the success of YSA Conferences. Through their examples, leadership, and teaching, Group Leaders follow the Savior’s call to “hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do” (3 Nephi 18:24). Group Leaders are with the Young Single Adults full-time, and they should love, serve, and teach under the guidance of the Spirit. Each group contains 10–12 participants. Group Leaders should:
 - Be spiritually mature; have a testimony of the restored gospel
 - Be temple worthy
 - Be slow to anger and not be easily offended
 - Be fun, enthusiastic about life, and optimistic
 - Love and relate to young single adults
 - Be readily willing to serve

Teachers

Teachers are responsible to teach classes on the approved gospel topics and principles. Teachers should submit their lesson outlines to the Area Seventy supervising their session for approval. These teachers should be able to keep the interest of the participants by engaging them in class discussions and allowing them to testify to each other of the principles being taught. While humor and fun can be an effective part of teaching, a teacher must not mistake entertainment for teaching. YSA Conference teachers should be men or women who hold current temple recommends and receive an ecclesiastical clearance from their bishop or branch president. Local Seminary & Institute Coordinators can be invited to teach classes or recommend teachers.

TRAINING

Conference Director Couples and Coordinators for each conference should be called by January 15th of each year. They will be invited to participate in training between January and March. Training will be conducted via Skype and occasionally in person.

Training will be provided by the Area Seventy assigned as YSA priesthood advisor, the Area YSA Director Couple and the Area YSA Administrator. Area Seventy assigned to oversee the conferences will be invited to the training.

The Area YSA Administrator will hold additional training meetings with Assistant Coordinators and Counselors.



Organizing Committees

INTRODUCTION

Organizing Committee members should carefully review the priesthood leader section of this guide to familiarize themselves with the objectives for the conference and the organization. Committee members should prayerfully apply the guidelines.

RECRUITING FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES

All YSA of the respective region should be invited to attend their Regional YSA Conference. The Conference Director Couple will contact the S&I coordinators of the respective region to work with the Institute of Religion to invite YSA to the conference. They will also contact the stake presidents, suggesting activities to reach out to less-active YSA.

Measures

Conference Director Couples, together with their organizing committee, will send a post conference report to the Area Presidency. To measure if a conference has met its objectives, four indicators will be reviewed:

- Number of YSA attending conferences
- Percentage of YSA from the respective region participating
- Young Single Adults attending priesthood or Relief Society meetings before and after the conference (reported by MLU)
- Institute enrolment before and after conference (reported by S&I)

Organizing Committees (Continued)

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

Following registrations, every participant is assigned to a group. The Group Leaders will contact each of their group members and invite them to join a closed Facebook group. Group Leaders will engage their group members to get to know them and find out what their conference expectations are.

Each participant will receive a letter from their Area Seventy (prepared by the conference committee) with a personal invitation to follow Christ and prepare for the conference.

THE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Meaningful Involvement of Each Participant

- Plan a well-balanced program that provides opportunities for Young Single Adults to serve others and to experience physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development.
- Provide opportunities for exceptional Young Single Adult and teachers to lead and serve their brothers and sisters.

Caring Relationships among Leaders and Participants

- Give Young Single Adult the opportunity to build and serve one another, develop lasting friendships, and strengthen their testimonies.
- Allow Group Leaders to serve as role models for group members. Like good shepherds, young adult leaders can help other participants focus on the well-being of each member of the group.
- Ensure that Group Leaders have opportunities to strengthen relationships constantly. This should specifically occur during group activities.

Organizing Committees (Continued)

THE POST-CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Group Leaders will be asked to maintain the Facebook Group for six months after the conference. They should continue to encourage their group members to continue working on their personal goals and invite them again to:

- pray and read their scriptures daily
- always attend Church
- participate in Institute of Religion
- become self-reliant
- honor their covenants

Conference Planning Guide

Sample YSA Conference Program

WEDNESDAY

10:00 – 13:00	Check in / Registration
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	Orientation (Welcome message from Session Directing couple, Conference Program presentation, Group Leaders introduction, material distribution).
15:45 – 17:00	Meet your Group Leader (Group members introduction, “Focus on You” game-optional, setting up personal and group goals).
17:00 – 18:00	Free time (optional sport games, preparation for team performance)
18:00 – 19:15	Dinner
19:30 – 21:30	Dance
22:00 – 22:30	Group review meeting (Spiritual thought from Group Leaders, review group goals, group prayer).
22:30 – 23:00	Quiet time (personal scripture study, journal time, get ready for bed)
23:00	Lights out

