

You're invited to the 2011 Youth of Ethical Societies (Y.E.S.) Conference:

Instinctive Human Rights: What are we entitled to?

Come meet teens from Ethical Societies around the country and discuss this topic and others!

When

Friday evening, November 11th, to noon on Sunday, November 13th, 2011.
(Pre-conference activities begin at 6 pm on Thursday, November 10th.)

Where

Beautiful Frost Valley YMCA Camp
2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville, NY 12725 -- located two hours away from NYSEC.
(Pre-conference overnight stay at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street,
New York, NY 10023, with organized sight-seeing on Friday morning and early afternoon.)

Who

Y.E.S. members and friends (13-18 years old, in grades 9 - 12) and adult advisors/chaperones.
Please note: Every participating youth must have an adult chaperone at the conference site.

How

Fill out and mail the enclosed 1) registration form, 2) full payment, 3) signed Code of Ethics**
and 4) Medical Authorization Form by Friday, October 21, to:

Law'nence Miller- Director of Administration
American Ethical Union
Two West 64th St.
New York, NY 10023.

~ Copies of registration materials also available at www.aeu.org ~

Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, towel, plastic bag for packing damp items, soap, shampoo, jeans, sweatshirt, hiking/sport shoes, jacket, gloves and hat, rain gear, and flashlight. (Also pajamas you don't mind being seen in!) Temperatures typically cold in November. Optional: Snacks, music player, journal, musical instrument, favorite poetry, camera, games for large groups, ear plugs.

How to get there: Please consult with your Society's Director of Religious Education or Y.E.S. / youth group advisor. A chartered bus will leave NYSEC at 3:00 PM on Friday (Nov 11th). A bus will leave the conference site on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 PM to drop off at JFK and LaGuardia Airports. Advanced reservations for the bus are required; seats are limited. If you are flying and using the chartered bus for transportation to the airport, please do not make flight reservations to leave New York before 6 pm on Sunday.

Questions?

Please contact Trish Cowan, National YES Advisor, at 636-225-2594 or trishhotze@sbcglobal.net.

SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY!

~ Deadline October 21st ~

****Code of Ethics- Behavior Guidelines:** Our common values as Ethical Culturists/ Humanists - respect for the inherent worth of every person, freedom balanced with responsibility - will govern this conference. We will also adhere to the regulations of YMCA Camp Frost Valley and the laws of New York and the USA regarding weapons, alcohol, drugs and sexual activity. All participants are required to read, sign and abide by our Code of Ethics and return it with the registration form.

Conference Site Notes

Pillow and blanket are provided Friday – Sunday by Frost Valley, free of charge. If traveling by plane, bringing a sleeping bag may result in extra baggage claim charges. To help alleviate this additional cost, full linens (including sheets, pillow case, towel, wash cloth) may be rented from Frost Valley for \$7 and you may leave your sleeping bag at home. Our friends in various New York Societies will do their best to arrange for you to have a borrowed sleeping bag at the pre-conference site on Thursday night. To plan accordingly, please check the “Linen Rental” line on your registration form. Available sleeping bags for Thursday night will be limited; earliest registrations will receive first dibs.

Established in 1901 as one of the nation's first summer camps, Frost Valley YMCA now provides four seasons of outdoor, experiential and educational opportunities. Frost Valley YMCA is a 6,000 acre residential camping, environmental education, and conference center located in the heart of the “forever wild” Catskill Mountain Preserve.

Frost Valley's fabulous food service staff serve three wholesome meals daily, with special features including morning breakfast bars, lunch and dinner salad bars and alternate vegetarian/vegan menus. The dining hall is not just a place to eat, but it is also a key component to the educational experience. Frost Valley composts all of its food waste. Guests participate in this process by separating their organic from non-organic waste. Through these activities we hope to increase awareness and understanding of the resources around us.

Sample menu

Breakfast:

Hot Cereal, Cheesy Scrambled Eggs, Turkey Sausage Links, and Seasoned Breakfast Potatoes

Lunch:

Homemade Soup, Cheese Ravioli, Mixed Vegetables, Vegan Barley Pilaf, and Grilled Garden Burger

Dinner:

Beef Fajitas, Spanish Rice, Oven Roasted Corn, Brown Rice and Bean Stew, and Black Bean Burrito

There is no cell phone service at the Camp and television screens are rare. Wi-fi is available in the Dining Hall and Geyer Hall. Calls to Frost Valley's main number at (845) 985-2291 are answered from 8:00 AM until 11:00 PM and messages are delivered during the next meal.

