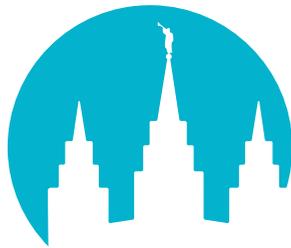


FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH

fsy

PLANNING GUIDE





Contents

FSY Conferences: An Overview 3

Frequently Asked Questions 5

 What Will Help Our FSY Be Successful? 5

 How Do We Pay for FSY? 6

 Where Do We Hold FSY? 6

 What Materials Are Available for FSY? 9

 How Is FSY Organized? 10

 What Are Our Roles and Responsibilities? 12

Suggested Timeline 21

Training 24

 FSY Global Coordinators 24

 Area FSY Training 24

Sample Weekly Agenda 28

Appendix: Sample Letter and Attachment for Local Priesthood
Leaders 30

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FSY Conferences: An Overview

For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conferences are optional large-scale activities for youth ages 14–18 that are held under the direction of the Area Presidency. (Youth who will turn 14 years old during the FSY session year may attend with parental and Area Presidency permission.) Areas may hold youth activities and conferences at their own discretion. When Area Presidencies hold an FSY conference, however, it should be organized and implemented according to the following guidelines, approved by the executive directors of the Priesthood and Family Department.

An FSY conference is based on the annual youth theme and is a balanced five-day event that includes activities, devotionals, and classes designed to help strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and provide opportunities for youth to grow spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually.

This recommended format effectively meets the objectives that will help strengthen faith in Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ and His Atonement. The FSY curriculum is designed to help youth at all stages of conversion progress on their spiritual path to the Savior and ultimately back to their Heavenly Father.

If Area Presidencies feel a change is needed to accommodate cultural differences, they may request minor changes to the schedule (but typically not the curriculum or length of the conference). If the program and schedule of the FSY conference do not suit the needs of an area, an Area Presidency may provide a youth conference under their direction and in accordance with Church policy. However, these should not be called FSY conferences and are not entitled to FSY conference funding. All proposed changes must be reviewed and approved by the executive directors of the Priesthood and Family Department.

At the conference, youth will:

- Associate with other youth who share their beliefs.
- Learn to receive revelation and answers from the scriptures.
- Be mentored by YSA counselors who teach and encourage them in gospel living.
- Experience a fun and positive environment that helps them feel the joy of the gospel.
- Develop positive new friendships.
- Have increased leadership opportunities due to the intentionally limited number of adult leaders, creating an atmosphere where YSA counselors are more able to lead out and youth are more willing to share.

Each class, activity, and other event included in an FSY is meant to deepen the participants' conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. As the youth become more converted, they will be prepared to:

- Enter the temple worthily and make temple covenants.
- Participate in missionary service.
- Be worthy husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers.
- Build the kingdom of God throughout their lives.



All classes, devotionals, and activities at FSY will support the experiences and use the learning resources that are already familiar to the youth, including:

- Scripture study.
- Family home evening and other family responsibilities.
- Priesthood preparation, service, and leadership in quorums and classes.
- General conference messages.
- Seminary.
- Standards found in *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011).
- The *Come, Follow Me* curriculum.
- Current resources for youth.
- Melchizedek Priesthood, temple, and mission preparation.
- *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2018).

IMPORTANT: As much as possible, adult leaders remain in the background, so young single adult leaders become the face of FSY. While youth are the primary audience of FSY, these young single adults who serve as FSY leaders are also blessed with meaningful opportunities to serve and gather with other young single adults from their area and to develop and share their gifts, talents, and testimonies of the gospel. Young single adult leaders are between 19 and 31 years old and are typically returned missionaries (especially the young adult men).

The role of stake presidents, bishops, and other leaders familiar to the youth is to support and promote the experience before and after FSY. We recommend that adult leaders do not attend the FSY conference unless they have received an assignment from the area leaders in connection with FSY. Experience has shown that the young single adults will teach, mentor, and lead more effectively and youth will also participate and share more if the few adult leaders needed remain in the background.

It is also recommended that all teaching be done following the interactive *Teaching in the Savior's Way* model rather than with a series of long talks by adult leaders.



Frequently Asked Questions

What Will Help Our FSY Be Successful?

As leaders give attention to the following guidelines, they will enhance the experience of youth and young adults at FSY and help them to deepen their testimonies of the gospel.

