

# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



The Adventist Youth Ministries Department of the Greater New York Conference is where people of all walks of life can find spiritual joy and fulfillment. The Youth Department offers activities throughout the entire year that can address the needs of our children, teens, youths, young adults, adults, leaders, churches and our communities.

Monthly advisories, including a year-end retreat, are held with our coordinators, instructors and staff to review and develop these activities.

## Recreational Events

---

### **Ski Trip**

Purpose and Description: To provide a social environment where youths and young adults can meet and interact with other youths from all over the Greater New York Conference, and also give them an opportunity to invite their non-Adventist family members and friends, exposing them to their church family. The youths and young adults leave with the satisfaction of having made new friends and with the desire to come back next year.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Ice Skating**

Purpose and Description: To provide an opportunity for youths and young adults to invite their non-Adventist family members and friends to an activity outside of the church, and to provide an opportunity for the youths to socialize and meet other youths within the Adventist community. All the children, teens, youths and adults enjoy the day as they skate and socialize with each other.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Olympics**

Purpose and Description: To promote and develop physical activity and team building through sports. Children, teens, youths and adults leave with a better sense of Christian companionship and sportsmanship.

Frequency: Once a year

## Training Events

---

### **Adventist Youth Leadership & Evangelism Congress**

Purpose and Description: To train youths and adults in leadership and evangelism in order to effectively proclaim the gospel of Jesus to their local church and community. This program is for our Coordinators, Instructors, Adventist Youth Leaders, Pathfinder Directors, Adventurer Directors and any member of our conference who desires to work in Youth Ministry. The

# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



tracks offered are: Master Guide Certification, Pathfinder Leadership Award, Pathfinder Instructor Award, Adventurer Leadership Award, Adventurer Instructor Award, Adventist Youth Leadership Certification, Adventist Youth Emergency Corps Certification, Adventist Youth Media Certification, Adventist Youth Preach Certification and Adventist Youth Theatre Certification. Additional classes are held throughout the year for those who desire to graduate.

For the past three years, the number of congress attendees has remained constant. Attendees have included individuals from our sister conferences in New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as well as international attendees from Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. . We strive to improve the current tracks and add new tracks in order to better equip our leaders as they face ever-changing challenges in their ministry.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Directors' Dinner**

Purpose and Description: To welcome the Pathfinder, Adventurer and Adventist Youth Directors to their new role as directors, to provide resources, which will be useful in their ministry in the local church, and to inform them of upcoming Youth Department events. This event provides an opportunity to meet with their local coordinators and network with other directors from their area, and throughout the conference.

Many directors are motivated to participate in the Youth Department events and to share their information with each other. If that was not rewarding enough, an iPad is raffled to one of the directors in attendance using social media. It is an uplifting and encouraging event that allows the directors to relax, enjoy good company and delicious food, and of course, share many laughs throughout the evening.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Candidates Spiritual Retreat**

Purpose and Description: To provide a deliberate spiritual encounter for all the candidates who are enrolled in any of the tracks offered by the Adventist Youth Ministries Department. This is a required activity for all candidates desiring to graduate in all tracks. Candidates leave with a sense of spiritual fulfillment that will encourage them to press forward in completing their track and their work in God's ministry.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Final Exam for Candidates**

Purpose and Description: To give candidates an opportunity to showcase what they have learned during the year through written and practical exams. The candidates are required to obtain a passing grade in order to graduate. The final exam method varies depending on the track.

Frequency: Once a year

# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



### **Adventist Youth Investiture and Graduation Service**

Purpose and Description: To invest or graduate candidates who have completed their respective tracks and fulfilled all the proper requirements. Each year the Adventist Youth Ministries Department graduates approximately 150 to 200 well-trained youths and adults who are ready for the spiritual battle in their communities. *Class A Uniform Required.*

Frequency: Once a year

### **Youth Bible Prophecy Training**

Purpose and Description: To provide training and understanding of the biblical prophecies that have been provided to us for the end times, and motivate youths and adults to develop a desire to further study the Scriptures. During this event, the attendees gain knowledge in various areas of prophecies. A question and answer session allows attendees the opportunity to obtain desired information from the presenters. Participants leave with a better understanding of Bible prophecy.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Youth Advisory Retreat**

Purpose and Description: To train new staff and plan the events and activities for the following calendar year. During the breakout sessions, the staff is divided by ministries and areas to brainstorm new concepts and strategies that can be implemented to fulfill the Youth Department's objectives. Each staff is given the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas. A time is also scheduled for the staff to socialize and get to know each other better. At the end of the weekend the staff leaves with a clear sense of the next year's theme and objective and are ready to execute them.

