

2022 WELS International Youth Rally: Getting Started



Royal people. Momentous Purpose. We are here and now “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

So, you’re thinking about attending the WELS International Youth Rally next summer at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville? EXCELLENT! But then the questions start:

- *What happens at a youth rally?*
- *Is it worth the effort as a teen or adult to try to gather a group?*
- *Will this work in our church?*
- *How do I get a group together?*

The first two questions go together: What happens at a youth rally? And, is it worth the effort?

WELS International Youth Rally attendees come from huge churches in big cities and small churches in farming communities; from Alaska to Texas. And everywhere in between. No matter where you come FROM, when you come together at a youth rally, you’re home! Home with your family of believers. That’s a big family! You get to say the Lord’s Prayer and sing praises to our Savior with thousands of people. That WILL give you goosebumps.

A youth rally is designed for teens. Workshops hit timely teen topics. Performances and recreation are planned with teens in mind. There’s time to discuss issues, time to eat, time to play frisbee, and time to just chill!

Some have said that the youth rally changed their lives. I won’t go as far as to say that it WILL DEFINITELY change yours or the lives of your church’s teens. But it may: one may be motivated to pursue the ministry; another may meet a new lifelong friend; another may confide in a workshop leader about a struggle with temptation. Front and center at the youth rally is the gospel of Jesus Christ. God will use the youth rally as another experience that shapes the lives of teens.

I think we just answered the next question: **Will this work at our church?** Absolutely! It can and will work.

HOW!? How do I get a group together?

If you're reading this you're obviously interested in your church's youth! Now, how to share that excitement with the congregation. Let's lay a little groundwork here.

Talk with teens and parents who may be interested in the youth rally. Talk with your pastor. Talk with older members. Share how important it is to encourage and equip your teens in their faith life NOW.

Show the promotional video for the 2022 WELS International Youth Rally after church (find it at wels.net/youthrally).

Support, spiritual and financial, of your church and its members will make this process easier. Often older members are excited to be able to help their church's youth. Let them know how! You could ask someone to sponsor a rallygoer or hire a youth for yard work. Maybe your group can do a car wash or prepare a Lenten supper or Easter breakfast with donations going to support your youth rally trip.

GATHER: Once you've started creating buzz about the youth rally, gather potential rallygoers, parents, and youth leaders for a quick meeting.

COMMIT: Ask potential rallygoers to commit by a specific deadline date and get their names, email address and phone numbers so it's easier to communicate with them.

ORGANIZE and START: You'll need to choose a CYL (contact youth leader). This person can go online in early March and start the group's registration. The CYL will create a group portal to fully register as an individual, preregister your group, and pay the \$50/person deposit. You're off and running!

FINISH: Then other youth leaders and youth will need to finish their registrations and make final payment. It will all be laid out in the registration booklet (in congregations and at wels.net/youthrally in January). Plus, the registration site will walk you through each step.

It may seem daunting, but it's really not too bad! The biggest step is the first one: just getting started! Once you commit to going everything else will fall into place. Really! And we're here to help!

- University of Tennessee Conferences is running registration. Technical questions can be addressed to them when registration opens.

It may help to know, there are three types of rallygoers:

Y: Youth

These are teens finishing up eighth grade through those graduating seniors and anywhere in between!

YL: Youth Leaders are age 20 or over with a passion for encouraging youth in their faith and a commitment to supervising the youth entrusted to them.

And each group needs a **CYL: Contact Youth Leader** who is the main point of contact between the church's group and the youth rally staff.

Note: Adult/youth ratio must be 1 adult to 6 Y of the same gender at all times during the rally.

- Any and all questions can also be addressed to rally coordinator, Kris Snyder. She’s been working with youth rallies since 1998 and should be able to answer or find answers to your questions: youthrally2022@wels.net or 414-527-6854.
- There will be a BUNCH of great information in the registration booklet. Look for it at your church and at wels.net/youthrally in January. Connect with us on social media @welsyouthrally.

UT Knoxville is a great site: the campus is beautiful, the Olympic-sized pool is very cool, their conference staff is experienced and hard-working. It will be a great experience for Y, YL, and CYL!

Registration runs March 8–May 31
\$375 early-bird rate for full payment until April 30
\$395 May 1–31

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Esther’s life was riveting. God’s love for her was amazing. God’s work through her was powerful. Esther was a royal woman who served a momentous purpose. We serve a momentous purpose too! Like Esther, our lives are riveting because of God’s amazing love and God’s powerful work. We are his royal people prepared, placed, and serving *Here and Now* for such a time as this.

Join us as a family of believers at the 2022 WELS International Youth Rally!

WELS International Youth Rally

Frequently Asked Questions

How do we get there?

Each group is responsible for its own transportation to and from Knoxville. Connect with others via our Facebook and Twitter sites to share your transportation needs or opportunities. If you are organizing busing and would like to offer it to the group, please pass along information to youthrally2022@wels.net for posting online at wels.net/youthrally.

What if I need a ride from the Knoxville airport?

During registration you may request an airport shuttle coordinated by UT Conferences for an additional fee.

Are there off-site excursions this year?

Yes. UT Conferences is organizing different options. You will be able to choose one for an additional fee. A YL from your group must accompany Y from your group on each excursion. A list will be available in January at wels.net/youthrally.

I have someone who wanted to attend as a youth in 2020. Can this person attend as a youth in 2022?

Short answer: yes. Discuss among yourselves to decide if this person would rather attend as a Y or if he/she is ready and willing take the responsibility of a YL. Some young people are “done” with high school activities once they graduate. Others are interested in having the youth rally experience as a youth. Either option is okay with us.

I have someone who is out of high school, but not 20. Can this person attend?

Talk to your CYL and pastor to decide if this person should attend as a Y or if he/she can take the responsibility of a YL.

Do CYL, YL, and Y pay the same rate?

Yes

What about piggybacking?

Piggybacking (allowing a Y from another congregation to join your group) is allowed. If at all possible, it's best to have YL and Y from the same congregation. However, we do realize that in some cases this is prohibitive for Y from smaller congregations. If your group has a “piggybacker,” simply register the Y with your church group. Please get to know each other. You will be responsible for this Y.

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