Priesthood Leadership

FSY is directed by priesthood leaders who can help ensure success as they:

- Call, set apart, and properly train exemplary FSY leaders, especially young single adult counselors, who become role models for the youth. A list of FSY callings and responsibilities is found on pages 12–20.
- Instill a vision of how YSAs can impact the lives of the youth. Priesthood leaders can achieve this by training and challenging YSAs and then “getting out of their way” and remaining in the background so the YSAs can perform their duties with the youth.
- Follow the established curriculum and adhere to the suggested schedule.
- Keep the number of adults and adult leaders (including the Area Seventy, stake presidents, bishops, and so on) at the conference to a minimum. YSAs often hesitate to lead out if there are too many adults at the conference. Ensure that the session directors are the only adults consistently visible to the youth. All other adults who are required to be at the session work in the background (not visible to the youth). Teachers come only for the day they are teaching and leave after they are finished.
- Allow YSAs to become the “face of the conference” to the youth. The youth identify with and respond well to the YSAs, which allows them to make desired changes.

Careful Planning

The FSY experience has been carefully constructed so that youth and young single adults have opportunities to experience spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development. The following elements of the program are key to your FSY’s success:

- Holding FSY at an appropriate venue, free from outside distractions and influences
- Fostering interaction between youth and young single adults
- Using the approved FSY curriculum
- Creating a learning environment
- Following the five-day FSY schedule

Establishing Relationships with Wards and Stakes

Area Seventies help stake and ward leaders of the participating units become familiar with FSY and train them in their important responsibilities both before and after the FSY conference.

- Stake and ward leaders prepare the youth spiritually for FSY by helping them live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
- Stake and ward leaders help parents understand how FSY can bless the youth.



- Stake and ward leaders continue the FSY experience by planning follow-up events and inviting youth to complete and report on goals they set at FSY.

How Do We Pay for FSY?

FSY is held under the direction of the Area Presidency. The Presidency of the Seventy, the Presiding Bishopric, and the Priesthood and Family Department are unified in their support of the following guidelines for funding FSY conferences. These guidelines are similar to those for other multistake youth conferences.

1. Participation in FSY conferences should not impose a financial burden on youth, young single adults, or their families. The lack of personal funds should not prevent any member from participating.
2. Areas should be self-sufficient in funding FSY and should adapt conference plans according to the local resources that are available (see pages 7–8 for adaptation guidelines). To that end, funding for conferences should not be requested through new and expanded budgets but should come from the following sources:

a. Local Unit Budget Allowance (LUBA)

The local unit budget allowance program provides general Church funds to pay for local unit costs, including youth conferences (see *Handbook 1: Stake Presidents and Bishops*, 14.7.2, ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

b. Participant Funds

Even when the local unit budget may be sufficient for the costs of FSY, leaders may ask participants to pay for part of the costs of attending the conference (see *Handbook 2*, 13.2.8). While the benefits of self-reliance are significant, leaders should ensure that all youth and young single adults have the opportunity to participate without unreasonable personal costs (see *Handbook 2*, 16.3.7).

c. Fund-Raising

Fund-raising activities are not usually approved. As an exception, a stake president or bishop may authorize one group fund-raising activity each year to help pay the cost of one annual camp or similar activity (see *Handbook 2*, 13.6.8).

3. When Church facilities are too small to accommodate the number of youth participating in FSY, **the area may use the area physical facilities budget with approval from the Presidency of the Seventy or Area Presidency to rent needed physical facilities. Such costs need to be anticipated well in advance and should be included with the annual physical facilities budget request** (see *Facilities Management Guidelines for Meetinghouses and Other Church Property* [2011], 8).

Where Do We Hold FSY?

When planning the location for FSY, leaders should first consider using available Church-owned facilities. When such facilities are not adequate, leaders should consider either (1) reducing the number of stakes participating in the conference or (2) renting facilities that can accommodate the event. Examples of venues that have been used by others include universities and colleges, recreational areas,



camps, and sports training centers. Leaders should consider the following guidelines while looking for possible facilities and adapt their plans as necessary.