Frequency: Once a year

## Pathfinder/Adventurer/Master Guide Events

---

### **Adventurer/Pathfinder Induction**

Purpose and Description: To publicly acknowledge children, teens, youths and adults as official Adventurer/Pathfinder club members through a special program that explains the ideals and principles of the club. Each inductee publicly promises to adhere to the club's pledge and law in the local church. Because the role of the parents in the process is very important as these new members are added to the club, parents are asked to participate in the induction ceremony as a support to the inductees. The Adventurer/Pathfinder ministry makes a huge impact on these children, teens, youths and young adults as they pledge to dedicate their lives to the Lord. *Class A Uniform required. Occurs at the local church.*

Frequency: Once a year



# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



### **Adventurer/Pathfinder Directors Meeting**

Purpose and Description: To provide an avenue to distribute vital information and instruction for the upcoming camporees. Directors will gain an understanding of the expectations, receive useful guidance in planning for camporee and have an opportunity to ask questions. Directors also have a chance to connect with other directors around the conference as well as their area coordinators. Directors leave the meeting excited about the upcoming camporee and ready to direct their club's preparation for it.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Adventurer/Pathfinder Camporee**

Purpose and Description: To train the adventurers/pathfinders in the art of camping without the normal accommodations in order to prepare them to survive in the end times. This event creates an uplifting spiritual and social atmosphere where they can also showcase the skills learned through competitive events and provide an opportunity to obtain honors. This is a wonderful event where our adventurers/pathfinders and staff enjoy different camp activities.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Adventurer/Pathfinder Day**

Purpose and Description: To give the adventurer/pathfinder club a day to showcase their talent and acknowledge the club's impact in the local church and community. This day can be a local church event or a joint area event. On this day, adventurers/pathfinders get the chance to take over the church service, including Sabbath School and Divine Hour, and make it their own. Activities in the afternoon can include a parade, completing honors and/or outreach projects. *Class A Uniform required.*

Frequency: Once a year

### **Pathfinder/Adventurer Investiture**

Purpose and Description: To invest or graduate pathfinders/adventurers who have completed achievement books and honors. It provides an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments and skills of the graduate highlighting their experience and the club's impact on their lives over the year to the local church. The adventurers/pathfinders feel a sense of accomplishment as they are publicly and officially invested into the next level. *Class A Uniform required. Occurs at the local church.*

Frequency: Once a year

### **Pathfinder Union Camporee**

Purpose and Description: To bring together pathfinder clubs from the Atlantic Union in a spiritual and natural atmosphere where they are able to showcase skills learned through competitive events and where they can obtain honors. It is also an opportunity to meet and make new friends. Pathfinders take advantage of this event to learn more about God and nature. Local conference camporees still occur during the year this event is held.

Frequency: Every five years

# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



### **Pathfinder International Camporee**

Purpose and Description: To celebrate the importance of the Pathfinder ministry and its spiritual influence. This event has become a leadership and spiritual rite of passage for youths and adults. It also has become a gathering place for world leaders who understand the importance of this generation and their value to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This event is organized by a unique group of people from all over North America. 50,000 Pathfinders from over 100 countries come to play, share, learn and worship together. It's an opportunity of a lifetime; sure to strengthen each attendee's relationship with God. Local conference camporees still occur during the year this event is held.

Frequency: Every five years

Website: [camporee.org](http://camporee.org)

### **Master Guide Camp Out**

Purpose and Description: To promote unity among Master Guides and provide an opportunity for skill development and training. Participants leave with a deeper connection with God and with their fellow Master Guides.

Frequency: Once a year

## **Camp Meeting Events**

---

### **English / Hispanic / Franco-Haitian Camp Meetings**

Purpose and Description: To create an environment targeted to youths and young adults from specific ethnic backgrounds where they can enjoy nature and receive spiritual renovation while making new friends. Our goal is to prepare inspiring and spirit-filled programs that will lead the youths and young adults of our conference to a closer walk with God as they share with each other and encounter nature in all its beauty. The baptismal pool is always open throughout these camp meetings for those who want to give their lives to the Lord for the first time or rekindle their first spiritual love.

Frequency: Once a year

### **United Camp Meeting**

Purpose and Description: To create an environment where youths and young adults from all cultures can come together to learn more about Christ and make new friends. The Youth Department prepares an excellent and diversified program that incorporates the various cultures represented in the conference. The day's activities also include a parade where all the various ministries and cultures can showcase their uniform, flags and traditional attire. People leave with the certainty that no matter where we are from, we are all united in Christ.

Frequency: Once a year

# Adventist Youth Ministries Department 2015 Events



## Spiritual Development Events

---

### **Bible Expedition Experience**

Purpose and Description: To experience the Bible more vividly by traveling to places that trace its history and to motivate and inspire youths and adults to engage in a profound study of the Bible. Each person comes back with a new found understanding of the Scriptures, thus encouraging them to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Frequency: Every two years

### **Bible Bowl**

Purpose and Description: To encourage children, youths, young adults, and adults to study the Bible through competitive games based on books of the Bible. Specific books are assigned to different age groups each year. When children, youths, young adults, and adults get deep into their Bibles they are able to share the good news with people who need Jesus in a loving and persuasive manner.

Frequency: Occurs in each area throughout the year and concludes with a playoff and final games once a year.

