



# INCYC

## PARENTS' GUIDE

**DIOCESE OF GARY**

*NCYC Pilgrimage  
Information*

**NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023**

*Indianapolis, IN*



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is NCYC?**

The **National Catholic Youth Conference** is an exciting, three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for high schoolers who are Catholic 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 and schools!

## **Who organizes our child's pilgrimage to NCYC?**

Parishes and schools appoint an NCYC leader who will organize your child's pilgrimage. This might be the youth minister, campus minister, director of religious education, catechist, or parent volunteer. They will work in collaboration with the Diocese of Gary's Office for Youth and Young Adults (OYYA) to order tickets and hotel rooms. You as a parent can talk to your parish's or school's NCYC leader if you have any questions.

NCYC is an event hosted by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, a leading organization in supporting ministry with teenagers and their families in the United States.

## **When is NCYC?**

Thursday, November 16-Saturday, November 18. Because NCYC ends Saturday night, we will return back to Northwest Indiana on Sunday, November 19.

## **Where does NCYC take place?**

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. Downtown Indy is very pedestrian-friendly with lots of restaurants and in the event of cold weather, most of downtown is connected with skywalks.

## **Where do NCYC participants stay?**

NCYC participants stay at hotels in Indianapolis. Our diocese will not be assigned a hotel until the spring of 2023. The OYYA will be requesting the hotel we have been in for many years, the Courtyard by Marriot Downtown. Because we don't know which hotel we will be assigned, we do not have a set price for hotel rooms. We will get more clarity once we have been assigned a hotel.

## How much does NCYC cost?

The final per person Diocese of Gary package cost will not be known until we receive our hotel assignment, which will not happen until Spring of 2023. 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, '19, and '21), that will be our request.

The simple question, “How much does it cost per person?” cannot be answered simply for NCYC. This is because the Office for Youth and Young Adults (OYYA) bills groups for NCYC & hotel **separately** and ticket prices increase gradually throughout the year. OYYA bills a per-person rate based on how many persons are assigned to that person’s room. Talk to your group leader for a more detailed explanation.

They just announced the ticket prices for NCYC 2023 in November 2022.

- Individual tickets for NCYC are \$265 until January 31. On February 1, they increase to \$280. The price increases again on April 1 to \$295. There is another price increase on July 1 to \$310. The last price increase is on October 1 to \$325.
- Hotel costs are still an estimate. We will get more clarity once we have been assigned a hotel. The OYYA will be requesting the hotel we have been in for many years, the Courtyard by Marriot Downtown. According to their current pricing:
  - One teen sharing with three other teens would pay \$170 for a hotel room.
  - If one teen was sharing with two other teens, the hotel room would be \$227.
  - For one person sharing with one other person, the hotel room would be \$340.
  - And for single occupancy, the room would be \$680.
- This price might increase depending on the rate the hotel gives us. As soon as we know that price, we will let your group leaders know.
- Everyone would still be asked to pay a diocesan registration fee of \$30 which would cover the cost of a diocesan t-shirt and a swap item.
- Other expenses:
  - Meals and transportation are not provided in your package. Participants will eat at downtown Indy restaurants and/or Convention Ctr. vendors. You can also bring your own food. Plan accordingly according to your teens’ appetite and budget! During previous NCYC events, a large number of exhibitors sold their wares at NCYC, including Catholic Christian t-shirts, hats, keychains, socks, etc. Teens may choose to bring some souvenir money. Your group leader will talk to you about other 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.

## 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. 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.

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

This is a question for your group leader, however the OYYA strongly discourages it. Most teens say afterward that NCYC wasn't long enough, so why make it shorter?! The executive director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, the organizers of NCYC, 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!

## 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/school 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 or school's delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference." Instead of just participants, they become representatives of your parish and school. 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 to fundraise on our website: [www.garyoyya.org/NCYC](http://www.garyoyya.org/NCYC)

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

**Your parish's or school's NCYC leader is the best person to find out more information from.** NFCYM will soon release information about its General Session and breakout sessions, entertainers, exhibit area, etc. will be posted at the official NCYC website, [www.ncyc.us](http://www.ncyc.us) as they become available. The Office for Youth and Young Adults for the Diocese of Gary will also update our website as information becomes available, [www.garyoyya.org/ncyc](http://www.garyoyya.org/ncyc).