Requirement	Use (descriptions of activities can be found in the staff handbook)	Number required for 300 youth and counselors	Number required for 700 youth and counselors	Number required for 900 youth and counselors	Number required for 1,000 youth and counselors
Beds (overnight sessions only) Beds should be arranged so that YSA counselors can supervise their own groups of 10-12 youth each night.		300	700	900	1,000
Showers (overnight sessions only) The number of showers each person takes during FSY and the length of each shower may need to be limited. Ensure adequate water supply and drainage capacity.		21	49	63	70
Toilets		15	35	45	50
Sinks		15	35	45	50
Site office	Staff meetings and administrative materials storage	1	1	1	1
Counselor group meeting places	Various daily activities	28 (1 counselor group per meeting place)	65 (1 counselor group per meeting place)	83 (1 counselor group per meeting place)	90 (1 counselor group per meeting place)
Company meeting places	Various daily activities	12 (2 or 3 counselor groups per meeting place)	28 (2 or 3 counselor groups per meeting place)	36 (2 or 3 counselor groups per meeting place)	40 (2 or 3 counselor groups per meeting place)
Auditorium large enough to accommodate all youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family home evening • Session-directing couple messages • Musical Program • <i>Preach My Gospel</i> Activity (half of participants) • Living Christ Activity • Variety Show 	1	1	1	1



Requirement	Use (descriptions of activities can be found in the staff handbook)	Number required for 300 youth and counselors	Number required for 700 youth and counselors	Number required for 900 youth and counselors	Number required for 1,000 youth and counselors
Cafeteria large enough to accommodate all youth	Mealtimes	1	1	1	1
Classrooms The number of classrooms will depend on the number of teachers and the number of rooms available at your session. Make sure there is a classroom for each teacher and that the classrooms' combined capacity is sufficient to accommodate all participants.	Classes	6 (50 people per room) OR 4 (75 people per room) OR other configuration	14 (50 people per room) OR 8 (88 people per room) OR other configuration	18 (50 people per room) OR 10 (90 people per room) OR other configuration	20 (50 people per room) OR 12 (84 people per room) OR other configuration
Ballroom or cultural hall large enough to accommodate all youth	Dances	1	1	1	1
Auditorium(s) or large classrooms each large enough to accommodate one-fourth of the youth (Half the youth will remain in the morningside room; the other half are divided into these two rooms to be taught by the coordinators.)	<i>Preach My Gospel</i> Activity	2	2	2	2
Auditorium(s) or large classroom(s) large enough to accommodate multiple companies	Sharing the Gospel Activity	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4
Large outdoor area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games Night • Cheer-Off 	1	1	1	1
Auditorium or large classroom large enough to accommodate half of the youth (The other half will remain in the morningside room.)	Living Christ Activity	1	1	1	1
Classrooms	Testimony meetings	5 (60 people per room)	12 (60 people per room)	15 (60 people per room)	17 (60 people per room)
Cultural hall or other indoor or outdoor area large enough to accommodate all participants	<i>For the Strength of Youth</i> Activity	1	1	1	1
Booths (see participant handbook, day 5)	<i>For the Strength of Youth</i> Activity	14 (21 people per booth)	28 (25 people per booth)	28 (32 people per booth)	34 (30 people per booth)



If accommodations for lodging all participants cannot be secured, leaders might consider holding a stay-at-home session, during which FSY is held at a local stake center and youth return to their own homes each evening.

What Materials Are Available for FSY?

The following materials are available on the FSY registration website, fsy.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. The global coordinators also have these materials and can arrange for them to be translated into local languages.

Areas wishing to host FSY should contact the global coordinators at least 18 months in advance of an FSY to request translation.

Conference Materials

- Handbooks
 - Planning Guide
 - Staff Handbook
 - Participant Handbook
- Posters
 - FSY Theme Poster
 - FSY Fillable Poster
- Participant Attire
 - Wristband
 - Participant T-shirt
 - Participant ID Badge and Lanyard
- Counselor Attire
 - Counselor Shirt
 - Counselor Name Tag

Videos

- Youth Theme Video
- Musical Program Video
- Promo Videos
 - Week in Preview
 - Musical Program Promo
 - Variety Show Promo
- Line Dance Videos

Music

- Youth Theme Song
- FSY Medley Conductor's Sheet Music—English only
- FSY Medley Rehearsal Track (with choir)—English only
- FSY Medley Performance Track (music only)
- Line Dance Music

