Young Adult Multi-Stake Activities in the Europe Area

Suggestions and Guidelines for Young Adults, Priesthood Leaders and Organizing Committees
OBJECTIVE
Deeprn conversion in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help young adults stay on the covenant path in an environment that promotes eternal friendships with opportunities for gospel learning, social activities, and meaningful service.

GOALS
Young Adult Conferences...
• provide opportunities to meet and build friendships leading to marriage
• inspire participants to continue their efforts in personal gospel study and institute study
• help participants minister to one another, remembering the less active and struggling
• engage participants in service and leadership opportunities, which should result in greater motivation to serve and lead, both within the church and in the world at large
• help participants receive guidance for life's challenges in a safe environment
• encourage participants to experience a feeling of togetherness and strength as a group
• allow disabled young adults to participate by providing assistance
• include as many participants of the invited region as possible

At each Young Adult Conference, participants will be invited to
• honor their covenants with an eye toward making and honoring temple covenants
• pray, study the scriptures, and engage in gospel discussions daily
• attend sacrament and other church meetings regularly
• participate in Institute of Religion classes
• become self-reliant
• become familiar with and follow the Area Plan
INTRODUCTION

While Young Adult (YA) activities and conferences on the stake level are under the direction of the stake presidency, multi-stake events are coordinated with the Area Seventy responsible for the respective Coordinating Council (CCM). Multi-stake conferences for a larger region, an entire country, or a language area are under the direction of the Area Presidency, who assigns an Area Seventy of one of the involved Coordinating Councils to coordinate efforts.

Stake young adult activities and conferences are generally funded from the stake budget, but a regional multi-stake conference in the Europe Area in many cases requires additional funding due to the size of the venue. In addition, sometimes participants need support for individual or group travel due to long distances. Regional Young Adult Conferences may therefore request a subsidy from the Europe Area. Requests will be considered based on the available budget.

As soon as the hosting stake has been chosen, the Stake Young Adult Council, chaired by two young adults (male and female) goes to work. A well-organized stake YA council usually consists of a counselor in the stake presidency (presiding), the High Councilor responsible for the young adult program in the stake, an Advisor Couple, (ideally the high councilor and his wife), and the two young adult chairpersons.

Assistant young adult council members may be called to serve as specialists (including website, advertising and registration; spiritual program, social activities, sports and games; board and lodging; health and security). One of the prime positions to be filled is the finance and budget coordinator.

Conference schedules should be flexible. Experience has shown that a well-balanced program with daily spiritual highlights at the beginning and end of the day, workshops, social and physical activities, and service projects will result in strengthening personal conversion and allow social interaction in a safe environment.

The guidance provided in Handbook 2, “Administering the Church - Section 17,” should be followed in making adaptations to the guidelines to fit local circumstances and best meet the needs of all young adults. This includes times and length of activities, and adjustments because of climate conditions.
FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

Regional Young Adult Conferences throughout Europe will receive Area funding to supplement the participants’ fees. Enrollment preference will be given to young adults from the designated country or region.

Additional participants from other regions may be accepted according to capacity. Their fee could be higher due to differing funding procedures.

Regional Young Adult Conferences typically include:

- Cape Verde
- England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland
- France, Luxemburg, French-speaking Switzerland, and Belgium
- Germany, Austria, and German-speaking Switzerland
- Italy and Italian-speaking Switzerland
- Netherlands and Belgium
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland
- Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Adriatic North and South

All other multi-stake Young Adult Conferences, while still requiring approval by the Area Presidency, will be funded by the local unit budget allowance of the hosting stake. Small participant fees may be appropriate, but leaders should ensure that all young adults have the opportunity to participate without incurring unreasonable personal costs (see Handbook 2, 16.3.7).

See instructions for financial support for multi-stake conferences on page 9-10 of this manual.

APPROVAL PROCESS

All multi-stake Young Adult Conferences must be approved in advance by the Area Presidency. (see attached “Request for Young Adult Activity Approval – Europe Area” included in this booklet). The “Request for Young Adult Activity Approval – Europe Area,” should be used for all regional Young Adult Conferences. If applicable, the travel section of that form should include an estimated cost for those traveling long distances within the region.

Applications should be submitted to the Area Seventy assigned as priesthood advisor for young adults at EUA-YSA@ldschurch.org.

