

2026 National Catholic Youth Conference FAQs

What is NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a powerful multi-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic **teenagers** (of high-school age), their parents and adult chaperones.

NCYC is the premiere Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from all across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ.

The schedule includes inspiring speakers, prayer and liturgy, workshops, music and worship and opportunities to participate in reconciliation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as recreational activities including countless games, crafts, obstacle courses, meetups, live radio shows, challenges, and so much more!

Learn more about NCYC by viewing the promo video: www.catholichawaii.org/ooyam/ym/ncyc. NCYC is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. (NFCYM).

Who is the NFCYM?

The NFCYM is a nonprofit organization whose purposes are to foster the development of youth ministry within the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Honolulu is a member of the NFCYM. Learn more about the NFCYM here: <http://nfcym.org/>.

What does NCYC as a pilgrimage experience mean?

Attending NCYC is more than just a vacation; it can be a life-changing experience. The goals of a pilgrimage, especially for youth, should reflect the general goals for youth ministry found in *Renewing the Vision*. As a reminder, those goals are:

- To draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community
- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person

See attachment, “*Understanding Pilgrimage & Best Practices for NCYC Preparation*” for more information on NCYC as a pilgrimage experience.

Why attend NCYC?

Youth and their adult chaperones attend NCYC because they want to:

- Gather together with other Catholic youth on a national level.
- Learn more about themselves and their relationship to God, and the Catholic Church.
- Celebrate their Catholic faith.
- Meet thousands of other Catholic youth.
- Share beliefs and experiences.
- Recognize their role in the life of the Catholic Church.

When and where will NCYC be held?

Activities for NCYC will take place at the **Long Beach Convention Center** in Long Beach, California on November 20-21, 2026.

What is the schedule for NCYC?

Early information from the NFCYM states that the Interactive Exhibit area will open on Thursday evening, November 19. The official opening of NCYC begins on Friday, November 20, in the morning. NCYC ends with closing liturgy on the evening of Saturday, November 21. The full schedule of events will be posted at a later date.

I've been to NCYC previously and it was longer, what happened?

Based on feedback from past Long Beach participants, the opening general session for the 2026 NCYC will be Friday morning, November 20, to allow more time for travel to the area. The interactive exhibit hall will be open Thursday evening for early arriving groups. More details will be available in the spring.

Who can attend NCYC?

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is open to all high school aged youth, accompanied by parents and/or adult chaperones.

Youth attendees must be in high school at the time of NCYC. *When promoting NCYC, don't forget to include this year's 8th graders, as they will be 9th graders in November 2026.*

Who can be an adult chaperone?

Adult chaperones must be 21 years or older. There must be two adult chaperones for the first group of ten youth. After that, you must add one more adult for each additional six youth. For example, 2 adults for 10 youth, 3 adults for 11-16 youths, 4 adults for 17-22 youths, etc. Be sure that you have both male and female chaperones in proportion to the gender make-up of the group.

All adults must be in compliance with Diocese of Honolulu Safe Environment Policy (i.e. all adults must have a cleared background check and complete the initial safe environment training).

Access background screening and safe environment training here: <http://www.virtus.org/>.

Chaperones must also agree to the Chaperone Guidelines/Behavior Standards and complete the Adult Liability Waiver as well complete the Chaperone Training provided by Catholic Mutual Group. Access to all of these can be found here: <https://www.catholicahawaii.org/ooyam/liability>.

All adults will also need to complete, sign, and submit an NFCYM/NCYC Legal Agreement, provided by the NFCYM.

What is the NCYC Code of Conduct?

There are separate codes of conduct for adults and youth. All attendees should review them. These are incorporated by reference in the Liability Waiver and Permission Forms. These will be available at a later date.

Will participants miss any school days?

Yes. NCYC participants will miss between 2 - 3 days of school. Some schools may give excused absences. Neither the NFCYM nor the Diocese of Honolulu has any control over our schools allowing or disallowing excused absences for NCYC. The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis will provide an excuse letter, if necessary.

Who organizes NCYC at the parish or school level?

In most cases, a parish or school will coordinate a group – there should be an Adult Contact Person who will be the single point of contact between the parish and the diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. In most cases, the Contact Person is the Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry or High School Campus Minister. This Contact Person will lead the NCYC organizing effort in their parish or school. This includes forming a local parish/school planning team, promoting NCYC, recruiting youth and adult chaperones, collecting fees and forms, and being a vital communication link between participants and the diocese. See handout: **Organizing a Parish/School Group** for a step-by-step guide to assist in your planning.

If a parish or school does not coordinate a group, then parents may register their family to participate as a ‘group’. Contact the OEC for more information.

How do we get to Long Beach, California?

All parish/school groups are responsible for their own air and ground transportation. The closest airport to the Long Beach Convention Center is Long Beach Airport (LGB).