Musical Program

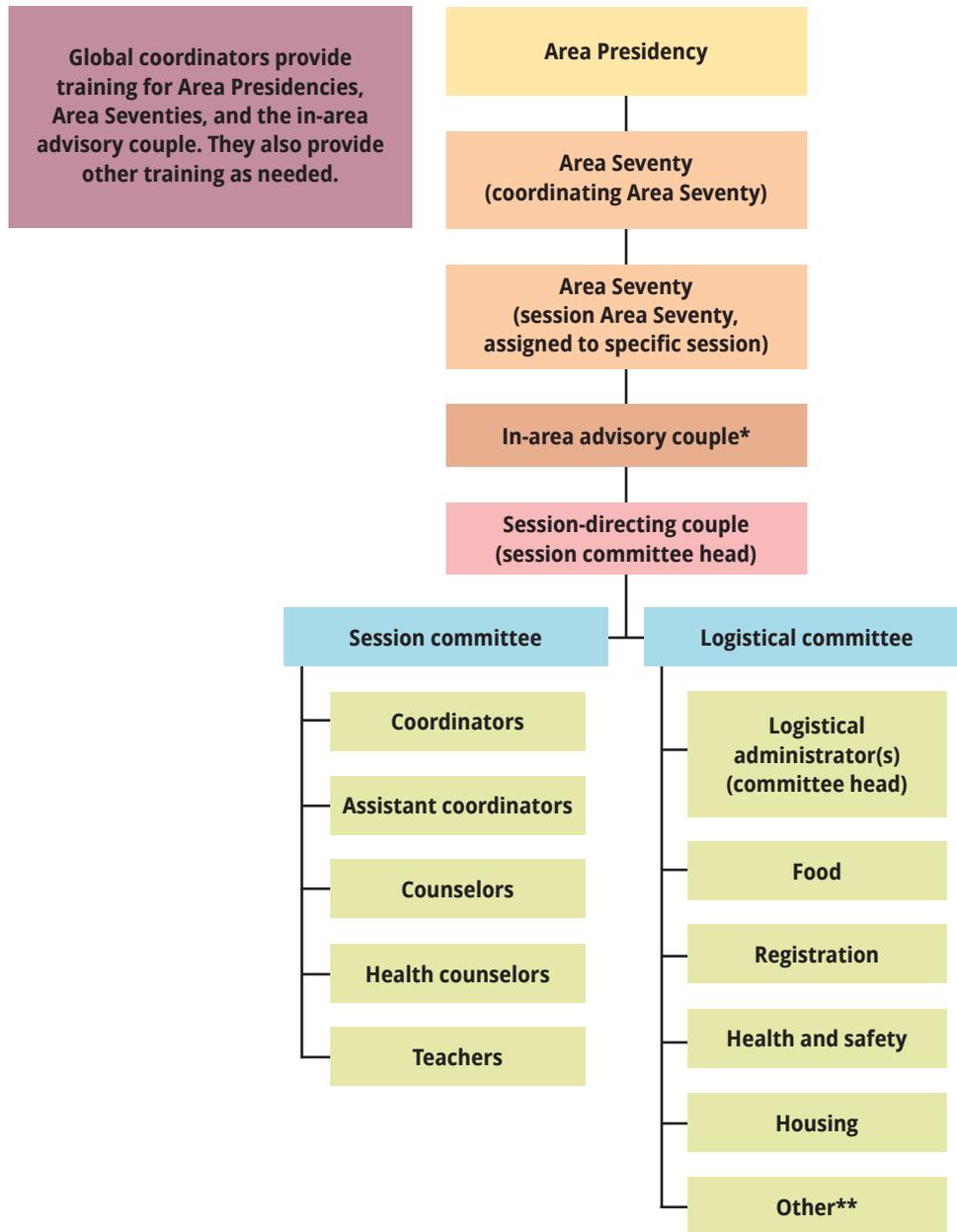
- Musical Program Video
- Musical Program Participant Script and Sheet Music
- Musical Program Conductor's Score—English only
- Musical Program Rehearsal Tracks (with choir)—English only
- Musical Program Rehearsal Tracks (music only)



How Is FSY Organized?

The following charts illustrate the recommended organization of roles for FSY.

Descriptions of each role are found on pages 12–20.

