



THE VICTORIAN CHRISTIAN YOUTH CONVENTION

The Victorian Christian Youth Convention is a weekend run *for* youth groups! From the program to the catering and accommodation, this is a weekend for your group to be immersed in hearing and responding to God's Word together. While we take care of the program, you are responsible for your youth across the weekend, ensuring they attend the different activities and get some sleep!

We are committed to encouraging and modelling biblical youth ministry that will support and enhance what you are doing in your local church. We want youth to attend and be eager to keep following in their local church rather than simply being on a high from a weekend convention.

We aim to have everything we do grounded in God's living and active Word. We are praying that VCYC's preaching, music, prayer ministry, and workshops we are seeking to equip young people with God's Word to live as disciples of Jesus.

A highlight of the weekend is 'Team Time'. This is a key part of the program where youth groups can slow down, taking the time to hang out and reflect on all they've heard and done at VCYC. There are two allocated Team Times in the program for your group to consider. This time could be used to do something together (like a walk through the Dandenong Ranges) while others will play games or simply eat some food together. We are also able to provide spaces on-site for groups to use during this time.

As we endeavour to be a convention that supports local youth ministries, we welcome your feedback! The VCYC executive team is made up of men and women doing youth ministry from different churches across Melbourne. We welcome you to come and say hello and let us know how we can make VCYC is helpful and Christ-honouring as possible. Or get in touch beforehand by emailing info@vcyc.org.au.

Attached below is the:

- Getting Your Group To VCYC
- Team Time Options
- VCYC Vision
- What's involved in staying at VCYC
- FAQ's about VCYC

GETTING YOUR GROUP TO VCYC:

1. *Choose Your Registration Option:*

There are a number of registration options for VCYC. Whether cabins or camping, catered or bringing your own, whole weekend or just a single session. A full range of the registration options and costs can be found on our website.

2. *Get Your Group Registered*

The group leader will need to register the group's attendance before individuals can register. Follow our "How To Register Your Group" directions.

3. *Get Your Youth and Leaders Registered*

Once your group is registered, you can now have your youth and youth leaders register. You can either have individuals register and pay individually, or register them all as the group leader.

If you are having individuals register, we have a suggested template that can be updated and sent to out. If you are wanting to register your group and pay a total amount (either by card or invoicing your church), please contact us beforehand.

As attendance to VCYC is done as a group, the group leader(s) are responsible for all those attending as part of their group. This means that the group leader should be collecting consent and medical information for all attending under their care.

4. *Plan Your Team Time:*

Team Time is one of the key ways your group can get the most out of the VCYC weekend. There are two allocations for Team Time in the program for you to consider and plan for. Some suggestions of how to make the most of your Team Time can be found below.

5. *Pray!*

We are longing for VCYC to be a great encouragement and blessing for youth and youth ministries across Victoria (and even into New South Wales)! Join us in praying that God would capture more and more teenagers with the truth and beauty of Jesus through the preaching of the Gospel!

Planning Your Team Time

VCYC is a weekend *for* youth groups. One of the ways your group can get the most out of VCYC is to plan for your team time. There are two team time allocations in the program on Saturday: a shorter session at lunch time and longer session in the afternoon (see the **program** for specific times). How you best use this time for your group is up to you. The VCYC weekend is busy and youth will be hearing and processing plenty as they hear talks, workshops, testimonies, and have conversations. Below are some suggestions on how you could use your team time.

Team Time Session #1 (45mins)

- If your youth ministry has small groups, this could be a great time to get into those groups and give youth the opportunity to share what they've been hearing. What has been encouraging, helpful, challenging, new, or different they've heard? This can also be a great time to talk about key application or things they want to remember or do when they return home.
- This shorter session could also be used for some quiet down time, encouraging youth to take some time to rest, reflect, and pray individually or in pairs.
- As youth will have attended two main sessions and a workshop, your group may want to run some activities or games during this time to help youth switch off and have some fun! There are some on-site game options suggested below.

