

## ABBHEY YOUTH FESTIVAL 2017

### Q & A

1) How old do I have to be to attend AYF?

**AYF is open to teens and young adults ages 13 and up.**

2) Who can register for AYF?

Individuals ages 18 and up can now register for AYF without a group. Teens ages 13 to 17 must be registered by an adult with either a parish, school, youth group, or as a family. Non-family groups must have 2 adults registered with the first ten youth and one per ten thereafter. Chaperones and young adult participants ages 18 and over must be in compliance with the Safe Environment guidelines for their given diocese.

3) How much does it cost to attend AYF?

Registration for AYF is \$40 per person. **A \$10 non-refundable deposit per \*participant is due at the time of registration.** All paid pre-registrants will receive an official AYF t-shirt with their registration. (Sizes 2XL and up require an additional \$5 fee.) Groups and individuals may register on site at AYF at the \$40 rate, however onsite registrations do not include a t-shirt. (\*Priests, Religious, Seminarians, and deacons are not required to pay a deposit.)

4) What about Priests, Religious, Seminarians, and Deacons? Can they come? Do they have to pay? Is there anything special they should do beforehand? What should **clergy** bring with them to AYF?

AYF loves our clergy and religious! Priests, Religious, Seminarians, and Deacons have always been invited to attend AYF for **FREE**. If a religious or member of the clergy wants a t-shirt or meals, those must be paid for separately. **ALL clergy and religious persons** are asked to please register using the link designated for them on the registration page. Priests should fill out the form concerning confessions and mass concelebration. Clergy wishing to concelebrate the mass should bring their own alb and stole. Priest planning to hear confessions should likewise bring their own stole for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

5) What forms do I need to fill out? What about my youth?

**All adults** (ages 18+) attending the Abbey Youth Festival are asked to complete the online **Policies & Procedures** form. If you are unable to fill the form out online, you may download it, fill it out, and hand it in the morning of AYF. (*High school students who are already 18 do not need to fill this form out.*) **Every participant** is required to download and complete the **Liability & Photo Release** form and bring it with them to check-in the morning of AYF. Minors must have a parent or legal guardian fill out the form on their behalf.

6) What forms of payment does AYF accept?

Pre-event payments will be accepted until March 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. All other balances must be paid on site the day of AYF by cash, check, or credit card. You may pre-pay by credit card or PayPal online or by sending a check to:

**Abbey Youth Festival Office**  
**Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College**  
**75376 River Road**  
**Saint Benedict, LA 70457**

7) When can I pre-register for AYF?

Pre-registration is open from 12 noon December 8th, 2016 until 12 noon March 10th, 2017 at [www.abbeyyouthfest.com](http://www.abbeyyouthfest.com).

8) How do I get a **FREE** AYF water bottle with my registration?

We're glad you asked! The first **1200 pre-registered** participants who **PAY IN FULL** will receive a **FREE** water bottle with their registration.

9) Can I pre-register for meals at AYF?

Yep! You sure can. We encourage participants to pre-order meals so that our food vendor knows how many meals to prepare. Meals offered during pre-registration range in price from \$6 to \$7 per meal and include a choice of Coca Cola product beverage, and chips or a cookie. Other vendors will be at AYF this year offering a limited number of gluten-free options for purchase on site. Snacks, coffee, snowballs, etc. will also be available for purchase at the Festival. We know that sometimes groups and individuals like to save money on food by bringing their own. We also know that some folks have special dietary needs. Please feel free to bring *small*, easily portable coolers with food for yourself and/or your group. As always, water stations will be available to refill your oh-so-important water bottles.

10) How can I register for a tent or tent space at AYF?

You can register for a 10 x 10 tent (\$40) or space to bring your own 10 x 10 tent (\$10) during general registration. Groups are limited to **ONE** tent or space in order to accommodate as many groups as possible.

11) How will I know if my registration went through? Will I be able to check my account?

You will receive a confirmation email at the time of your registration. Please keep a record of the email you register with as well as your password so that you can access your account throughout the months preceding AYF. You can update your account and/or make changes as needed.

12) What is the schedule for the day?

The Abbey will begin welcoming AYF visitors at 8 AM for check-in and on-site registration. The AYF field will open to participants at 9:30 AM and close at 9:30 PM. (A vigil mass will be celebrated at 3:45 PM on the field.)

13) Did I hear something about an AYF app?

Have you heard about our new AYF app? Yep. AYF is launching an app. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates concerning the launch date for the Official AYF app. Schedules, speaker information, maps, vendors, and more will be right at your fingertips.

14) Is there a way for me to get updates before and during AYF, especially if there is an emergency?

Yes. AYF has decided to make use of the *Remind* app for this purpose. Leaders and adult registrants will be sent an email on March 1st inviting them to add themselves to AYF's master list for reminders and updates. Those who register between March 1 and 10th will be sent the same invitation along with their registration confirmation. On-site registrants may join the *Remind* list the day of AYF.

15) My group would like to tour the Abbey church during AYF. Is this possible?

Yes. Tours of the Abbey church are available during AYF at two separate times: Noon to 1:30 PM and 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Groups **must** pre-register for tours via our seminarian tour docent, Brian DeVillier. Brian can be reached at [bdevillier@sjasc.edu](mailto:bdevillier@sjasc.edu). Spaces are limited and available on a first come first served basis. Email Brian your name, the name of your group, and the size of your party, as well as your cell phone number and email address.

16) What if my group cannot get in to see the Abbey church? And what about other areas of the Abbey and college? Can we see those?

Due to time limits and the large number of people wishing to see the Abbey, it will not be possible for every group to visit the church during AYF. Likewise, there simply is not enough time for AYF participants to have a full tour of the Abbey and college. But you are in luck! This year we will have a tent set up where AYF visitors may view an awesome video about Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College. This video will feature seminarians discussing what it is like to live, work, and study here at the Abbey. In addition, the video will include footage of the college itself plus seldom seen areas like the Monastic Refectory and Chapter Room.

17) Our group doesn't have a lot of money. Is there a place where my group can stay overnight for free?

Unfortunately we do not have the resources to locate housing for all our visitors ourselves. A list of affordable housing is available on our website. Inquiries about free housing at schools or churches in the area would have to be made directly to those institutions. We cannot assist with this particular request.

18) What about refunds if I have to cancel?

If an individual or entire group decides not to attend AYF, a refund **minus the non-refundable \$10 per participant deposit** may be available if cancellations are made at least 30 days from the day of the event. **However, if individuals within a group decide not to attend AYF within 30 days of the event it will be up to the group leader to fill those vacant spots.** No whole-group refunds will be provided after February 25, 2017 unless specifically authorized by

the Rector and Event Coordinator. Requests for such refunds must be made *in writing* and will not be considered until after the festival has taken place.

19) What happens if AYF is cancelled by the Abbey?

Because the Abbey Youth Festival is an outdoor event, severe weather and/or prolonged inclement conditions may necessitate complete cancellation, changes of schedule, or early completion of Festival events. All efforts will be made to ensure that the Abbey Youth Festival is not canceled insofar as this is possible and safe for all participants (But “acts of God,” are indeed in His hands, not ours.) In the unlikely event that the decision is made to cancel the Festival **prior to the opening of the event on March 25th**, participants will be issued refunds for monies paid to AYF **minus the non-refundable \$10 per participant deposit**. Such refunds will be issued within 90 days of cancellation. (Since 2001 AYF has only been cancelled one time due to severe weather conditions and flooding.)

20) What is the date for AYF 2018?

Drum roll please..... The date for AYF 2018 is St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2018. *Dia is Muire Dhuit and Céad Mile Fáilte.*