

NCYC

Ablaze • Enciende el Fuego

**NOVEMBER 18-20, 2021
INDIANAPOLIS**

DIOCESE OF GARY NCYC PILGRIMAGE INFORMATION



YOUTH MINISTRY
Diocese of Gary

What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic youth and those that walk with them. Catholic young people and their chaperones—youth ministers, campus ministers, parents, catechists, priests, coaches, and scout leaders—come together to pray, learn, and grow in their faith. In addition to opportunities to receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and penance, NCYC participants attend general and breakout sessions on topics relevant to living as a disciple of Christ in today's world, visit with organizations that provide resources and other support to youth and youth ministry, spend time in personal and communal prayer, and engage in service to others. Teens are part of an enormous community of peers who love Jesus and their Catholic faith and aren't afraid to show it! Teens and youth leaders can together harness the experience and bring it back to their parishes!

As we do every other year, the Diocese of Gary Office for Youth & Young Adults will coordinate a trip to NCYC 2021, which will be held November 18-20, 2021 right down the road in INDIANAPOLIS! As per the event organizer, NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry), all registration is handled by one central office. Therefore, OYYA will coordinate the diocesan delegation and serve as travel agent. Once we are in Indy, however, group leaders should think of NCYC as any other parish event for which they are in charge. In Indy, OYYA's job is to handle hotel problems, diocesan gatherings, and keep you posted with any info NFCYM wishes to pass along.

NCYC is an unbelievable event that will help your ministry grow as you experience a sense of BIG CHURCH! The biennial NCYC is the largest regular gathering of Catholic youth in the country.

The 2021 theme is **Ablaze · Enciende el Fuego**

NCYC in 2021

As with everything else, Covid has affected the planning process for NCYC. With details changing often or not being able to be released until later, the Diocese has unfortunately had to set back it's planning for NCYC. We understand the strain this has placed on parishes and we apologize.



If you have previously participated in NCYC, 2021 will look and operate differently to help protect participants to the degree possible from infection. NFCYM is developing COVID-19 Safety Guidelines that will be updated periodically based on guidance from state and local authorities as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Areas that we are exploring include, but are not limited to:

- Required Masks & Social Distancing
- Limited Session Capacity & Participant Groupings
- Designated Areas for Food & Beverage Consumption
- Sanitizing Stations & Periodic Cleaning of Frequently Touched Surfaces
- No Facility Access for Those Experiencing Symptoms of COVID-19

Groups not wanting to physically attend NCYC do have the option this year to purchase tickets to stream events and host local NCYC gatherings.

Participate Virtually:

NFCYM is offering two types of tickets to participate virtually.

Virtual Participation Tickets

The Participation ticket includes links to view the general sessions and breakout sessions as well as questions for reflection/group discussion, activity and prayer ideas, and exclusive online content.

Number of participants	Price per participant
1-24	\$75 per person
25-99	\$70 per person
100-249	\$65 per person
250+	\$50 per person

Streaming Only Tickets

If you prefer, there is the option to view the stream of the general sessions only. The Streaming Only Ticket includes links to view general sessions only—no breakouts, no processing questions, no activity ideas, or tangible elements.

\$25-Paid once per parish

As of April 22, 2021, the deadline for registering for virtual participation tickets or streaming only tickets are unknown.

After consulting with local youth ministry leaders, if there is a large interest, the Diocese is happy to host a local NCYC event for streaming, small group discussions, and activities. If you are interested in a local NCYC experience, please contact Vicky at vhathaway@dcgary.org.

Participate In-Person:



The final per person Diocese of Gary package cost will not be known until we receive our hotel assignment. The NFCYM released hotel information on April 21 to group leaders. Because the overwhelming majority of group leaders have had a positive experience with the **Courtyard by Marriott, Downtown Indianapolis** (we were there in 2011, '13, '15, '17 and '19), that will be our request. To help you begin planning, I am proposing that we move forward assuming we will indeed be placed there.

The simple question, “How much does it cost per person?” cannot be answered simply for NCYC! This is because OYYA bills groups for NCYC & hotel **separately**. OYYA bills a per-person rate based on how many persons are assigned to that person’s room. See the sheet “[NCYC 2021 Billing Plan](#)” for a detailed explanation. There was a slight cost decrease from NCYC 2019 due to conference registration rate decrease.



