



Office for Evangelization
Catholic Diocese of Richmond

Steubenville Atlanta Youth
Conference

July 6-9, 2023

This communication contains initial information concerning the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference for 2023. Please read all the information contained in this communication to ensure you have a full understanding of the event.

What is the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference?

As a part of the outreach efforts of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, the Steubenville Summer Youth Conferences provide a unique opportunity to gather with teenagers from across the nation in Catholic community. The conference combines awesome talks, incredible music, praise and worship, time for prayer and fellowship, entertainment and liturgies. Since 1976, Franciscan University has sponsored youth conferences across the United States. This summer, thousands of Catholic teens across North America will attend one of 25 Steubenville Youth Conferences to encounter the God who calls us His sons and daughters. Come and experience His overwhelming love for you. You belong here.

At some conferences, Franciscan University partners with other Catholic youth organizations to host the conference. The Diocese of Richmond will attend the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference, which is co-sponsored by Life Teen, Inc.

Who should attend the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference?

The Conference is open to all high school-aged youth (rising 9th graders through graduated 12th graders).

Where and when is the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference?

The Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference will be held on Friday, July 7 through Sunday, July 9, 2023 at the Infinite Energy Center (6400 Sugarloaf Parkway; Duluth, GA 30097). Our Diocese will arrive on Thursday, July 6, 2023.

All youth and adult participants will be housed at hotels located near the Infinite Energy Center. Depending on registration and room availability, lodging is subject to change.

What is the theme?

"I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." – John 16:33 NABRE

Watch the REFUGE 2023 teaser here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOpwyhMpOSo>.

What happens from when we arrive on Thursday night to the start of the conference on Friday?

The Diocesan group leaves on Thursday rather than Friday to ensure that all participants are well-rested for the start of the conference on Friday afternoon.

On Friday, all participants will participate in a diocesan program so that we can prepare for the conference together as a diocese. The activities will include:

- Daily Mass
- Parish and small group gatherings
- Lunch

- Friday afternoon diocesan activity in the Atlanta area, TBD

After the diocesan program, all participants will be transported to the Infinite Energy Center to begin the conference.

Is there a commitment form?

Yes, this year there is a commitment form. Youth Ministers must complete the Diocesan Summer Trips 2023 Commitment Form by February 26, 2023 at 11:59pm. On this commitment form, you will identify the number of adult and youth spaces your parish wishes to purchase. *****Please note, each parish is financially responsible for all of the spaces they reserve, regardless if they are used or not. The Office for Evangelization will purchase spaces with Life Teen on February 27, 2023 and cannot guarantee refunds after this point.***** You can find the commitment form [here](#).

If a parish wants to request additional spots or to drop spots after February 26, 2023, the Office for Evangelization will keep a list of requests and fulfill them as possible. We cannot guarantee any changes will be made.

What are the costs?

The cost for this youth conference is \$475 per adult or youth participant. This cost includes the conference registration, bus transportation, hotel lodging, and a social event for all participants. In addition, t-shirts, lunch on Friday, and snacks (i.e., pizza) on Friday and Saturday nights are included. All aspects of registration for the conference (including conference registration and Friday's activity) will be facilitated by the Office for Evangelization.

2023 Additional Fees:

- Single Occupancy Adult Room: \$325 additional cost
- Late Fee: \$30 for any spots that are added on or after May 1, 2023

Cancellation Policy:

We cannot guarantee any refunds for cancellations. All requests for dropping or adding spots must be received in writing by email to evangelization@richmonddiocese.org. No requests can be taken over the phone.

What is the transportation situation?

Included with your registration fee is bus transportation to and from Atlanta, as well as transportation during the duration of your stay in Atlanta. All buses will depart on **Thursday, July 6, 2023** from a designated location within approximately a one hour drive from your parish. The buses will leave on Thursday morning (at a time to be determined) and leave from Atlanta at approximately 1:00 pm on **Sunday, July 9, 2023**. In most cases, the bus trip is approximately 8 to 10 hours in length.

Once registration is complete, each parish group will be assigned to a particular bus and bus route. This is when the specific pick-up locations and times will be defined. Each bus will have an assigned bus captain who will be responsible for coordinating bus rules, bus snacks, and meal stops, etc. with the parish leaders on their assigned bus. This information will be available in **late June 2023**.

What is the lodging situation?

Each room in the hotel will contain either 2 queen-size beds or 1 king-size bed. Rooms with only 1 bed will be assigned to single adults or to a married couple. Rooms with the queen-size beds will be assigned 2 adults OR 4 youth of the same gender. The Office for Evangelization will combine parishes with odd numbers to maximize the room allocations.

Since these are standard hotels, linens and towels are provided for all participants. It is encouraged for your participants to bring additional sleeping bags if they would prefer to sleep on the floor.

Can I participate in only a portion of the diocesan trip (i.e. take our own cars and not ride the bus)?

In order to receive the diocesan rate and participate in the trip, participants must partake in all aspects of the trip. For liability reasons, parishes cannot opt to ride separately or stay in other accommodations and still be considered part of the diocesan experience.

What are the requirements for adult chaperones?

For this event, 1 adult chaperone is required for every 8 youth who are participating in the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference. Each adult chaperone must be in compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policies.

For volunteers, this includes completing the following:

- Screening One Form (every 5 years)
- VIRTUS training (once)

Please note that parish employees and Catholic school employees have additional screening that must be completed.

Can other family members or children attend the Steubenville Atlanta Youth Conference?

To ensure the safest environment possible, it is the policy of the Office for Evangelization that only registered participants may attend this event. Spouses or children of adult participants may attend if 1) they meet the target audience of the event AND 2) they are registered. Younger children of a registered adult participant (younger than a rising 9th grader) may not attend, including infants and toddlers.

How do I register and what are the registration deadlines?

The registration process includes these steps:

1. **Youth Minister completes the Diocesan Summer Trips 2023 Commitment Form by February 26, 2023.** On this RegFox commitment form, you will identify the number of adult and youth spaces your parish wishes to purchase. *****Please note, each parish is financially responsible for all of the spaces they reserve, regardless if they are used or not.***** The link to this form can be found on our website.
2. **After completing the Commitment Form, each youth minister will receive a customized link in spring 2023 that can be shared with each participant to fill out their registration form ONLINE.** There are no paper registration forms for this event. Instead, each participant needs to complete the online form individually.
3. **Register Participants using the customized registration link (by June 4, 2023 at 11:59pm to ensure admission to conference).**
4. **Rooming List (by June 9, 2023 at 11:59pm):** You will receive an email from the Office for Evangelization with a Rooming List Template that will need to be filled out and returned to the Office for Evangelization via email to evangelization@richmonddiocese.org. Unless otherwise indicated, rooms should include 4 youth of the same gender or 2 adults of the same gender or married couples. Priests should be placed in a single room.

Where do I go for questions or additional support?

For all questions or support, contact the Office for Evangelization directly via email at evangelization@richmonddiocese.org OR 804-622-5159.