YES Conference Schedule (Preliminary) November 10 – 13, 2011

Pre-Conference: NYSEC / City

Thursday, November 10; evening. Activities at the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

Friday, November 11; morning/early afternoon. Tour portion of New York City. That afternoon, after touring in New York, participants will return to NYSEC, where chartered bus & cars will transport registered participants to YMCA Camp Frost Valley. Bus will begin loading at 3:00 pm. Bus departs NYSEC on Friday at 3:30 pm.

Conference: Frost Valley

Friday, November 11 WELCOME to Frost Valley!
5:30 pm Arrive at Frost Valley. Bring in bags, settle into rooms.
6:00 pm Dinner in the Dining Hall
7:00 pm Sign in, name tags & packets
7:30 pm Community Service Recognition
8:30 pm Conference Opening: ceremony, games
Note: Teens must be indoors after 10 PM.
Free time until lights out at TBD

Saturday, November 12

8:00 am Breakfast in the Dining Hall
8:45 am Officers' and Reps' Meeting
9:15 am Conference Activities – small group discussions, games
12:00 pm Lunch in the Dining Hall
1:15 pm- 4:00 pm Afternoon activities including skits, discussions, FES presentation and t-shirt designs
4:00- 6:00 pm Free Time
6:00 pm Dinner in the Dining Hall
7:00 pm Group Meeting, Elections & Warm Fuzzies
Followed by campfire, marshmallows and music
10:00 pm Free time until lights out at TBD

Sunday, November 13

8:00 am Breakfast in Dining Hall
9:15 - 10:15 Clean up, pack up. Sweep, collect trash.
10:15 - 11:00 Closing Ceremony & Evaluations
11:00 - 11:30 Parachute, group time
11:30 - 12:00 Group pictures and farewells
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:15 pm Bus loads for 1:30 departure, headed for City / Airports

Conference Planners (officers), 2011 YES Conference

Dan Harding, President (Long Island); Sammi Unangst, Vice President (St. Louis); Sharalyn Fields, Secretary (St. Louis); and Annika Schneider, Treasurer (Northern Westchester) and Society Reps.

2011 YES conference Registration (Due October 21, 2011)

Name _____

Grade in School _____ Age _____ ~ or ~ Registering as Adult Chaperone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Home Phone _____

Affiliated Ethical Society _____

Youth Group Advisor's Name _____

Special Dietary Needs: Vegetarian Vegan Gluten-free Other: _____

Special Needs or Concerns [please include medical conditions, behavioral issues or medications taken on a regular basis (confidential)]:

Are you coming to the pre-conference at the New York Society for Ethical Culture (NYSEC) on Thursday night, Nov 10th? YES NO

How will you travel to New York? _____ Airport (if known) JFK LaGuardia N/A

Will you use our chartered bus transportation from NYSEC to Frost Valley on Friday, November 11? YES NO

Will you use our bus transportation from Frost Valley to the airport/NY City on Sunday, November 13? YES NO

Is this your first conference? YES NO

Fees:

_____ \$135.00 Conference fee (includes registration, YES dues, room and board beginning Friday evening)

_____ \$15.00 Pre-conference activities (includes Thursday evening lodging, snacks and materials and Friday morning breakfast. You will need additional cash for Friday lunch, admissions, subway fares, shopping, etc.)

_____ \$45.00 Bus transportation to & from Frost Valley

_____ \$18.00 2011 YES T-shirt (Adult, Unisex) Size: S M L XL 2X

_____ \$7.00 Linen rental at Frost Valley (optional, if traveling by plane and not checking sleeping bag)

_____ **Total Enclosed** (To pay by credit card, see separate form)

Make check payable to: "American Ethical Union" Memo line: YES - [teen's name]

Mail to: Lawrence Miller, American Ethical Union, Two West 64th St, New York, NY 10023

Enclosed: ☼ Registration Form ☼ Payment ☼ signed Medical Auth* ☼ signed Code of Ethics
☼ Community Service Recognition Form (optional)

*Please give a copy of MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION form to your youth advisor.

