


NCYC

GROUP LEADER PACKET

 **585-967-0270**

**LESLIE
BARKIN**

This packet contains important information for your use while at the NCYC Conference!

**TOM WEAVER/BUS
COORDINATOR**

585-430-2960

**SR. DONNA
DELSANTO/NURSE**

585-733-4422

**MARK
CAPELLAZZI
/HOTEL
COORDINATOR
&ROOMS**

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**KATEY
BOURNE/NIGHT
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COORDINATOR**

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20 ALL GROUP LEADERS NEED TO KNOW for the MONTH OF NOVEMBER and the CONFERENCE

1. Beginning NOV. 1, there are no additions allowed. It is also very difficult for us to substitute new people. Please focus only on DROPS after this point. In the event that you have a student you would like to substitute, please confirm with us before inviting that student. We are now at the point where we have confirmed our hotel rooms and can only exchange male for male/female for female. **Please contact us before any invitations are made to youth for substitutions. It gets especially tricky as we sell off shirt sizes and things like that!**
2. We are providing a long-sleeved t-shirt and a winter beanie hat for each participant. Parishes should focus on providing trading items, and a parish t-shirt. Young people are encouraged to bring their own funny hats from previous conferences, Halloween, costume parties, etc. to get in on the funny hat craze that NCYC is famous for. Please insist that all hats are appropriate; political or explicit hats are NOT allowed **Many dioceses are encouraging youth to bring their own funny hat and are going with function over funny. You might consider grabbing a funny hat for each of your group members or encouraging them to bring their own. Please no political hats, hats from marches, etc.**
3. There will be no bag tags this year and all bags will be checked via airport style security. Please let all youth know they will be subject to search **Youth should have a backpack with them daily and no that it will be both scanned and possibly searched. We do not have notice yet about whether or not there will be any body scans. (that was a question that came up yesterday) Remember that the new security process will make for a need for more patience entering the buildings as it will take longer**
4. There is a collection at the closing liturgy on Saturday night that contributes to the scholarship fund and future NCYC's. Please encourage the youth to bring a few dollars for that collection.
5. Each roommate should plan to provide 1 dollar per day for a tip for the housekeeping staff. That means that each young person should set aside \$3 or more for a tip; talk to your young people about the justice behind that tip and the fact that they should tidy up their room before leaving each day and not expect the maid to pick up their dirty clothes and personal items.
6. We will check each room before arrival for any damages. Every youth will be responsible for damages made to their hotel room
7. Each bus typically collects a tip for the driver and provides him or her with a token gift. This can be an item you get at the conference or an item you buy from our diocesan merchandise such as a burgundy beanie. The bus captain should oversee the collection of tip money and gift but please make all youth aware that a few dollars should be set aside for their driver. It is also nice to invite your bus driver to join your group for dinner as your guest.
8. Those who arrive on WEDNESDAY evening are invited to bring a board game or two for our evening game night. **We will provide some games as well from our department, but it will be more fun to have an assortment that can get kids interacting with each other and meeting new friends**

9. There is absolutely no use of the pool and young people should not go to the workout facilities unaccompanied. Please note that our diocesan rule is that all youth must be accompanied by a chaperone outside of the hotel, which includes crossing the bridge into the Mall. We will provide a Shopping Mall Scavenger hunt on Thursday morning for any chaperoned groups that want to play. Trading gear will be awarded as prizes. Youth also must be accompanied by a chaperone outside of the stadium and convention center buildings. Please be aware that Indianapolis has a scooter sharing system that will greatly intrigue our youth. There is ABSOLUTELY no use of the scooters at any time.

10. Pizza will be ordered for THURSDAY NIGHT only. We will send a pre-order sheet to all group leaders in November. Please order by the slice so that we can get a semi-accurate count. We waste far too much pizza on youth who are not hungry at 11:00 at night

11. On FRIDAY night, all parish groups should come directly to the ballroom after deboarding the busses, to join in a diocesan-wide, evening examen. Packaged snacks will be available following the examen. Parish groups are encouraged to avoid late-night parish prayer and share on Friday night as that is a VERY LONG DAY for our teens; our hope is that you will send them to bed after our 15 minute night prayer and allow them to get rest. It is recommended that each group leader make time for parish prayer and share during the extended dinner break. There are many nooks and crannies available for gathering within the Convention Center before heading to dinner or Lucas Oil Stadium for the evening program.