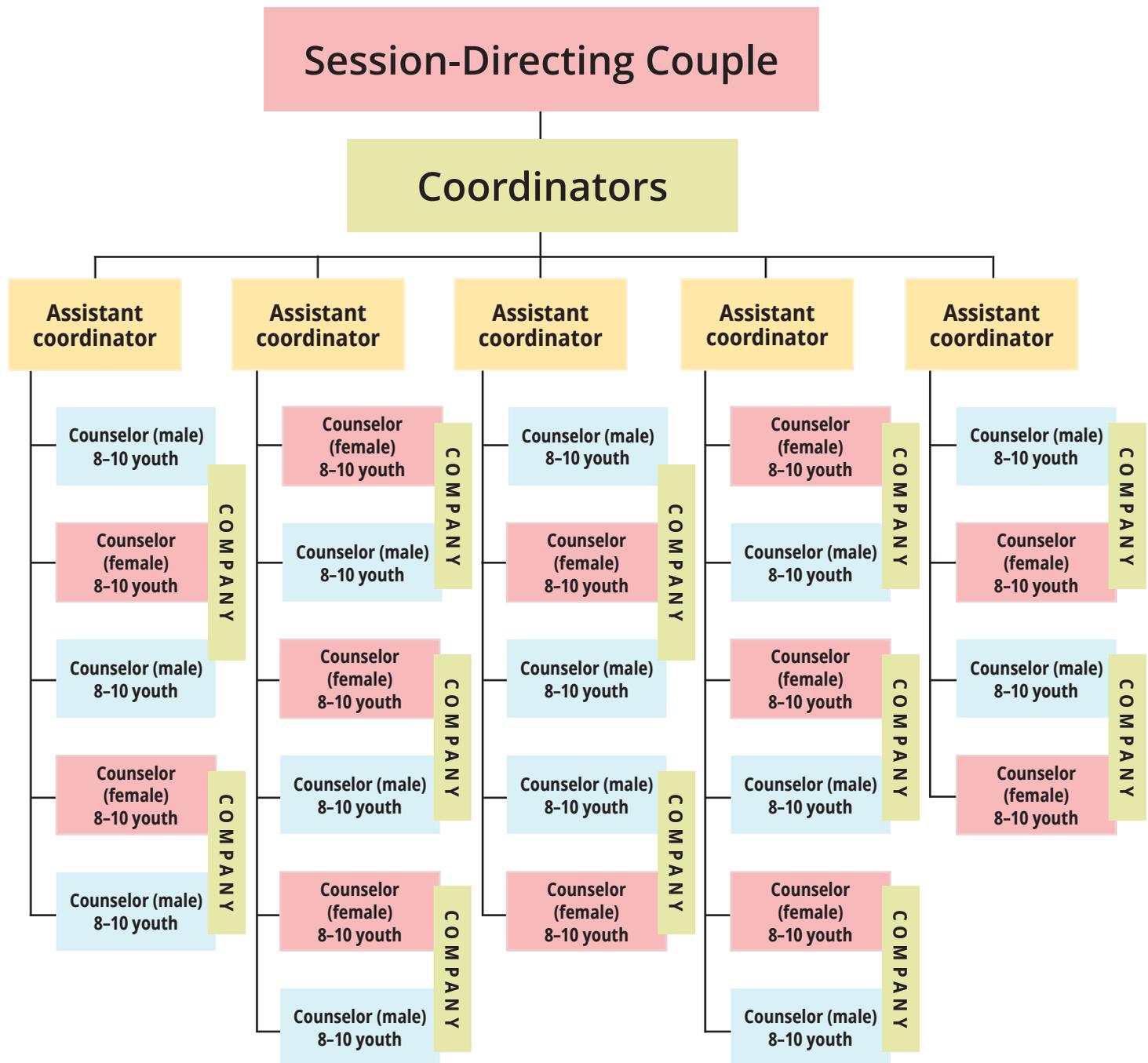


*** The in-area advisory couple provides training and support for the Area Seventies and committees and submits a report to Church headquarters following FSY.**

*** For more information about “other” responsibilities of the logistical committee, see pages 17–20.*



To accomplish the purposes of FSY, each young single adult counselor is responsible for a counselor group of at least 8 youth, but never more than 10, of his or her own gender. For various joint activities, companies are made up of preferably two but sometimes three counselor groups. Each company should include at least one male and one female counselor group. A young adult serving as an assistant coordinator should oversee all the counselors in a company. This chart illustrates a possible organization of the counselor groups and companies.





