

POLICY 8.5.1 World Youth Days

Preamble

World Youth Days have proven to be a popular and significant experience for young adult Catholics across the globe. In the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, groups have participated since the WYD in Denver CO in 1993. The Archdiocese joyfully participates in World Youth Days with the following understandings firmly in place.

Age

The Holy See is very clear on this matter: this event is intended for persons no younger than 18, and until age 35.

No person younger than 16 may participate in any part of WYD nor in the organizing activities undertaken by the group in preparation for the WYD. The Archdiocese's policy allows for youth between 16 and 18 years of age to participate in the organizing activities of the archdiocesan group **but** only if they will be 18 years old as of the beginning date of Days in the Diocese leading up to the main WYD events.

People over the age of 35 are welcome to participate in WYD as chaperones and should contact the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator for further information.

Team

A team will be assigned by the Archbishop for each WYD event, in consultation with the **Archdiocesan Youth Committee** (AYC), within six months of the conclusion of the preceding WYD. The team will be made up of at least one man, one woman and one priest from the Archdiocese. The Youth Ministry Coordinator (YMC) may also be called on by the Archbishop to be a leadership team member.

The team members will receive no financial compensation for their leadership and participation. The team will be required to comply with the policies and forms for event organization described in Policy 8.5, above.

The Archdiocese will cover all expenses related to the team priest's travel and accommodation for participation in the WYD. The Archdiocese will pay expenses related to pastoral assistance in the priest's parishes during his absence for WYD.

The Archdiocese will cover all expenses for the Youth Ministry Coordinator's travel and accommodation for participation in WYD.

Planning and Fundraising

Throughout the planning and fundraising, the team must be in continuous contact with the Finance Administrator of the Archdiocese, and be in compliance with Policy 8.3, above. **All** financial transactions related to WYD will take place through the finance section of the Archdiocese.

When fundraising activities are intended to be held in specific parish churches, team leaders and members are to discuss the planned activities with the parish priest. When the fundraising activities are

recurring, the team leaders are to ensure they have the permission of the parish priest for **each date and time**.

Participants

Young adults aged 18 to 35 from across the whole Archdiocese are welcome and encouraged to take part in the archdiocesan group. It is possible, too, for individuals or parishes to register on their own, and not be members of the archdiocesan group. Every effort will be made to include all members of the archdiocesan group in fundraising and spiritual events during the months of preparation.

Registration

Participants are required to register and provide a deposit at least 18 months before the Days in the Diocese are scheduled to commence. This will help assure effective planning, organization and fundraising by and on behalf of WYD participants.

The YMC of the Archdiocese will prepare and publish the registration form, in all appropriate and relevant media, in sufficient time to notify potential participants and allow them to register as required. The deposit will normally amount to 10-15% of the projected travel costs for one person to go to the WYD event.

All people seeking to register after the official registration date will have to make an application in writing to the YMC. The YMC will consult with the leadership team, the AYC, and/or the Archbishop before making a decision about accepting the late registration. Conditions may be imposed on any late registration, as recommended by the YMC, the leadership team, the AYC and/or the Archbishop.

The final date for late-registration will be determined by: (1) the host country for World Youth Days; and, (2) the tour organizer's requirements, if a tour organizer is being used by the Archdiocese's delegation.

Cancellation and Refunds

- The initial deposit made at the time of registration is **non-refundable**.
- Refunds of any other payments made directly by participants to WYD, in the person's name, will be subject to the policies of the tour organizer and the WYD host nation.
- Payments made as part of the archdiocese's authorized WYD group's fundraising efforts are **non-refundable**.

Leadership and Participation

WYD is a faith event, designed to strengthen the already-evident faith of young adults. It is not intended to be a vacation or a group excursion. The fruit of such an event should be evident in the lives of the participants. Those wishing to take part should also show signs of their commitment to Christ and His Church, even if this is in a germinal stage.

WYD takes place every three years, in a city and country chosen by the Holy Father each time. In the lead-up to attending a WYD event, archdiocesan group participants are expected to show their commitment and leadership by actively participating in local Church events, such as:

- Parish ministries;
- Parish or archdiocesan service projects;

- The annual St. Martin Youth Camp at Camp Artaban;
- Theology on Tap gatherings;
- Parish youth and family events;
- Vacation Bible School in local parishes.

Promulgated by the Council of Priests on 13 March 2018