12. There are many opportunities at NCYC and your group will likely not be able to do them all. It is not required that all youth attend workshops during each and every round. The interactive village provides many opportunities to be creative, pray, and engage in service projects; it is not just a shopping area! Schedule in ample time to explore. We will provide a daily challenge for the youth to find and bring back on Thursday and Friday to enter into a drawing for trading gear. These little challenges help them to get the most out of the interactive village and add in some extra fun! You might consider creating some type of challenge for your own group such as a photo scavenger hunt or a freebie find! It is also recommended that you and your group take full advantage of the prayer experiences. A rosary will be prayed daily, with special intentions, and there is regularly scheduled adoration, Mass and Reconciliation. **Make this as prayerful an experience as possible**

13. FINAL MONTH FORMATION: Because this is a pilgrimage, our hope is that you have been forming both your chaperones and your pilgrims all along. However, if your busy schedule has gotten in the way of adequate preparation, it is NOT TOO LATE! How can you use these last few weeks wisely to engage your chaperones in prayerful preparation, connect your youth to the Word, connect the parents to the pilgrimage and even engage the parish in praying for its pilgrims? **Yesterday we provided parents with a prayer guide and talked about ways to get them involved virtually. Please keep sending families to oec.dor.org/youth**

We will be sending out one more video for you to share with your chaperones and we will be sending one to just parents as well. We hope you will cooperate in sending them out to the families involved. If you have not already sent the previous videos to the youth and chaperones, please do so right away. It is key that you share our website: oec.dor.org/youth-ministry/ncyc with families as we will put the live stream information up there as well as other tools to connect all involved in the weeks ahead. Keynote sessions are live-streamed by NFCYM for home and parish viewing. **At this point you should have viewed the group leader's guide film/shared chaperone film and shared youth pilgrim film. If you have not done so, please cooperate with our desire to communicate to all participants and watch as well as share!**

14. **OUR DIOCESAN TEAM:** We are at the conference to serve YOU. Our hope is to make your job easier so that you can focus on your group. Remember, it does not help to share your complaints with your chaperones or with the youth you are guiding; that only casts a shadow on what can be an amazing opportunity for their faith to grow...let it bloom!!! How can we help? We serve as your hotel liaison, your security team, your nursing staff, your hospitality staff, your communications department, your transportation staff and a listening ear and comforting shoulder. Please contact us FIRST and let us discuss how we can approach any problems you encounter. I am available 24/7. Use the numbers on the front of this guide to focus on your specific needs or requests. **At the conference: General/Code of Conduct issues/Chaperone/Communication..contact Leslie; Hotel needs contact Mark or Linda; Security or code of conduct issues while in rooms: Contact Katey; Bus issues contact Tom Weaver. All numbers are on the front of your group leader guide.**

15. **COFFEE and TEA:** Free coffee is available every morning in the top secret coffee lounge for adults only found in the side hall to the left of the staircase. PLEASE help yourself and gently turn away any youth who may have found their way in there. **Hot water and an assortment of tea bags can be found in our diocesan staff headquarters to the right of the staircase along with snacks and gluten free breakfast options.**

16. A few volunteers are needed from each delegation to serve as chaperones at the Saturday afternoon events at NCYC. Please let me know if you would be willing to help out as representatives from our diocese

17. **SAFETY AND SECURITY:** We will receive daily security briefings from NFCYM. Though we don't anticipate any difficulties, in the event of an emergency in which our group needed to evacuate the area of the Convention Center or Lucas Oil Stadium, group leaders would be asked to proceed with their group to the **Soldiers and Sailors Monument park on Monument Circle.** For safety reasons, each group should also set up a meeting place WITHIN both the Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium that youth can find you at, should they get lost and unable to communicate by phone. Make sure EVERY young person in your group is aware and familiar with that place. To find you in a crowd, it is helpful to distinguish your group. Some leaders use a flag or something that can be high above the crowd without causing any damage or danger to others. How can your pilgrims find you a crowd? Think about ways to distinguish yourselves. This might be the place for matching funny hats! Communication by phone call does not always work when the service is being used by thousands. TEXTING is the best form of communication. You should set up a group text prior to leaving home. You can also consider an app for this such as "Group Me." Finally, you can't always talk across the stadium seats to your group, but you should establish a form of non-verbal communication that let's them know what you need to say like: "pay attention," "take your hat off" "etc.

