



## High School Summer Trip to the Montreat Youth Conference!

July 16-22, 2023 (Sunday-Saturday)  
*Montreat, North Carolina*

### 1. What is Montreat?

The Montreat Conference Center is a special place within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It's one of three national conference centers affiliated with the PC(USA) and is annually visited by over 35,000 people seeking physical and spiritual renewal in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina. The Montreat Youth Conference (MYC) is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship.

### 2. The 2023 Montreat Youth Conference Theme: *In•Joy*

*What does it mean to experience deep, authentic joy? It can often feel inaccessible or artificial, yet opening ourselves up to it provides new possibilities and stretches our boundaries. Join us as we explore the sources and meaning of authentic joy grounded in the light of God's love and healing power through worship, music, learning, and of course, play! Montreat Youth Conference affirms youth in their calling to be and to shape the church of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to help youth come to know and believe that they are the beloved of God and to be a place where authenticity, community, connection, and God's truth thrive. We seek to be an inclusive space where each voice can be heard and where each heart can be molded; where change is invited, challenge is expected, and where all are embraced. Youth leave Montreat knowing that:*

- *Their faith matters.*
- *They are loved as they are.*
- *They are part of a community of faith.*

<https://montreat.org/events/myc-23>

### 3. Where do we stay?

At MYC we'll be staying in the Assembly Inn, which is located at the heart of Montreat Conference Center and overlooks Lake Susan. All meals are included with our housing.

### 4. How will we get there?

We'll travel to Montreat in a 12-passenger van.

### 5. Who can sign up?

Teens currently in grades 8-12.

## 6. What's the daily schedule look like?

*There are four main parts of every day at Montreat Youth Conference:*

**Keynote** – The keynote session gathers everyone together for movement and group building (fondly known as energizers), announcements, music, and keynote. Keynote is a 45 minute-ish presentation engaging conferees in that day's scriptural theme. After keynote, conferees head to small group sessions.

**Small Groups** – Small groups allow youth to form relationships with others in order to have honest discussions with each other about questions raised during keynote and worship. Small group sessions are led by trained small group leaders, who guide conversation and lead group building activities.

**Worship** – After dinner, everyone gathers for worship. In worship, youth engage the Word of God as they seek to understand and respond to the challenges and triumphs of being a high schooler in the twenty-first century. MYC worship is joyful, reflective, and seeks to glorify God using many creative gifts of the participants.

**Recreation** – Recreation events are featured throughout the day and include everything from dance, games, and group building activities to snow cone parties, international crafts, and service. Energizers are a much beloved Montreat tradition, pairing popular music and simple movements everyone can enjoy.

## 7. How much does this week cost?

\$810.00 – This price includes housing, meals, and program costs. Transportation to and from Montreat is underwritten through TPC's youth ministry budget.

As you can see, MYC is not an inexpensive trip, but it is a *fantastic* faith-forming experience for our teens. To that end, we are striving to make next summer's MYC as affordable as possible.

Each teen is asked to pay **\$210** out of pocket (*scholarship \$\$ is available for this as well. Please reach out to Pastor Joel if this would help.*).

**\$450** is being underwritten for each teen through TPC's Holmes Youth Mission Fund.

The remaining **\$150** will be raised through 1) *Christmas Wreath Fundraiser* in November and December 2) Selling shares of *TPC Stock* in the Spring, which is when the congregation graciously invests in our teens and their upcoming summer trip experience.

## 8. How do we register?

Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. We have reserved spots but once they fill up there's no guarantee of additional rooms at Assembly Inn. Register at [www.towsonpres.org/grow/youth](http://www.towsonpres.org/grow/youth), where you'll be asked to pay a \$105 deposit.

## 9. Who is leading this trip?

Pastor Joel and 1-2 Youth Advisors will accompany our teens to MYC.

**10. Questions?** Contact Pastor Joel at [jstrom@towsonpres.org](mailto:jstrom@towsonpres.org).