What about our meals?

All parish/school groups are responsible for their own meals, except for one meal which is included in the registration fee. Information on meal vendors at NCYC will be provided in future correspondence.

How do our hotel reservations work?

The OEC has reserved a block of rooms. Although we have secured a block of rooms for our diocesan delegation, we will not know the exact room configurations (two beds, or two beds with a pull-out sofa) until our specific hotel is assigned by the NCYC housing team.

- *How many youths to a room?* Youth will generally be housed **two** per room in rooms with **two** beds. Some rooms may also include a pull-out sofa; if so, **three** youth may be assigned to that room. All rooms will be separated by gender.
- *How many adults to a room?* Adults will typically be housed **two per room** in rooms with two beds, or **three per room** in rooms that include two beds and a pull-out sofa. Rooms will be separated by gender unless the adults are married or family members. Adults who wish to have their own room may do so for an additional fee; please contact the OEC to

make this request. Priests traveling with your group will be assigned a single room unless the group's contact person requests otherwise.

- *Will we be staying in hotels by parish/school?* Yes. Whenever possible, hotel rooms will be assigned by parish or school to make supervision easier for adult chaperones. Each parish or school will need to submit rooming lists to the OEC. To help reduce overall costs and make the best use of our room block, groups that do not fully fill a room may be partnered with another parish or school attending NCYC. If this applies to your group, please let us know so we can assist with room sharing arrangements.
- *How will we get from our hotel to the conference?* Hotel is within walking distance to the convention center. It will be the responsibility of adult chaperones to accompany their group from the hotel to the conference and back.

Can a family share a room?

Yes! If you are participating as a family unit and would like to share one room, contact the OEC for registration fees.

Do we have to use the NCYC hotel block?

Your group can choose to book your own housing accommodation. If you choose this option, please contact the OEC for registration fee information and liability implications.

How much does it cost to participate?

Packages Available:

- A) \$1027.50 per person** [Cost includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), **4** nights hotel – shared room, one meal, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Wednesday, November 18, check-out Sunday, November 22.]
- B) \$871.00 per person** [Cost includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), **3** nights hotel – shared room, one meal, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Thursday, November 19, check-out Sunday, November 22.]
- C) \$714.50 per person** [Cost includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), **2** nights hotel – shared room, one meal, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Friday, November 20, check-out Sunday, November 22.]

NOTES about rooms:

- The price above is per person, shared room, 2 people in a room.
- If the hotel configuration allows for 3 people in a room, the price per person decreases. We will not know until our hotel is assigned.

Rates increase according to the following schedule:

- On January 1, 2026,
 - Package **A)** \$1052.50 per person; Package **B)** \$896 per person **C)** \$739.50 per person
- On May 1, 2026,
 - Package **A)** \$1102.50 per person; Package **A)** \$946 per person **C)** \$789.50 per person
- On September 1, 2026,
 - Package **A)** \$1127.50 per person; Package **A)** \$971 per person **C)** \$814.50 per person

Single room supplement packages available:

- D) \$1655.00 per person** [Cost includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), **4** nights hotel – shared room, one meal, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Wednesday, November 18, check-out Sunday, November 22.]
- E) \$1342.00 per person** [Cost includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), **3** nights hotel – shared room, one meal, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Thursday, November 19, check-out Sunday, November 22.]
- F) \$1029.00 per person** [Cost includes participation in NCYC (ie. NCYC ticket), **2** nights hotel – shared room, one meal, and diocesan swag. Check-in to hotel on Friday, November 20, check-out Sunday, November 22.]

Rates increase according to the following schedule:

- On January 1, 2026,
 - Package **D)** \$1680 per person; Package **E)** \$1367 per person; Package **F)** \$1054 per person
- On May 1, 2026,
 - Package **D)** \$1730 per person; Package **E)** \$1417 per person; Package **F)** \$1104 per person
- On September 1, 2026,
 - Package **D)** \$1755 per person; Package **E)** \$1442 per person; Package **F)** \$1129 per person

Can I wait until September 2026 to register?

While NCYC tickets will still be available at that time, hotel rooms near the Long Beach Convention Center are limited—and there is a possibility that no hotel rooms will be available if you wait. If rooms are available, you may be placed in a different hotel than the rest of the diocesan delegation, which could also increase your overall cost. Our recommendation: **don't wait—plan early!**

Are scholarships available?

Yes! NCYC Scholarships will be available. Groups will be eligible for scholarship consideration upon confirmation of their commitment to participate in NCYC.

My parish or school wants to participate, what do I do now?

As soon as you know how many youth and adults will be attending NCYC, complete the **NCYC Commitment Form**: <https://forms.gle/1hRDSZqSpWaUw5XN8>. **Do not wait until the last minute.**