As of April, 2021, here is my estimate for how much NCYC will cost per person*:

If participant is one of 4 persons to a room: \$400

If participant is one of 3 persons to a room: \$450

If participant is one of 2 persons to a room: \$545

If participant is one of 1 persons to a room: \$835

The OYYA package price will include: NCYC ticket registration, hotel, 1 diocesan social gathering with pizza or ice cream (will need to be determined based on current plans from NFCYM and the hotel), and 1 souvenir item (likely a t-shirt). See separate page dedicated to cost estimates.

COVID Recommendation: Due to the nature of an ongoing global pandemic, the Office for Youth Ministry is recommending that parishes place 2 people per room (unless members of the same household, like parents and children) to reduce the possible spread of Covid. This is the safest way to keep social distance while in the hotel. We’d rather error on the side of being cautious and safe, though, and this is one way of doing this. Parish leaders can request more than two people in a room after consulting their parish priest and other decision makers. An example would be if all four teens are vaccinated or family members staying together. While the OYYA will not be checking for vaccine records, we are highly recommend anyone considering attending NCYC to be vaccinated.

***TIERED PRICING:** The rates above are for those participants you register on or before July 31st. In an attempt to encourage advanced registration, NFCYM is doing tiered pricing. I have to charge you what we are being charged. The rates above are for those participants you register on or before July 31st. For those registering during August, add \$10 per person. For those registering in September, add \$25. Those registering after September 30th, add \$40. See **Diocese of Gary NCYC 2021 Billing Plan and Dates** for details, but if you remember just one fact, remember this: **to pay the least amount of money, participants should be committed by JULY 31.**



Why are there no hard deadlines this year? NFCYM has changed a lot of how NCYC is run this year. One of the first changes is that instead diocesan groups individually registering participants, they have gone to a flat ticket system. Once you buy a ticket, that ticket is yours to give to whoever you want. NFCYM has also set up ticket sales dates. Tickets go on sale May 1, so we can start purchasing tickets then, and are a first come, first served basis. This is about a month earlier than past NCYCs. Hotel placement is also being done differently this year, with hotels requests occurring on May 1st as well. NCYC is also currently limited to 10,000 participants this year due to current capacity limits. The capacity limits might increase as restrictions decrease, but as of April, 2021, no change has been announced. All of this together makes for assigning deadlines very challenging. **Rule of thumb for NCYC 2021, as soon as you know who will be going to NCYC, sign them up.** We will do our best to register all those who want to participate in person and keep you updated happenings with NCYC.

Other expenses: Meals and transportation are **not** provided in your package. Participants will eat at downtown Indy restaurants and/or Convention Ctr. vendors. Plan accordingly according to your teens' appetite and budget! During previous NCYC events, a large amount of exhibitors sold their wares at NCYC, including Catholic Christian t-shirts, CD's, etc. This may or may not be the case for this year, but some teens may choose to bring some souvenir money. You determine your Parish/Cluster Group expenses. Many groups choose to produce parish t-shirts, misc. trade items, etc. Other parishes have been known to arrange for one or more meals during NCYC.

NEW THIS YEAR: BOX LUNCHES & CONCESSION CARDS: After completing your in-person ticket purchase, you will receive a link in your confirmation email to purchase optional box lunches and/or pre-loaded cards to use at the Indiana Convention Center concession stands.

Box lunches include a small sandwich (options: turkey & swiss, ham & provolone, ZLT flatbread vegetarian, or small garden salad), a bag of chips, and an apple for \$10. Beverages are priced separately at \$3.75 for bottled water and \$3.50 for canned Coca-Cola products. There will be a 9% sales tax and 23% service charge added to all catering orders. All orders must be placed, and pre-paid in full at least 72 hours prior to the first convention date. Box lunches may be picked up between 10am – 2pm daily.

For Concession Cards, there will be a \$.50 per card administrative fee. There will be no change given for unused funds. All cards must be pre-paid in full at least 72 hours prior to the first convention date. Concession cards may be picked up from the ICC Catering Office between 9am-5pm beginning on Monday, November 15, 2021. Cards may be used at any Indiana Convention Center concession stand from Thursday, 11/18 – Saturday, 11/20.