What Are Our Roles and Responsibilities?

Area Leadership

AREA PRESIDENCY

The Area Presidency members provide the priesthood direction for FSY but are not required to personally be involved unless they wish.

Responsibilities:

1. Decide whether the area will hold an FSY.
2. Assign an Area Seventy to serve as the coordinating Area Seventy over FSY.
3. Identify, call, and set apart an in-area advisory couple (see page 13).
4. If there is more than one session, assign a session Area Seventy to be over each session (see page 10).
5. Budget finances for FSY sessions within their area with the assistance of the coordinating Area Seventy.
6. Approve an appropriate location for FSY that is central to the youth population.

GLOBAL COORDINATORS

The Priesthood and Family Department at Church headquarters provides a Church-service missionary couple who serve as FSY global coordinators. Area Presidencies, Area Seventies, and in-area advisory couples are invited to contact them whenever the need arises. They can best be contacted by email at fsy@ChurchofJesusChrist.org or by telephone at 1-801-240-8644.

1. The global coordinators communicate between areas and Church headquarters about:
 - a. Curriculum, including the theme for the coming year.
 - b. Program information and details.
 - c. Training for leaders.
 - d. Publicity and conference materials.
 - e. Translation of materials.
2. The global coordinators provide support for areas' questions.

COORDINATING AREA SEVENTY

One Area Seventy is assigned to serve as coordinating Area Seventy under the direction of the Area Presidency. He provides priesthood oversight and direction for all FSY sessions in the area.

Responsibilities:

1. Give support and direction to Area Seventies over each session.
2. Determine a participation schedule for stakes and wards, which includes an appropriate number of youth who will attend each session.



3. Assist the Area Presidency in budgeting finances and locating appropriate venues for each FSY session.
4. Make sure that the session Area Seventies and the in-area advisory couple receive training. Global coordinators may assist as needed.
5. Confirm translation needs for materials with the global coordinators.
6. Provide regular reports to a member of the Area Presidency as requested, which may include information on the planning, logistics, and success of the FSY conference.

IN-AREA ADVISORY COUPLE

An in-area advisory couple is called and set apart to advise and support priesthood leaders in the preparations of all FSY sessions in the area under the direction of the coordinating Area Seventy. Because this is a technical role, they often serve for at least two years.

Responsibilities:

1. Report to the FSY coordinating Area Seventy.
2. Receive training from area leaders with support from the global coordinators.
3. For each session, participate in training the following: a session-directing couple, logistical administrators, and two young single adult coordinators. When needed, support the training of assistant coordinators and counselors.
4. Coordinate the sharing of information and materials among sessions in their area.
5. At the conclusion of all area sessions, submit a report to the global coordinators with the following information:
 - a. Total number of youth attending the FSY conference
 - b. Total number of YSAs involved as coordinators, assistant coordinators, and counselors
 - c. Total number of sessions held in their area
 - d. A few testimonials from the youth and/or YSAs

Session Leadership

SESSION AREA SEVENTY

Area Seventies are assigned to provide priesthood direction for one or more FSY sessions. A session Area Seventy serves under the direction of the coordinating Area Seventy.

Responsibilities:

1. Report to the FSY coordinating Area Seventy.
2. Receive training from the global coordinators.



3. Identify, interview, call, and set apart all FSY leaders for the session(s) to which he is assigned. As needed, stake and district presidents may help interview, call, and set apart young single adults to serve as counselors and assistant coordinators.
4. Oversee the work of the session committee (see pages 14–17) and logistical committee (see pages 17–20) for the session(s) to which he is assigned.
5. Determine possible dates for the session(s), and direct the reservation of a suitable venue.
6. Facilitate training of all staff (see pages 24–27).
7. Provide priesthood direction to the presidents of the stakes and districts participating in FSY to ensure that local leaders, parents, and youth become familiar with the FSY program and prepare for the event. Make sure all participants understand that they are expected to live the standards found in *For the Strength of Youth*. Also help bishoprics and branch presidencies to extend the benefit and spirit of FSY beyond the conference and encourage the youth to achieve their goals.
8. Attend assigned session(s) to support and help the session-directing couple(s).