*** NO GUARANTEED t-shirt orders on registrations received after October 21 ***

2011 YES Credit Card Payment

(Please use this form only if you are paying by credit card)

Please charge my (circle) Visa MasterCard Discover American Express Card

Name as it appears on charge card _____

Billing Address, including zip code _____

Phone Number _____

Credit Card Number _____

~ Please print numbers clearly ~

Expiration date _____ Security code (CSC) _____
Amex (4-digit) on front, others (3-digit) on back

Amount to charge: \$ _____

Signature _____

For information regarding charges, call:
AEU office 212-873-6500 (phone) or fax (212-624-0203) (fax is secure)
ask for Law'nence ("L") Miller (Director of Office Administration) or Donna Pang (Office Assistant)

2011 YES Conference

Authorization for Treatment of Minors **

In the event that your child needs medical or dental treatment at the conference, you as a parent or guardian must have given advance permission. To ensure that emergency medical treatment may be provided if necessary, please complete this form. Every attempt will be made to contact parents prior to any treatment.

The adults accompanying my child on this trip are designated to act on my behalf. This authorization releases the American Ethical Union, advisors, and local Ethical Societies from liability.

Name of minor: _____ Birth Date: _____

I/We, being the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the above-named minor, do hereby appoint

_____ (name of society teen group advisor or chaperone accompanying minor) and/or Patricia Cowan to act on my/our behalf in authorizing emergency medical, dental, and surgical care and hospitalization for the above-named minor from Thursday, November 10, 2011, through Sunday, November 13, 2011.

This document will be presented to a physician, dentist, or appropriate hospital representative at such time as emergency care may be required.

Name of Parent/ Guardian (please print) _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Name of Insurance Co/Policy No. _____

Phone for Ins Co _____

Policy Holder _____

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Please note any physical conditions, allergies, behavioral issues and medications that pertain to your child: _____

**IMPORTANT Make a copy of this form.

Send the ORIGINAL of this form with the registration. Give a COPY of this form to the local YOUTH GROUP ADVISOR or chaperone who is traveling with your teen.

Y.E.S.

**YOUTH OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES
AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION
CODE OF ETHICS**

YES members are acting as ambassadors from their Ethical Societies to the National Conference and are therefore expected to maintain the highest personal moral standards which are exemplified in thoughtful, kind, fair, and responsible behaviors. All YES members demonstrate by their actions that YES is a worthwhile and responsible organization. Behavior guidelines for all YES activities and conferences are founded on our common values as Ethical Culturists/Humanists. Primarily, we respect the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and expect every freedom to be balanced with a corresponding responsibility. Conference attendees are asked to pledge the following for the duration of the conference:

- I will not use or have in my possession illegal drugs, alcohol, dangerous materials, weapons or firearms.
- I will not smoke.
- I will not engage in sexual activity. (This is defined as intercourse, oral sex, intimate touching, or sharing of sleeping bags).
- I will follow instructions from the adult advisors and the YES officers, and encourage or support others to do so.
- I will observe the designated curfew hours set by the YES Planning Committee, including scheduled lights out and quiet hours.
- I will not leave or arrive at unscheduled times during the conference, unless I have direct permission from the YES registrar, YES advisor(s) and host.
- I will participate actively and to the best of my ability in the scheduled program.
- I will speak and act courteously to fellow attendees, using respectful language void of prejudice or insult (“That’s so gay,” “That’s retarded,” “You’re a fag,” “You’re stupid,” etc.).
- I will engage in behavior that my parents would approve of (for example, avoiding tattooing, body piercing, dying or shaving of hair, etc.)
- I will clean up after myself and take responsibility for keeping the conference site clean and orderly.

I understand and agree that, if I violate the above rules, I will appear before a disciplinary board of YES central committee members and advisors, including my own advisor. I also understand that as a result of any violation, depending on the severity of the infraction, I may be dismissed from the conference.

I have read and understand the Y.E.S. Code of Ethics and pledge to uphold it.

Signature of conference participant

Date