18. We represent the Bishop. Please remind your groups as they proceed through the hotel, as they meet others at the conference, when they order in a restaurant, when they participate in prayer, when they are walking on the street...at all times, they are representing our diocese and our bishop. We are proud of the positive reputation our pilgrims have always had at NCYC; let's keep it up! Be sure that all your pilgrims understand the code of conduct as well as the consequences for breaking it and bring any issues to my attention immediately

19. **TAKE CARE OF YOU!** We know you have been working hard. The time is now for all your preparation to be realized, so make sure you take care of yourself in the weeks ahead. At the conference, do what you need to do to be healthy. We are grateful for you and we want you to be well!

20. We'll see you for your bus trip on Wednesday, November 20. Know your location and be respectful of the time schedule. Make sure your group packs snacks and water for the trip, engage them in a sending off prayer, show only PG or G movies please, sleep if you are an overnight bus!

NCYC Packing List

Please copy and share with your pilgrims

Diocesan TShirt (WILL BE WORN ON FRIDAY)

Parish TShirt (if applicable) (WILL BE WORN ON SATURDAY)

Diocesan Beanie Hat (WILL BE WORD ON THURSDAY..NO TRADING UNTIL FRIDAY)

Crazy hat for trading (if desired)

Comfortable walking shoes (no flip flops or heels)

Warm outerwear to meet the weather needs (check the weather forecast for INDY)

Backpack for your daily gear at the conference

Sweatshirt

Comfortable travel clothing for the bus (NO PAJAMAS on the bus)

Nightwear for the hotel

Casual clothing for conference days

Toiletries

Trading items

A water bottle

A small bible or journal

Money for lunches/dinners as applicable to your parish and souvenirs (check with your group leader for cost estimation)

Bus snacks (please avoid peanut snacks)

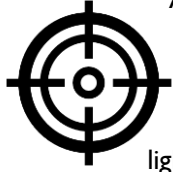
Cell phone

Small travel pillow or blanket for the bus

PLEASE LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME

PRAYERS FOR THE JOURNEY: Please use these during travel, an in the morning and evening as our busses head to the conference:

STARTING THE JOURNEY:



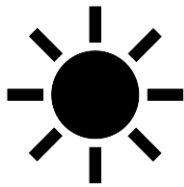
“All-powerful God, you always show mercy toward those who you love and you are never far away for those who seek you. Be with your servants on this pilgrimage and guide their way in accord with your will. Be a companion for them along their journey, a guide at crossroads, strength in their weariness, defense before dangers, shelter on the way, shade against the heat, light in the darkness, a comforter in their discouragements, and firmness in their intentions, in order that, through your guidance, they might arrive unscathed at the end of their journey and, enriched with graces and virtues, they might return safely home; through Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.”

The Wayfarer’s Prayer: (adapted for our pilgrimage)



God, you have guided your people throughout their history. Son now as pilgrim children we turn to you, searching for your image and for a place to rest. Like a good friend, Lord, you are always with us. You make yourself a travel companion to us wayfarers, pilgrims all who walk toward you. You call us to be witnesses of your love and to be examples of our faith wherever we go. May we be one, in communion, with one another and with you.

For the Morning:



Light a Holy Fire (Blessing for the day; adapted from Desmond Tutu)

Receive this holy fire. Make your lives like this fire. A holy life that is seen. A life of God that is seen. A life that has no end. A life that darkness does not overcome. May this light of God grow in you. Light a fire that is worthy of your heads. Light a fire that is worthy of your family. Light a fire that is worthy of God. Go in peace; may the Almighty protect you today and always!



Lord, Today I resolve to do the good you created me to do. To see the good you created me to see. To be the good you created me to be.

AMEN.

For the Evening:



Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace. Amen



Lord God, I know that you can be at work, even while I sleep. Keep my heart and mind on you. Heal me of injury, make my heart strong, make my soul pure, and may I grow closer to you.