THURSDAY

7:00 – 7:30	Get ready
7:30 – 8:15	Group morning gospel study
8:30 – 9:45	Breakfast
10:00 – 10:30	Conference Director Couple Devotional (Inspiring message from Conference Director Couple or priesthood leader, Institute lessons introduction)
10:45 – 11:30	Institute Lesson
11:45 – 12:30	Institute Lesson
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Team building activity (team games, team preparation for Variety Show).
16:15 – 17:45	Service project.
18:00 – 19:15	Dinner
19:30 – 21:00	Variety Show (talent show).
21:00 – 21:45	_____
22:00 – 22:30	Group review meeting (spiritual thought from Group Leader, review group goals, group prayer).
22:30 – 23:00	Quiet time (personal scripture study, journal time, get ready for bed)
23:00	Lights out

FRIDAY

7:00 – 7:30	Get ready
7:30 – 8:15	Breakfast
10:00 – 10:30	Conference Director Couple Devotional (Inspiring message from Session Directing Couple or priesthood leader, Institute Lessons introduction)
10:45 – 11:30	Institute Lesson
11:45 – 12:30	Institute Lesson
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Team building activity (team games, workshops).
16:15 – 17:45	Gospel Game (game related to next year's Institute courses)
19:30 – 21:30	Dance
22:00 – 22:30	Group review meeting (spiritual thought from Group Leader, review group goals, group prayer).
22:30 – 23:00	Quiet time (personal scripture study, journal time, get ready for bed)
23:00	Lights out

SATURDAY

7:00 – 7:30	Get ready
7:30 – 8:15	Group morning gospel study
8:30 – 9:45	Breakfast
10:00 – 12:00	Closing Devotional (Inspiring message from Session Directing Couple or priesthood leader, Musical Program – optional, Testimony meeting)
12:00 – 13:00	Free time
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
15:00	Departure

What and How?

1. ASSURE QUALITY AND SPIRITUAL FOCUS OF THE YSA CONFERENCES

- a. Conference Planning Guide
 - Completed and approved
- b. Train Conference Director Couple and the local YSA planning committee
 - Training either by video conferences, meetings where feasible, or locally with the Area Seventy
 - Training supported by Area YSA Director Couple
- c. Commitments of YSA to standards at time of registration
- d. Provide a short summary of the objectives

2. ASSURE INCLUSIVENESS

- a. Recruiting campaign
 - S&I coordinators actively invite YSA to the conference and ask YSA to reach out to less active members.
 - How can S&I staff support the recruiting?
 - Ask bishops, stake presidents, and stake YSA committees to extend invitations
- b. Give priority to YSA from the respective region
- c. Provide grants to YSA unable to afford participation or waive part of fee
- d. Offer free participation for a limited number of YSA providing support at conference (organizing committee, health & safety coordinators, etc.)

3. SUPPORT POST CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES

- a. Plan follow-up with participants after the conference
- b. Provide a report on your post-conference activities and experiences

Request for for YSA Activity Approval - Europe Area

This form is to be completed and submitted to the respective Area Seventy assigned to your region. Area Seventies submit the form to the Area Presidency.

Name of Stake/District President:	Stake/District hosting the activity:
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Name of Area Seventy:

General Details for Proposed Activity and Location

Address:	City:	Country:
Brief Description of Activity:		Activity Start Date:
		Activity End Date:

Funding and Approval Total Cost* and "Total Funds" should be identical.

Expected Number of Participants:

Cost	
Travel	
Materials and Supplies	
Administrative Support	
Food and Lodging	
Event Catering	
Training Events	
Facilities Expenses	
Light, Sound, Video	
Total Cost	

Source of Funds	Per Participant	
Participant Fee		
Local Unit Budget Allowance		
Subside (Area Funds) Requested		
<small>Area funds are only approved for the area sponsored conferences. Approved funds will not be transferred to the hosting stake, rather the hosting stake or chairman can request payments to be made by the church administration for the approved items up to the approved amount.</small>		
Total Funds		

Proposed Session Director Couple

Name:	Ward/Branch:
Name:	Stake/District:

Approvals

Stake/District President Signature	Date
Area Seventy	Date
Area Presidency	Date