To plan and execute an FSY session, two local committees are formed under the direction of the session Area Seventy. The session committee's primary responsibility is to facilitate and share powerful interactions with the youth, whereas the logistical committee's role is to coordinate the various technical aspects of the FSY session. In general, the logistical committee will do much of its work *before* the session begins and will be in the background during the session, whereas the session committee is responsible for leadership *during* the session. The heads of these two committees work closely together to ensure that all needs are being met.

SESSION COMMITTEE

Session-Directing Couple

Under the direction of the session Area Seventy, the session-directing couple heads the session committee and has responsibility for the spiritual leadership of an FSY session. This husband and wife will spend the entire week at the conference with the youth and young adult counselors. They will be role models for the youth and young adult leaders through formal teaching opportunities every day, as well as countless informal teaching moments. This couple is an integral part of the week and should be exemplary.

The session-directing couple should:

1. Demonstrate strong testimonies of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost through their obedience and faithfulness to temple covenants.
2. Enjoy being with each other and with the youth and interact in a fun, wholesome, and uplifting way.
3. Relate to the youth in a way that allows effective teaching, not lecturing.
4. Be good public speakers—both spouses will spend equal time speaking in front of a large group.
5. Counsel together with the logistical administrators and coordinators to determine possible teachers and submit names to the Area Seventy for approval.



6. Write an enthusiastic, welcoming message on the registration tool and post a couple photo that the youth will see when they register.

Coordinators

Coordinators are young single adults who have exceptional leadership abilities. The coordinators are responsible for carrying out logistical plans once the session begins, making sure all activities run smoothly, effectively, and on time. Coordinators will require the most training and involvement because they must be completely familiar with the FSY curriculum, agenda, and so on. They lead and help train all other young adult leaders.

Each session should have two coordinators—one male and one female. The coordinators are assisted by assistant coordinators (see the following section).

A coordinator should:

1. Be a returned missionary (required for males; desired for females).
2. Be at least 19 years of age and spiritually mature.
3. Demonstrate a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ through temple worthiness and Church service.
4. Have organizational and leadership skills and communicate kindly even under pressure.

Assistant Coordinators

Assistant coordinators are young single adults who assist the coordinators in their responsibilities. Assistant coordinators must know the details of the FSY organization and schedule in order to help the activities run smoothly, efficiently, and effectively. With the help of assigned counselors, they oversee one or more of the following FSY activities, as described in the FSY staff handbook:

1. Check-in and checkout (staff handbook, page 46)
2. Dance instruction (staff handbook, pages 47–48)
3. Dances (staff handbook, pages 48–49)
4. Sharing the Gospel Activity (staff handbook, pages 49–50)
5. Banner and cheer preparation (staff handbook, page 51)
6. Games Night (staff handbook, pages 51–52)
7. The Living Christ Activity (staff handbook, page 53)
8. Variety Show (staff handbook, pages 53–55)
9. Musical Program (staff handbook, pages 55–56)
10. *For the Strength of Youth* Activity (staff handbook, page 57)
11. Service activity (staff handbook, pages 57–58)
12. Slide show (staff handbook, pages 58–61)

Each assistant coordinator also supports the counselors in one to three companies. Assistant coordinators are responsible to assist the counselors, helping them maintain their personal well-being and



fulfill their duties. They may also observe and give suggestions to counselors in order to help them be more effective.

Each session should have approximately one assistant coordinator for every two companies, but no fewer than eight assistant coordinators total.

There does not have to be an equal number of male and female assistant coordinators. Assistant coordinators support each other in their assignments, and those who lead more time-intensive activities may oversee fewer counselors. An assistant coordinator should:

1. Be a returned missionary (required for males; desired for females).
2. Be at least 19 years of age and spiritually mature.
3. Demonstrate a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ through temple worthiness and Church service.
4. Receive instructions and directions positively and cheerfully.
5. Be dependable, self-motivated, and detail-oriented, while not seeking recognition.

Counselors

Counselors are key to the success of FSY. Through their examples, leadership, and teaching, counselors follow the Savior's call to "hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do" (3 Nephi 18:24). Each counselor oversees a counselor group of 8 to 10 youth and is with the youth full-time. A counselor should:

1. Be a returned missionary (required for males; desired for females).
2. Be at least 19 years of age and spiritually mature.
3. Demonstrate a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ through temple worthiness and Church service.
4. Be fun, loving, enthusiastic about life, and slow to anger.
5. Teach and relate to the youth through the guidance of the Spirit.