### **Passion Play: **THE RISEN****

Purpose and Description: To present the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in a real, practical and experiential manner, which will impact the viewer with a renewed spiritual encounter that will engender hope, witness and an eager anticipation of Christ's return. The event takes place during Easter in order to attract not only the Adventist community, but also the community at large that may be more receptive to the invitation. This is an emotional event that brings the story of Jesus to life, in particular the last days of Jesus' ministry on this earth. Many people are moved by the performance and express a desire to see it again.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Musical Ministry: **THE RISEN****

Purpose and Description: To present the birth & sacrifice of Jesus Christ using musical expression. This event is targeted to the non-Adventist Christian community and intended to promote the anticipation of Christ's soon return.

Frequency: Once a year

### **Praise and Prayer Experience**

Purpose and Description: To give the young adults and youths an opportunity to come together to pray, sing and share experiences that serve as a daily spiritual motivation. Participants will develop a sense of unity and spiritual connection with God and their peers.

Frequency: Twice a year: one by area and one united

### **Week of Youth Evangelism**

Purpose and Description: To promote the mission of the church in bringing the gospel



# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



message to the world. This is a local church event where the youths and young adults work together to conduct a week long evangelistic series. It is an opportunity for the youths to take on major roles including preaching and evangelism. Participants will feel a sense of purpose as they become co-laborers with Christ in promoting the gospel message. It is expected that souls will be won for the kingdom and many will appreciate a closer walk with Christ. *Occurs at the local church.*

Frequency: Once a year

### GodEncounters

Purpose and Description: To create a strong community of young adult believers in the Atlantic Union. This is an opportunity to worship, pray, commune, and connect with God. Empowering seminars geared specifically to young adults are also presented. Group activities and a major outreach activity is a standard occurrence. This event is only for young adults and professionals, giving them an opportunity to bond with others in the same age group. The goal is that each person has an encounter with God which does not end with this event, but continues throughout the person's life.

Frequency: Once a year

### Outreach Events

#### Mission Trip

Purpose and Description: To reach people and communities in need within our city and beyond by taking on projects that help meet their physical needs and in turn show the love of Christ. Recent mission trip destinations have included Haiti, Dominican Republic and our own communities in New York City (those affected by Super storm Sandy) in the past years. By the grace of God, the mission trips have been successful in assisting these communities with much needed assistance. The ultimate outcome has been the change in the lives of those who have fulfilled these mission projects.

Frequency: Once a year

#### Compassion

Purpose and Description: To preach with our actions, because actions speak louder than words. It is the new lifestyle of a generation of Adventist youths and young adults who have the same priorities as Jesus, and want to live a life filled with His love and kindness for humanity and all creation. It is a movement initiated in the Northeast of the United States and the Islands of Bermuda with the objective to influence, teach, encourage, and provide opportunities for youths and young adults, in the church and its community, locally and potentially worldwide, to practice the compassion that Jesus lived daily. Participants leave with a sense of community and spiritual fulfillment.

Frequency:

- *Compassion Sabbath* occur every second Sabbath of the month in the local level so that each church can intentionally serve the community.

# Adventist Youth Ministries Department

## 2015 Events



- *Compassion Weekend* occurs two times a year: one at the union level and one at the conference level.
- *Compassion Projects*
  - Periodical events include TSC NYC Marathon where volunteers sign up to assist the runners.
  - Some events occur sporadically as a result of an immediate need. For example, Super storm Sandy.

Website: [compassion-now.org](http://compassion-now.org)

## Special Events

---

### Recognition Day

Purpose and Description: To recognize the exemplary service, selfless dedication and outstanding performance demonstrated by children, teens, youths, adults, leaders, clubs and societies during the previous year. New coordinators are inducted and opportunities are provided to reach out to the community through various projects during this event. This event is held on a Sunday in order to accommodate the increasing number of people that attend each year. The recognition motivates children, teens, youths, young adults, adults, clubs, societies and churches to continue working hard in their ministry. Previously, only Pathfinder and Adventurer awards were given at this event. In order to promote the principle that all ministries under the Adventist Youth Ministries work together, now awards for all ministries are presented on this day. *Class A Uniform Required.*

Frequency: Once a year

### Cruise with the Spirit

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for youths, young adults and adults to enjoy a relaxing but purposeful cruise. Each night there is an hour long service which includes testimonies, intercessory prayers, and a relevant topic that is studied during the entire week. In addition, compassion projects are executed at each port of call. It's a combination of a spiritual development and outreach event. Each person returns with a more profound connection with God and with the community. It gives attendees a sense of purpose and mission in their lives.

Frequency: Every two years

### Adventist Youth Work Day

Purpose and Description: To provide an opportunity for youths, young adults, and adults to assist in preparing our campground for the anticipated summer activities. Work activities can range from picking up trash on the ground to constructing obstacle courses for upcoming camporees. Participants leave with a sense of accomplishment having provided service to a meaningful cause.

Frequency: Once a year