

6 June 2018

Dear Church Council Chair,

For over 20 years, SAYCO has been a significant discipleship event for hundreds of youth across the Uniting Church SA, inspiring them to a deeper, transforming experience of faith. Every year, Mission Resourcing and the SAYCO team have been committed to making this event a better experience for youth and the groups who bring them. That is our vision as we work intentionally to make this SAYCO an awesome event.

Additionally, we are committed to delving deeper with the event this year to see how we can realise that vision for the future with creativity, passion and energy - a fresh shape for coming generations.

NEW for 2018!

This year, the SAYCO Event Office has organised two new options for SAYCO groups::

1. Professional catering for all main meals
2. Classroom accommodation for sleeping

Registration

Registration will continue to be through the online events management system as it was for SAYCO last year, with a few changes in procedure that will be explained to Group Coordinators. An in-depth demonstration of this process will be available on 7 July in the handbook which can be downloaded from sa.uca.org.au/sayco/group-coordinators/

Please be aware that anything shared via the registration process is in accordance with the Synod privacy policy and is never used outside of its stated intention.

Council Responsibilities if sending youth to SAYCO

The Church Council, as the governing body of your congregation or faith community, is responsible for the safety of all of the young people attending SAYCO. This is a shared responsibility with the Synod.

Your Church Council will need to:

1. Approve SAYCO as an event of the congregation and note this in their minutes.
2. Provide and approve a Group Coordinator for the group attending.
3. Provide and approve enough leaders for all campers attending.
4. Approve risk assessments and emergency plans for sites, transport and specific group-only activities at SAYCO.
5. Plan and approve drivers if transport to the event is required.

Your congregation will need to:

1. Plan and bring morning and afternoon teas and suppers (if able to keep registration costs low).
2. **If your group will self-cater:*
 - As in past years, your church will need to plan and provide all meals and temporary camping accommodation for the group
 - Your church will need to decide the group costs and clarify if GST needs to be collected.

The Presbytery and Synod will:

1. Ensure that all churches have approved leaders (including National Criminal History Checks).
2. Ensure that all SAYCO team members are approved leaders.
3. Provide a safe venue with camping sites, classrooms and catering for the event.
4. Provide an age-appropriate, safe program that incorporates a range of options for participants including wet weather contingency plans, speakers, activities and worship.
5. Provide a handbook and information for leaders and parents covering all aspects of the camp, including the registration process, the safety considerations and the preparations needed for a successful camp experience.
6. Provide leaders with guides and small group content.

For multi-church groups

If several churches plan to come together to form one group, please ensure that each Church Council approves SAYCO as an event. Please also ensure that all leaders are approved by the church that is sending them.

Your church is invited to join with us in a refreshed SAYCO and to work with us to form the future of youth ministry for the Uniting Church SA.

Please feel free to contact the Event Logistics Coordinator, Narita, with any questions on 8236 4270 (Tuesday to Thursday) or alternatively email sayco@sa.uca.org.au.

Blessings on your ministry,



Mark Schultz
Team Leader
Mission Resourcing