OYYA does not arrange transportation:

Because of our close proximity to Indianapolis and the anticipated size of our total delegation, OYYA does NOT arrange for transportation to and from NCYC and during our stay in Indy. Parish/cluster groups arrange all transportation details. Vicky can assist group leaders wishing to collaborate with another group on travel. Group leaders should heed diocesan travel policies.



Where is the 2021 NCYC?

Traditionally, NCYC General Sessions have taken place inside Lucas Oil Stadium, and most of the other exhibits and sessions will take place inside the adjacent Indy Convention Center. Because of the anticipated decrease in participants, there has not been an announcement of where the general sessions will take place. It is confirmed that the majority of NCYC will be held at the Convention Center. Downtown Indy is very pedestrian-friendly with lots of restaurants and in the event of cold weather, most of downtown is connected with skywalks.

What will teens "get" out of NCYC?

Hard to tell. For some, the speakers will be remembered the most. For others, the dynamic closing liturgy or an inspiring Eucharistic Adoration. For others, the chance to celebrate your faith with others from across the country. The "meat" of the conference is in the large gathering sessions and the breakout sessions. They are basically workshops, but on a larger scale. A sample of topics covered include: Catholic identity, Catholic social teaching, cultural diversity, family relationships, forgiveness, global issues, leadership, self-esteem, sexuality, spirituality and prayer, and social justice.



I'm a group leader. How will NCYC help my group?

The Diocesan delegation will have the feel of a diocesan event, in that your teens will get a chance to meet teens from throughout the Region they might not otherwise meet. There will be opportunities to embrace our diocesan identity—depending on the desires of Bishop Hying we will likely schedule some kind of diocesan gathering—and you will appreciate knowing OYYA is taking care of most of the little details! **But ultimately NCYC is a parish event;** and you will look forward to bringing the experience back home. Each night, parish leaders are urged to gather their groups for "Parish Time," to pray and process together. Some group leaders take their teens out for a parish meal. We don't want you to "lead a group to NCYC." **We want you to lead your ministry on a pilgrimage to NCYC!** That pilgrimage begins long before the trip, and the journey will allow you to use the incredible NCYC experience to give your ongoing ministry a boost.

We live so close. Can we attend for just a portion of it?

I will not prevent a group leader from deciding to arrive late or leave early, however I will strongly discourage it. Most teens say afterward that NCYC wasn't long enough, so why make it shorter?! The president of the NFCYM makes a letter available for School Principals explaining NCYC, and in most cases the Thu & Fri school absence is excused. OYYA tries to break even on NCYC and never makes money. The NCYC package price is based on good-faith estimates on registration, hotel, and other expenses. It is next to impossible to prorate the expenses, and therefore all participants will pay the full package rate, so it just makes sense to get the most out of your money!

There has been no word on single-day passes. If this information gets released, we will let you know.

Can I save a few bucks by coming home Saturday night?

Significantly-reduced hotel rates are made available by our commitment to follow the NFCYM's hotel assignments and policies, which includes a Saturday night stay. Failure to stay Saturday night would negate the rate reduction for all nights, eliminating any perceived savings. It also eliminates the dangers of late night travel (It is sometimes approaching 10:30pm by the time participants exit the stadium following NCYC Closing Mass).



Any advice on fundraising?

There are a zillion ways to raise funds, but here's a recommendation that I have that has less to do with HOW you raise money as much as it has to do with WHY you're raising \$\$ to go to NCYC. You have to avoid the perception in your parish that the teens are taking a "field trip," or a "vacation!" Instead, be intentional in the way you present your group's participation in NCYC. Rather than "sending a group of teens to NCYC," you are "coordinating your parish's delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference." Instead of just participants, they become representatives of your parish. See the difference?! In other words, you want your parishioners to take *ownership* of these teens! Of course that means giving back on the part of the teens! Consider ways in which the teens can share the experience with the parish community (pictures in the back of church, bulletin witnesses, etc.).

We will also list a few ways of doing Covid safe fundraising on our website:

www.garyoyya.org/NCYC

Where can we learn more about what's going on at NCYC?

