

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

Why Montreat?

Over the past ten years, I have had the pleasure of taking high school youth to 9 high school conferences, 2 college conferences, and sponsoring a youth to participate on the planning team for the 2008 youth conference. I have witnessed amazing personal and communal spiritual growth in the lives of youth during these conferences.

Montreat is called a “thin place,” a place where heaven and earth seem to meet, where barriers are broken down, and where youth live out a covenant community discerning God’s will for their lives, the life of the church, and mission out into the world.

What is Montreat?

Montreat means “mountain retreat” and is a PC (USA) conference center on the grounds of Montreat College. (See Montreat.org for a full description of the retreats, conferences, and events)

Who can attend?

Entering freshman through graduating seniors can register for the conference. Each youth is required to be under the supervision of a backhome leader, typically a church youth group. 95% of the participants are Presbyterian and come from every state and even a few foreign countries. It has been my experience that “friends” have gotten just as much out of a conference as Presbyterian participants.

How do you get there?

It takes about 10 hours to drive to Montreat down Rte 78 to 81 to 70, to 40. Montreat is approximately 15 miles east of Asheville, NC. We will take a 12 passenger van.

Where do you stay?

There are a variety of options- private cottages, college dorms, conference housing. We will be renting a home on the grounds of Montreat within walking distance to all the events.

What is the Cost?

Due to the generosity of the members and committees of First Presbyterian Church, the cost of the trip will be \$150 a person or \$200 for a family with two participants.

What do you do?

A Montreat Conference is a retreat from our secular lives, where time is spent in the company of other young people and faith is explored in a variety of ways – through music, energizers, keynote presentations, small group activities and bible study, theme-based recreational activities, daily worship services, backhome groups, and contemplative time. We are busy from 9 am to 11 pm every day.

Is there Mission?

This year, Montreat has added a mission component for the Sunday afternoon prior to the start of the conference and on the Wednesday free afternoon. Youth groups will be matched with an outreach organization in the Greater Asheville area.

Are there registration forms?

Yes, closer to the trip date, you will receive a packet of information including a group covenant and medical form which are required by the conference. Additionally, you will receive a detailed list of items to bring, a daily schedule, and travel details.

Who can I speak to about this opportunity?

You can speak to Shelley Gardner, Associate Pastor, by calling the church at (732) 634-1024.