Team Time Session #2 (1-2 Hours)

- The second team time leads into free time so you can plan for anything up to 2-hours! Make sure you check the time your group is having dinner as this may change how long you have!
- With a longer time allocation, your group could run some games or activities or even consider going off-site. As VCYC is based in the scenic Dandenong's, there are number of places you can visit off-site as a group.

On-Site Options

BHC Rec Hall:

- Gaga Pit; Basketball;
Table Tennis

BHC Grounds

- Volleyball Court
- Grassed areas for games like ultimate frisbee, soccer, football (BYO all balls and equipment)

Request a Team Time Space

- Card or Board Games etc (BYO)

Off-Site Options

- Maccas Trip! (Tacoma – 7 mins drive)

Local Scenic Sites (Walks or Picnics)

- Sherbrooke Forest Circuit (8 mins drive)
- Sherbrooke Falls (9 mins drive)
- Baluk William Flora Reserve (5 mins drive)
- Dandenong Ranges Nation Park (12 mins drive)
- Alfred Nichols Memorial Garden (13 mins drive)
- Kokoda Memorial Walk – Thousand Steps (14 mins drive)
- Ferntree Gully Quarry Reserve Lookout Tower (14 mins drive)

The VCYC Vision:

Who are we?

VCYC exists to equip young people with God's Word to impact their world.

We do this:

- Through Christ-centred expository bible teaching and passionate worship
- In partnership with youth ministries across Vic.
- By bringing together youth of high school age regardless of background, whether committed to Jesus or not, whatever stage of growth in their Christian life.
- All by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God.

Core Values:

As a ministry of the Belgrave Heights Convention and fully committed to its vision, proprieties, ministry, beliefs, values, unity, work, and witness. VCYC is committed to:

- Modelling how the bible shapes youth ministry practice.
- Serving and enhancing local youth ministries.
- Providing opportunities for fellowship with youth from across Victoria.
- Displaying and encouraging prayerful dependence in everyday life.
- Authentic corporate worship through music.
- Teaching and challenging youth to live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit and grounded in the scriptures every day.

What we do:

The ministry of VCYC consists of:

- The annual weekend convention at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre.
- Metropolitan and Regional One Night Events (ONEs).

At these events you can expect:

- Bible teaching that is relevant and engaging for youth.
- Corporate worship through music
- Opportunities for fellowship with other youth groups.
- Prayer ministry.
- Youth Involvement (e.g. testimonies, readings, etc)

Additionally at the weekend convention includes:

- Workshops for youth and leaders.
- A dedicated prayer team and space.
- Recreational Activities.
- Youth leader networking.
- Allocated time and space for individual youth ministries.
- Opportunities and spaces for creative interaction and expression.



Staying at VCYC

Accommodation (Cabins)

Accommodation at VCYC is limited, so to best use the spaces that the BHC site provides, we allocate beds for all Youth and Leaders. The VCYC team works very hard to ensure that all participants have appropriate accommodation for the Convention weekend. We aim for all Youth to have Leaders, preferably theirs, sleeping in a space nearby to supervise them.

Accommodation is allocated based upon:

Gender – Male or Female

Role – Youth or Leader

Youth Groups of similar proportions

Shower/toilet facilities are separate from the accommodation, but located within a short walk of any building or camping space.

FAQs about Accommodation

Q: *What sort of accommodation can we expect?*

A: The BHC Site has a variety of facilities in both their Master's Manor and Diamond Valley Camps. If those rooms become full we are also able to provide mattresses in one of the four comfortably carpeted dining rooms.

You'll find some more information and pictures at:

<http://www.bhc.org.au/accommodation/budget-accommodation>

Q: *Why am I sleeping separately to my Youth?*

A: Due to available beds, we often are required to combine Youth Groups (of same gender) in one space. Different Denominations have different policies about Adults/Youth sleeping in the same place, so we abide by the rules of the majority. If you would like to organise a different arrangement, we recommend using the 'BYO Tent' option.