The NFCYM will soon release information about its General Session and Megasession performers, entertainers, exhibit area, etc. will be posted at the official NCYC website, ncyc.info as they become available. The best thing to do is bookmark our website—garyoyya.org/ncyc—it has links to the NFCYM site, and will always have updated info on our diocesan delegation.

College-aged young adults

College-aged young adults wishing to attend NCYC may do so as chaperone assistants for an attending NCYC group. These participants heed all rules, documents, and policies as all other NCYC chaperones, including all diocesan VIRTUS/Safe Environment requirements. Please note: per diocesan policy, anyone under the age of 21 on Nov. 18, 2021 cannot be counted as a full chaperone, and therefore does not count toward your adult:youth ratio. Chaperone assistants are allowed, but should never be alone with youth or allowed to drive youth.

Promotional Assistance

Promotional assistance will be made available by the NFCYM and OYYA. PDF promotional flyers and posters from OYYA for your use will soon be available for download at www.garyoyya.org/ncyc. Logos and promo resources are also available from NFCYM at nfcym.org/featured-events/ncyc/ncyc-marketing/



Get the lay of the land

NCYC 2021 marks the 6th consecutive NCYC held in Indianapolis. Group leaders have shared that familiarity with the logistics is an advantage of returning to Indy for another NCYC. If you are new to NCYC, since we live fairly close to Indy, we strongly recommend taking an informal “Familiarization Tour” prior to NCYC: visit the hotel, the

convention center, and see where the restaurants are that you might consider visiting with your group. Want to do a nice group meal? Meet with a restaurant manager and ask about party rooms, special rates, or reservations. (Don't wait until November to make group reservations!) Best of all, you'll be a confident leader on November 18, 2021!



NCYC 2021 (PRELIMINARY*) BILLING PLAN

*** cannot be confirmed until hotel assignment is confirmed**

“How much does it cost to attend NCYC 2021?” ~ Everyone

It's a simple question with a complicated answer. This sheet will explain how we charge what we charge.

What you charge your participants is up to you. In the spirit of fairness and good stewardship, groups will be billed for actual fair room usage for NCYC hotel rooms. The per person rate billed by OYYA will be lowered according to how many persons are assigned to a room.

NFCYM just announced hotel rates, taxes and fees. The actual room rate at the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Indianapolis (the hotel we've been at for many years), after taxes & fees, amounts to \$193 per night (a slight decrease from past years). Staying 3 nights, it costs approximately \$579 per room. OYYA is making every effort to bill groups for actual costs.

This will no doubt be harder to calculate for group leaders, but is the most fair way to do it!

Here is the per-person rate+ that OYYA will bill you, along with a comparison to 2019 rates:

	4 persons per room	3 persons per room	2 persons per room	1 person per room
NCYC 2021	\$400	\$450	\$545	\$835
NCYC 2019	\$404	\$455	\$558	\$865

The figures above also include the NCYC diocesan package, which includes conference registration & materials, tshirts, a possible diocesan gathering with food (will need to be determined based on current plans from NFCYM and the hotels), and misc. administrative costs.

COVID Recommendation: Due to the nature of an ongoing global pandemic, the Office for Youth Ministry is recommending that parishes place 2 people per room (unless members of the same household, like parents and children) to reduce the possible spread of Covid. This is the safest way to keep social distance while in the hotel. We'd rather error on the side of being cautious and safe, though, and this is one way of doing this. Parish leaders can request more than two people in a room after consulting their parish priest and other decision makers. An example would be if all four teens are vaccinated or family members staying together. While the OYYA will not be checking for vaccine records, we are highly recommend anyone considering attending NCYC to be vaccinated.

Married couples may be placed together, as may any persons related to one another and/or from the same immediate family. Otherwise, we place adults (post-HS 18 and over) with adults, teens with teens.

NCYC 2021 (PRELIMINARY*) BILLING PLAN Cont.

As you can see, the financial incentive for group leaders is to fill rooms, and avoid singles. Group leaders wanting to avoid singles should work with other group leaders and OYYA on roommate requests. Group leaders will have the ability to request that they be roomed with unfamiliar roommates (participants from other groups). OYYA will make every effort to fulfill your requests.

