

Achievements and Accomplishments from Aug 2016-Aug 2017
Youth Events Coordinator: Tyler Pritchard

Events Put On By The Youth Events Coordinator

Fall Unitreat – “The Power of Now,” September 30-October 2, 2016

Benefits: This is an important event for our Uniteens that provides an opportunity for spiritual exploration, new connections with a like-minded community, and a place to feel motivated and safe. This year’s focus was on learning to live in the present moment. Kids were encouraged to explore different ways to let go of past hurt, and worries of tomorrow. The Fall Unitreat is also the perfect stage for our two newly elected Y.O.U. Regional Officers to work together before their first event a few weeks later.

Highlights:

- One of the Uniteens favorite “funshops,” was called “4 Senses.” In this funshop the kids were first lead into a meditation about all the changes going on in their lives and comparing it to the ever-changing sky and how through its change it maintains its beauty. After their meditation they were given a worksheet that was spilt into four sections that read: “I see...,” “I hear...,” “I smell...,” and “I feel...” They were then asked to go outside and truly be in the present moment with nature and to write or draw in each section. After some time had past they group came back together for a discussion about listening to these specific 4 senses and connecting it to learning to live in the present moment.

- The Uniteens were in high spirits this particular event and they truly stuck together as an entire group, which I have never seen before. Usually the kids split up into their friend groups and what not (which is completely ok and expected)...this event it was just different. We had a very special Y.O.U. staff for this event, and I think that is why the Uniteens were different. Often the Staff interacts with the Uniteens here and there, but also does their own thing as a Y.O.U. group. This event the Y.O.U. staff made much more of an effort to interact with the Uniteens, even sitting with them at meals, playing games with them at free-time, and sitting with them during group gatherings. I am excited with this new interactive energy because it helps the Uniteens to open up, and

feel excited about entering Y.O.U., and maybe knowing and having a friend once they graduate into Y.O.U.

Actions by Events Coordinator:

- Selected YOU staff and worked with them on their various leadership roles for the event.
- Wrote all of the Spirit Group Material.
- Wrote 3 funshops and helped to edit 1 others written by our Y.O.U.ers (45 mins break-out activities that go to the overall theme).
- Created and printed nametags, programs, schedules (script) and t-shirt designs.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Printed and mailed all spirit group material to leaders.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Purchased all materials needed for the event.
- Assigned housing, spirit groups, funshops, secret prayer pals, cabin sponsors, adult chaperon schedule, ect.
- Coordinated the opening and closing along with teamwork activities.
- Coordinated meetings for the YOUers, adults and head sponsors.
- Created the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Helped to set up the event and clean up after the event.

Y.O.U. Fall Retreat – “Consciousness” October 21-23, 2016

Benefits: This is a wonderful opportunity for the newly graduates of Uniteens to come to a smaller venue and feel comfortable, safe, and welcomed into their new Y.O.U. group. This event also allows the newly elected Y.O.U. regional officers an opportunity to plan and host a smaller event prior to June Rally.

Highlights:

- Our two newly elected Regional Officers created an overall intention for their event was: *“Our goal is to provide a spiritual teaching that allows people to better know themselves so they may have a higher consciousness for the world around them.”* They also set daily themes and affirmation in order to support their overall theme.
 - *Compassion:* “Through my self-learning I am open to living and understanding others.”

- *Self-Love*: “As I become more self-aware, my self-love continues to grow.”
 - *Resilience*: “In knowing and loving who I am, I have the confidence to grow.”
- One of the larger group activities was the regionals leading everyone into a group ohm. The origin of “ohm,” was explained along with the benefits of using it in meditation to connect you into the present moment. The group silently walked down to a fire and together ohmed for about 20 minutes. It was truly a powerful and grounding experience to have together.

Actions by Events Coordinator:

- Held weekly phone calls with the YOU regional team prior to the event.
- Mentored the YOU regional team in creating their vision for the event while overseeing their family material, group activities, schedule, talks, ect.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Printed and mailed all Family material.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Created and printed all necessary documents including schedules, nametags, room assignments, family assignments, tranquility slips, confirmation packets to the various chapters, sign in sheets, ect.
- Created and printed the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Assigned chapter opportunities
- Assigned housing.
- Purchased all necessary equipment for the event.
- Oversaw and updated all documents prepared by the Regional Team.
- Arrived 2 days early with the YOU regional’s to help set up for event and work on their scripts and truth talks.
- Held daily meeting with the Head Sponsor and YOU regional team.
- Closed up and cleaned up after the event.

Spring Unitreat – “Breathe and Smile,” May 5-7, 2017

Benefits: This is a wonderful continuation from the Fall Unitreat for the Uniteens to continue new developing relationships and exploration of self. There is also a graduation ceremony for the 8th graders creating a

sacred space and sense of completion. During the ceremony the Y.O.U. on staff welcomes the newly graduates to Y.O.U helping to create excitement for their next journey into Y.O.U. This is also a unique event for Y.O.U.ers to volunteer to be on staff and be of service to the Uniteens and try out their leadership skills.

