

Montreat Youth Conference July 18-24, 2021



⇒ **WHAT IS A YOUTH CONFERENCE?**

A Montreat Youth Conference is a gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of fellowship, worship, and recreation. We'll depart from Hickory on Sunday, and return the following Saturday morning. The conference itself runs from Sunday to Friday nights. Coming late and/or leaving early is strongly discouraged! To read more about what a youth conference entails, [click here](#).

⇒ **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CONFEREE**

A typical day starts with breakfast as a youth group at our house and then heading to Anderson Auditorium for energizers, music, and keynote. Keynote is followed by small group, lunch at our house, afternoon small group and a recreation event or free time. After dinner together, we head back down to the auditorium for worship followed by more rec and free time. We finish each day with “back home time”, which is devotion time for our youth group at our house.

⇒ **HOUSING INFO:**

Our home away from home for the week will be a [Montreat cottage](#), where we will lodge and gather for meals and free time with one another.

⇒ **MONTREAT COST AND PAYMENT INFO:**

Thanks to the support of FPC the total cost for each youth in our group to attend Montreat is **\$250 per youth**, which includes conference fees, housing, and food for the week. The actual cost per youth is about \$550, but FPC very generously supplements these costs. A \$75 deposit is required to reserve your spot. The **deposit is due by April 1 and final payment is due by July 1**. Scholarships are ALWAYS available if cost would prevent you from participating (as are individual payment plans!).

Questions? Need additional info? Contact Katherine Mull at (828) 322-6343 ext. 1263 or email katherinefpc@hickoryfpc.org!

⇒ **WHAT ABOUT COVID?**

Full transparency—the advisors and I have gone back and forth about allll the things this year and how to be safe, yet continue to have youth ministry at FPC. This summer, we fully anticipate that all advisors will have had the opportunity to receive a vaccine (several of us already have). After much consideration and taking all that we know about COVID & vaccine efficacy into account, we are in agreement that going to Montreat poses minimal risk to us adults once vaccinated and that there is minimal risk to the youth, whether vaccinated or not (some of our youth have already been vaccinated). We will leave it up to families to decide if your youth is able to participate on this trip based on your personal risk tolerance, whether your family has been vaccinated, etc. We fully understand and support whatever you decide.

The week prior to our trip, we will require a negative COVID test for each participant (more info to come closer to the trip). While on the trip, we will treat our youth group like a family unit. This means that we will NOT wear masks in the church buses, in our lodging, etc. Most of our meals will take place where we stay, but if go out to eat we plan to eat outdoors. We WILL wear masks in public places based on CDC guidance in July.

To read about what Montreat Conference Center is doing to keep groups safe and for up-to-date information, [click here](#).