1 see Handbook 1, 14.7.2
Guidelines (Continued)

STANDARDS

All participants commit to live the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when they sign up for a conference. This includes:

- Appropriate modest dress and behavior
- Living the law of chastity, including not viewing pornography in any form
- Living the Word of Wisdom, including not possessing illegal substances
- Listening and dancing to music that is appropriate in lyrics and volume
- Not engaging in shoplifting, theft, or vandalism of any kind

Disregard for these standards are cause for being asked to leave the conference.

REPORTING

The two assigned Young Adult Administrators, together with the Conference Advisor Couple, will send a post-conference report to the Area Presidency. Reporting should include the following:

- A brief history of the conference including classes, firesides, speakers, activities, service rendered, etc.
- The number of young adults attending conferences
- The percentage of young adults from the respective region participating in conference
- The number of young adults enrolling for Institute at the conference
- A financial report

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Area Presidency

- Assign an Area Seventy to serve as the priesthood advisor for young adults in the Europe Area
- Assign other Area Seventies to oversee and provide priesthood direction for each conference
- Approve the budget, location, and date of each conference

Young Adult Priesthood Advisor

An Area Seventy is assigned as priesthood advisor for young adults in Europe.

- Makes recommendations and provides training for the Area Young Adult Activities Advisor Couple, Area Young Adult Administrators, and Conference Advisor Couples
- Communicates with other Area Seventies who are assigned to oversee their regional conferences
- Manages communications and budget
Area Seventies

- Identify stakes from their Coordinating Council to host a regional conference well in advance
- Provide priesthood direction for conference committees and priesthood leaders as assigned by the Area Presidency
- Attend the assigned conference and support members of the organizing committee

Area Young Adult Activities Advisor Couple

- Young Adult Conference organization teams may request training and support to be provided by the Europe Area YA Activities Advisor Couple
- Are available to Young Adult Administrators and Conference Advisor Couple for support and training
- Report to Area Seventy Priesthood Advisor

Area Young Adult Administrator

- Assemble and maintain an up-to-date Area-wide calendar for YA Conferences and activities
- Provide administrative support by tracking conferences, callings, and budgets
- Answer questions from Young Adult Conference administrators
- Manage materials for Young Adult Conferences
- Complete and submit post-conference reports
- Report to Area Seventy Priesthood Advisor

Conference Advisor Couple

- The Conference Advisor Couple oversees the conference. Together with two young adult coordinators, one sister and one brother, they will conduct the conference
- Serve as shadow leaders for young adult coordinators, ensuring that all conference related responsibilities and assignments are properly delegated and looked after
- Advise the organizing committee and the conference itself
- Support a conference theme or motto that has been selected by the organizing team
Guidelines (Continued)

• Are on-site throughout the conference and have responsibility for the spiritual aspects of the conference

• Meet and counsel with young adults who are not following conference standards

Young Adult Conference Coordinators

A young single adult brother and sister with leadership abilities. Preferably both should be returned missionaries, and both worthy to attend the temple and be role models for other young adults. They work in close contact with the Conference Advisor Couple in planning and organizing the conference. They welcome participants, introduce each day’s program, and conduct the conference and all sessions in close partnership with the Conference Advisor Couple.

Conference Committee Members

• A member of the stake presidency of the host stake

• Conference Advisor Couple

• Young Adult Coordinators

• Assistant Coordinators can be called as needed.
  • Budget Coordinator (required)
  • Health & Safety Coordinators (required)
  • Facilities Coordinators
  • Registration Coordinators
  • Food Coordinators
  • Materials Coordinators
  • Activities Coordinators
  • Website Coordinators

• If desired, the Conference Committee may choose a theme for the Conference.

Group Leaders

Group leaders are encouraged for small groups of 10-12 participants. In most cases, group leaders can be young adults as opposed to married couples. This will allow young adults to minister, lead and strengthen one another. Small groups may study the scriptures together each morning and participate in some activities as a group. Group leaders make sure all members of the group are engaged in the conference. They share their testimony frequently.
Speakers for Devotionals and Teachers

Speakers for devotionals and teachers should be called from local resources in the Europe Area. They should not be recruited from outside the country or region of the conference. Institute teachers should regularly be included. Invited couples presenting workshops should serve as role models.