Q: *Will my Youth be okay sharing accommodation with other Youth?*

A: The feedback from most Youth Groups has been very positive. The Youth (& Leaders!) enjoy getting to know people from different churches and being able to share the experience together.

BYO Tent

The BHC Site has a variety of spaces for tents and caravans on the property. Camping spaces are mostly first-in, best-dressed and most sites are powered.

Shower/toilet facilities are located within a short walk of any building or camping space.

Catering

Our wonderful Hospitality team and Volunteer ninjas help us to provide all meals including Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Morning & Afternoon tea, and Supper out of the larger spaces at BHC. Unfortunately we are only able to cater for Vegetarian, Gluten free, Dairy/Lactose free & Nut free special diets. We recommend Self Catering for all other dietary needs.

Self Catering

If your group has chosen to self cater, there are some kitchen facilities available to you. Please specify on your booking form in the 'comments' that you require a Kitchen.

If you would like further information about the facilities, please contact the Belgrave Heights Convention Office on 03 9752 6855 or email office@bhc.org.au



Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: *Will my Youth be okay sharing accommodation with other Youth?*

A: The feedback from most Youth Groups has been very positive. The Youth enjoy getting to know people from different churches and being able to share the experience together.

Q: *Can we choose to do a combination of 'Accommodation' and 'BYO Tent' registrations?*

A: Absolutely!

Q: *What sort of responsibility does the VCYC team have for my Youth?*

A: Very little. Over the course of the weekend the responsibility of health (medical information), hygiene, participation in the program, bedtimes, etc lies with their Leader/s. Our aim is to provide a Convention program that is filled with different ways for Youth to engage with the Gospel and each other, and we don't believe we can care for your youth better than you can whilst doing that.

Q: *My Youth Group aren't coming/I don't have a Youth Group – can I still come?*

A: Due to the busy-ness of running the Convention, the VCYC team do require all Youth participants to attend with a Youth Group or Parent. This is important because having your own Youth Leader or Adult to look out for you will be crucial to your enjoyment & safety over the weekend. If you would like for us to put you in touch with a Youth Group in your local area, please email us at

info@vcyc.org.au

Q: *Are you able to cater to my dietary needs?*

A: Unfortunately we are only able to cater for Vegetarian, Gluten free, Dairy/Lactose free & Nut free special diets. We recommend Self Catering for all other dietary needs.

Feel free to contact us to discuss any concerns further at info@vcyc.org.au

Q: *I'm too old for VCYC now (18+ & graduated high school) – can I be involved still?*

A: Absolutely! It takes a massive team of Volunteers to make VCYC happen. A lot of the work goes on behind the scenes, but it is very rewarding and mostly fun!

Q: *What do Volunteers actually do?*

A: Volunteering at VCYC happens in one of our core teams:

- Music/Band – help to lead our time of faithful corporate worship.
- Prayer team – a dedicated group who pray for and with Youth over the weekend.
- Hospitality – Catering & Food preparation, or serving in our Cafe.

Q: *What do Volunteers actually do? cont...*

- Ninjas – are our amazing team who make everything happen including: Convention set up, Setting up Workshop rooms, Helping prepare & Serve meals, Clean up, Registration support, Saturday arvo games, Photography, and much much more! It's not all glamorous work, and unfortunately we can't promise that you'll hear all of the sessions, but the work is worth it when it's for God's glory!

Q: *Sounds great! What do I have to do to Volunteer?*

A: Please email us, tell us a little about yourself and how you might like to be involved, to info@vcyc.org.au

Q: *How can our Organisation/Church/Ministry be involved?*

A: There are many ways to partner with us! From financial partnership, support with resources or activities, and promotional opportunities, there are many ways to contribute to the work of VCYC. Please email us at info@vcyc.org.au for our 'Partners Information' document.