OYYA DEFAULT ADULT HOTEL PLACEMENT: We will place adults no more than 2 to a room, unless you request differently. In the event of a single, we will assign a roommate from another group. Priests are assigned singles. Married couples are usually assigned to their own room.

OYYA DEFAULT YOUTH HOTEL PLACEMENT: We will attempt to place 2 same-sex teens together, and will assign roommates from another group (usually no more than two groups in one room), unless you request differently.

+Price increases: *In an attempt to encourage advanced registration, NFCYM is doing tiered pricing. I have to charge you what we are being charged. The rates above are for those participants you register on or before July 31st. For those registering during August, add \$10 per person. For those registering in September, add \$25. Those registering after September 30th, add \$40.*

IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION DEADLINES

While estimates given in *NCYC 2021 Billing Plan* include total charges, it is impossible to know how much to charge until everyone is placed into hotel rooms, which won't happen until the fall. Therefore, group leaders will make payments for package prices only (\$225-\$265), and be invoiced for hotel fees/ balances after NCYC. Group leaders should determine how and when to charge participants accordingly. NFCYM is slowly releasing NCYC information. Please be patient as we learn more details about how NCYC will look this year.

MAY 1: TICKETS GO ON SALE (\$225 per person)

If you have your initial list of participants and are able to make a deposit before May 1st do! Group leaders should register all participants (youth and adults) online (at <http://bit.ly/DGNCYCReg21> or contact Vicky), and submit \$225 per person to Diocese of Gary OYYA attn: NCYC; 9292 Broadway, Merrillville IN 46410.

Tickets are limited this year to 10,000 people, so as soon as you know, please contact Vicky.

All ticket sales are final – no refunds will be provided unless the event is canceled. If a participant from your parish backs out of going, parish leaders can substitute that participant with a new participant at no cost. Parishes may also offer tickets to other parishes looking for tickets. Cancellations made after October 15th will result in forfeiture of hotel fees as well.

Before tickets can be purchased, parish leaders will need to:

- Register for their group online using this form: bit.ly/DGNCYCReg21
 - Parish Leaders first, collect information from participants using the form: Diocese of Gary NCYC 2021 Registration Information Collection Form.
 - Then input that information into the online form
- Submit a deposit of \$225 per person to: Diocese of Gary OYYA attn: NCYC; 9292 Broadway, Merrillville IN 46410.
- Hotel room placement request form (number of rooms you are requesting)

If your parish is considering going, but does not have exact numbers, please still submit a Hotel Placement Request form so we can reserve enough rooms.

AUGUST 1: TICKET PRICES INCREASE (\$235 per person)

Group leaders should register all participants (youth and adults) online (at bit.ly/DGNCYCReg21 or contact Vicky), and submit \$225 per person to Diocese of Gary OYYA attn: NCYC; 9292 Broadway, Merrillville IN 46410.

SEPTEMBER 1: TICKET PRICES INCREASE (\$250 per person)

Group leaders should register all participants (youth and adults) online (at bit.ly/DGNCYCReg21 or contact Vicky), and submit \$250 per person to Diocese of Gary OYYA attn: NCYC; 9292 Broadway, Merrillville IN 46410.

Assuming there are still tickets, please have all groups finalized by September 1. Adult leaders are also required to be safe environment (Virtus) trained.

OCTOBER 1: TICKET PRICES INCREASE (\$265 per person)

If ticket and hotel space is still available, group leaders should register all participants (youth and adults) online (at <http://bit.ly/DGNCYCReg21> or contact Vicky), and submit \$265 per person to Diocese of Gary OYYA attn: NCYC; 9292 Broadway, Merrillville IN 46410.

FALL SPORTS CREATING NCYC CONFLICTS?

If you have teens & parents unwilling to commit because of fall sports & other activities, these should be handled carefully to make sure no one gets stuck with a bill for an NCYC no-show. Rule of thumb: it's always better NOT to register a risky participant and pay late fees than to forfeit hundreds due to a last-minute cancellation. OYYA will always do everything possible to get everyone to NCYC while remaining good stewards of diocesan funds. Call Vicky!

Registration or payment related questions: contact Vicky Hathaway (Office: 219-769-9292, Cell: 219-613-6846)
vhathaway@dcgary.org