Speakers and teachers are responsible to teach classes on appropriate topics and principles. These teachers should be able to keep the interest of the participants by engaging them in class discussions and allowing them to testify to each other of the principles being taught. While humor and fun can be an effective part of teaching, a teacher must not mistake entertainment for teaching. Conference teachers should be men or women who hold current temple recommends and receive an ecclesiastical clearance from their bishop or branch president.

Young Adult Conferences should provide opportunities for exceptional young adults to teach, lead and serve their brothers and sisters.

TRAINING

Conference Advisor Couples and YA Coordinators for each conference will be invited to participate in training between January and April of each year. When possible, training will be done in person. Otherwise, training will be done by videoconference or teleconference. Accordingly, the conference Advisor Couple and YA Coordinators should be called and in place by January 1st. In many cases the stake YA Advisor Couple of the host stake is able to serve as the Conference Advisor Couple, assisted by already called young adult chairpersons (a young adult brother and sister), who become the YA Coordinators.

Training will be provided by the Area Seventy assigned as Young Adult Priesthood Advisor, the Area Young Adult Activities Advisor Couple and the Area Young Adult Administrator. The Area Seventies assigned to oversee the conferences will be invited to the training.

RECRUITING FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES

All young adults of the respective region should be invited to attend their Regional Young Adult Conference. The Conference Advisor Couple will contact the Seminary and Institute coordinators of the respective region to work with the Institute of Religion to invite young adults to the conference. They will also contact the stake presidents, suggesting activities to reach out to less-active young adults.
# Time Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Months before the conference date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Months</td>
<td>Receive an assignment to hold a Regional YA Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Months</td>
<td>Review YA Europe Area guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Months</td>
<td>Conference Advisor Couple called</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Months</td>
<td>Determine a venue for the conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Months</td>
<td>Complete “Request for YA Activity Approval” form and submit it to the Area Presidency</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Months</td>
<td>Begin to submit invoices to Europe Area General Accounting to reserve venue</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td>Conference organizing team receives training from Area YA Activities Advisor Couple</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Months</td>
<td>Conference Committee Members called and begin meeting under the direction of the Conference Advisor Couple and YA Coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 to 0 Months</td>
<td>Committee meets and plans the regional conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 to -1 Months</td>
<td>Send invoices to Europe Area General Accounting office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1 to -3 Months</td>
<td>Send post conference report to the Area Presidency</td>
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Financial Support for Regional Conferences

Normally, funding for young adult activities comes from the stake or ward budget. When multi-stake or area activities are held, the responsible priesthood leader ensures a fair allocation of funding among the stakes.

Funding for activities should be consistent with the policies in 13.2.8. (Handbook 2).

As an exception, when large multi-stake or area events are held, young adults may be asked to pay some costs themselves. However, leaders should ensure that all young adults have the opportunity to participate without incurring unreasonable personal costs.

Considering special challenges in the Europe Area (which may include long distance travel and low-income regions), the following procedures should be observed:

Multi-Stake Conferences should be financed from

1. budget allowance of participating units (stakes and districts/missions)
2. participant fees
3. subsidies from the Area Office for one Multi-Stake Conference for each region each year. This applies only to the one conference that has been selected and approved by the Area Presidency. If the yearly permitted Area YA budget has not been spent completely, other Multi-Stake events may be subsidized.
Local leaders, including the responsible Area Seventy, stake presidents and the conference planning committee, make sure that all involved in the planning adhere to the wise handling of funds, stay within set limits, and avoid elaborate and costly activities. Participating in this process can be an important learning experience for young adults.

In general, all activities should be self-supporting. Since regional conferences usually require higher fees for renting a venue or for traveling, the Area Office may subsidize.

Diligent budget planning is necessary before approval for Area sponsored activities will be given. The amount of Area subsidy depends on local circumstances. Planning should always stay below approved limits. Each Conference Planning Committee should work with a Financial Coordinator as a committee member.

All funds are handled with the assistance and expertise of the financial clerk of the hosting stake.

Consideration should be given to areas with costly travel expenses for participants. If travel assistance will likely be necessary, this amount should be part of the approved subsidy.

Final approval by the Area Presidency will only be given when budgeting has been successfully completed and finalized with the Young Adult Area Priesthood Advisor.

The Area subsidy is granted either by:

1. the Area office handling direct payments and/or
2. reimbursing the stake for specific expenses the stake may have incurred. In this case an internal transfer could be arranged to credit the stake after it sends the corresponding receipts/invoices. All of that is up to the ceiling of the committed amount.