Highlights:

- I was excited about the Y.O.U. staff applications this year, as they have all stepped up their game!! There is a section in the application that is “optional,” where they are asked to write and create a possible funshop for the Uniteens. Normally I have 2 or 3 kids fill that section out, this year I had every single kid who applied fill that section out. I am bursting with pride and excitement to see these kids step up and believe in their creativity and leadership role.
- One of our most popular funshops this event was called “gratitude journals,” where they were given very cool journals to decorate and make personal to them. They then had a discussion about gratitude and the importance of acknowledging things they are grateful for every day even if it feels small. After being lead into a meditation they were asked to start their journals and write 3 things they were grateful for. After people were encouraged to share what they wrote, they were asked to take home their journal and start using their new gratitude journal as a daily activity.

Actions by Events Coordinator:

- Selected YOU staff and worked with them on their various leadership roles for the event.
- Wrote all of the Spirit Group Material.
- Wrote 4 funshops
- Created and printed nametags, programs, schedules (script) and t-shirt designs.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Printed and mailed all spirit group material to leaders.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Purchased all materials needed for the event.
- Organized the graduation ceremony.
- Assigned housing, sprit groups, funshops, secret prayer pals, cabin sponsors, adult chaperon schedule, ect.

- Coordinated the opening and closing along with teamwork activities.
- Coordinated meetings for the YOUers, adults and head sponsors.
- Created the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Helped to set up the event and clean after the event.

Y.O.U. June Rally – “Wisdom,” June 21-25, 2017

Benefits: This is a 5-day event that provides opportunities for teens to connect in a safe environment to explore spirituality, establish healthy long-term relationships, and build leadership and social skills. This year was focused on learning to live in the moment and practicing different forms of mindfulness. Graduation is also held at this event, which is a highly valued Rite of Passage.

Highlights:

- This year’s theme, Wisdom, was created by our regionals in hopes to guide people to their spirituality through focus in order to celebrate and express their truest selves. They also had five daily themes and intentions that helped to support their main theme and gave context to their family material:
 1. “Serenity” ~ I acknowledge and appreciate my deep peace within.
 2. “Courage” ~ I fearlessly embrace all the lessons life has to offer.
 3. “Wisdom” ~ I take time to tap into my intuition and am learning to trusts its voice.
 4. “Judgment” ~ I use my judgment in the physical world to express my internal wisdom.
 5. “Patience” ~ I have faith in the process of developing my wisdom.
- This year our regional officers decided to have one of the days in the program be completely blank, with no times (except what time to be at breakfast) or any information on what we were doing this day. They wanted to break people from their every-day normal feelings and encourage them to trust the process of life and their intuition.
- We had four amazing kids run for the position of regional officer this year. They truly were outstanding and their truth-talks were relatable, vulnerable, and inspiring. Their truth-talks covered some hard topics about acceptance, coming out, learning to love themselves and trusting that everything happens for a reason. I

will always continue to be impressed and inspired by our youth when they give so much of themselves in their truth-talks.

Actions by Events Coordinator:

- Held weekly phone calls with the YOU regional team prior to the event.
- Mentored the YOU regional team in creating their vision for the event while overseeing their family material, group activities, schedule, and talks, ect.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Coordinated our musician, guest speaker and photographer.
- Printed and mailed all Family material.
- Created and printed all necessary documents including schedules, nametags, room assignments, family assignments, tranquility slips, confirmation packets to the various chapters, sign in sheets, ect.
- Created and printed the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Assigned chapter opportunities
- Created senior envelops, graduation certificates, service award certificates and chapter certificates.
- Updated and performed a new Rites of Passage Ceremony for the graduates.
- Assigned housing.
- Purchased all necessary equipment for the event.
- Oversaw and updated all documents prepared by the Regional Team.
- Arrived 2 days early with the YOU regional's to help set up for event and work on their scripts and truth talks.
- Held daily meeting with the Head Sponsor and YOU regional team.
- Closed up and cleaned up after the event.

Additional Items the Youth Events Coordinator Works on:

- Mentors, coaches and works closely with the Y.O.U. Regional Officers throughout the year.
 - Has weekly check-in calls leading up to each event to work on material and create their events.

- Hosted 2 in-person planning meetings that this year took place in Minnesota to accommodate the regional officers. There I host the newly elected Y.O.U. Regional Officers Marie Speakman and Ashley Cofrin (both from the Unity North Chapter) for 4 days while we have a chance to get to know each other, create a bond and foundation for our next year together, and began work on their events.
- This year's mission statement created by the Y.O.U. Officers: *"Together we are dedicated to inspiring each individual to embody their authentic selves. Through this self-awareness, we encourage each person to honor and enhance others divine selves."*
- I have already hosted our first Y.O.U. Regional Officer Team Planning with our newly elected team Christian Burgos (Woodstock) and Olivia Echevarria (Evanston) where they created their mission statement: *"As we learn to fully embrace new experiences, we empower each other to let go of any fear or judgments that may linger in ourselves or those around us. As we overcome these inhibitions to truly enjoy each moment as it arrives."*
- I lovingly answer daily emails and phone calls from various Y.O.U.ers, sponsors, youth directors and parents with questions, concerns, issues, or ideas within the region on a weekly basis.