Cash advances are not an approved procedure.

Only those invoices or receipts that stay below approved limits may be sent directly to the Area financial department for reimbursement.

In evaluating young adult activities and conferences, the subject of reliable budgeting will be an important part of the final report to the Area Presidency.
Sample Young Adults Conference Program

BE CREATIVE, FLEXIBLE AND ADAPT TO LOCAL NEEDS

**EXAMPLE OPENING DAY**

10:00 – 13:00  Check in / Registration
13:00 – 14:15  Lunch
14:30 – 15:30  Orientation (Welcome message from YA Coordinators, introduction of theme, introduce group leaders, conference agenda, pass out materials).
15:45 – 16:45  Get to know your group activity
17:00 – 18:00  Get to know other groups in the conference activity
18:00 – 19:30  Dinner
20:00 – 23:00  Theme Dance (Hawaiian, 60’s, crazy stockings, etc.)
23:15 – 23:30  Gather in groups for brief spiritual thought by group leaders
00:00  Sweet Sleep

**EXAMPLE DAY 2**

8:00 – 8:30  Group gospel study based on conference theme led by group leaders
8:45 – 9:45  Breakfast
10:00 – 10:50  Institute Classes/Workshops
11:00 – 10:50  Institute Classes/Workshops
12:00 – 12:50  Institute Classes/Workshops
13:00 – 14:15  Lunch
14:30 – 17:30  Sports, games, hike
Preparation for talent or variety show by individuals and/or team skits
17:30 – 18:15  Free time or choir practice
18:30 – 19:45  Dinner
20:00 – 22:00  Talent show, variety show, group skits
22:15 – 23:30  Line dancing with instruction
00:00  Sweet Sleep
EXAMPLE DAY 3

8:00 – 8:30  Group gospel study based on conference theme led by group leaders
8:45 – 9:45  Breakfast
10:00 – 11:15  Institute Classes/Workshops/Speakers
11:30 – 12:15  Institute Classes/Workshops/Speakers
12:15 – 13:00  Free time or choir Practice
13:00 – 14:15  Lunch
14:30 – 17:00  Service Project including YA ministering to other YA
17:00 – 18:15  Get cleaned up for formal dinner, fireside and formal dance
18:30 – 19:45  Formal Dinner
20:00 – 21:00  Fireside
21:15 – 00:00  Formal Dance
00:00  Sweet Sleep

EXAMPLE DEPARTURE DAY

8:00 – 8:30  Group gospel study based on conference theme led by group leaders
8:45 – 9:45  Breakfast
10:00 – 12:00  Devotional and Testimony Meeting with Area Seventy
              (Choir performs here and at Fireside if desired. See example day 3)
12:15 – 13:15  Clean rooms and get ready to depart
13:30 – 14:45  Lunch
15:00  Goodbyes and safe travel

NOTE: Creating a conference choir fulfills many purposes including: provide an uplifting experience by using one’s talents, perform in unity, provide music to enhance spiritual conference sessions, and serve others through music.
# Request for YSA Activity Approval

## Europe Area

Please forward the approved form to the Area Seventy assigned as priesthood advisor to the young adults and to General Accounting in the Finance Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stake/District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Stake/District President</td>
<td>Stake/District hosting the activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of Area Seventy</td>
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## General Details for Proposed Activity and Location

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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brief Description of Activity</td>
<td>Activity Start Date</td>
<td>Activity End Date</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Number of Participants</th>
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## Funding and Approval

("Total Cost" and "Total Funds" should be identical)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Materials and Supplies</td>
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<td>Administrative Support</td>
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<td>Food and Lodging</td>
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<td>Event Catering</td>
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<td>Training Events</td>
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<td>Facilities Expenses</td>
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<td>Light, Sound, Video</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Sources</th>
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<td>Participant Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Unit Budget Allowance</td>
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Subside (Area Funds)

Requested Area funds are only approved for the area sponsored conferences. Approved funds will not be transferred to the hosting stake, rather the hosting stake or chairman can request payments to be made by the church administration for the approved items up to the approved amount.

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<tr>
<th>Total</th>
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## Proposed Session Director Couple

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<td>Name</td>
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## Request for YSA Activity Approval—Continued

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Stake/District President Signature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Seventy</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Presidency</td>
<td>Date</td>
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