Health Counselors

Health and safety are the responsibility of everyone who attends FSY. Additionally, at least one health counselor should be called for each FSY session. For sessions with more than 300 participants, one additional health counselor should be called for every additional 200 participants. Health counselors should have records of all participants and their medical needs. Except in cases of extreme emergency, all illnesses and health-related concerns should be directed to the health counselors first rather than to emergency services. Health counselors supervise any on-site medical treatment of participants and should counsel with the session-directing couple and coordinators to determine when and if a participant needs to return home for health-related reasons.

Health counselors should:

1. Demonstrate a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ through temple worthiness and Church service, where possible.
2. Have appropriate medical training.



3. Work closely with the health and safety administrator to prepare all safety and emergency information prior to beginning FSY.
4. Have organizational and leadership skills and communicate kindly even under pressure.

Teachers

Under the direction of the session-directing couple, FSY teachers provide a large portion of the spiritual balance in the week. Their responsibility is to teach 50-minute class periods on assigned gospel topics and principles. Depending on the location, FSY teachers normally arrive shortly before their classes and return home soon after their classes. They will not be involved in other activities.

An FSY teacher should:

1. Demonstrate a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ through obedience and faithfulness to temple covenants.
2. Receive ecclesiastical clearance from his or her bishop or branch president.
3. Love being with the youth and interact in outgoing and friendly ways.
4. Teach from the scriptures and the words of living prophets and promote class discussions without lecturing, reading from a manual, or mistaking entertainment for teaching.
5. Submit their lesson outlines to the session Area Seventy for approval.

LOGISTICAL COMMITTEE

Under the direction of the session Area Seventy, the logistical committee coordinates various logistical aspects of FSY, many of them before the session begins. With the exception of the logistical administrator(s), most committee members do not have responsibilities during FSY and will not stay throughout FSY. The following assignments are recommended, and other administrators may be called as needed.

Logistical Administrator(s)

Logistical administrator(s) may be either a married couple or a single adult member. They serve as head of the logistical committee. The logistical administrator(s) should attend the conference, if possible. A logistical administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Organize and oversee the logistical committee's work before the session begins.
3. Work with the session-directing couple and young single adult coordinators to prepare and set up the venue prior to FSY and to take it down after FSY.
4. Determine which committee roles are necessary to plan the FSY session, and recommend individuals or couples to be called to serve on the logistical committee. They may adjust the following committee assignments as necessary.



Facilities Administrator

Often the facilities administrator's responsibilities are assigned to the logistical administrator(s). The facilities administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Locate an appropriate place for FSY that will provide adequate space for large and small group gatherings, meals, sleeping facilities, recreational events, and so on (see venue guidelines on pages 7–8).
3. Seek approval through the session Area Seventy for this location.
4. Designate locations for each activity during the FSY (see venue guidelines on pages 7–8).
5. Meet with the venue personnel before the session to review site rules and policies and to identify facilities available for inclement weather.

Food Administrator

The food administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Prepare a food budget and coordinate meal preparation for the conference, including purchasing and preparing food or organizing catering for meals.
3. Meet with the venue personnel before the session to clarify procedures for meals and, if needed, meal tickets.
4. Ensure that arrangements are made for Favorite Food Night (see staff handbook, page 135).
5. Arrange for food for leaders and counselors for the weekend before the conference begins.

Registration Administrator

The registration administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Become familiar with the online FSY registration website, fsy.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. This site complies with Church data privacy policies and is the approved resource to register participants and staff for FSY.
3. Maintain a complete list of all youth who are registered for FSY, and provide registration counts to all members of the logistical committee.
4. Ensure that all registered youth have signed an agreement that they will live the standards outlined in *For the Strength of Youth*. See that all parents have read and signed a Release to Use Image form, which gives the Church permission to use photos and videos of their son or daughter in Church material.
5. Ensure that all registered youth have been approved to attend by their bishop or branch president.



6. Prayerfully assign participants and staff to counselor groups and companies. The registration website makes an initial effort to create these assignments.
7. Train and assist local leaders in the registration process.

Publicity Administrator

The publicity administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Organize and distribute the publicity materials for the conference.
3. With the approval of local priesthood leaders, organize devotionals and other activities within local units to explain the conference and inspire participants, parents, and branch or ward youth leaders.
4. As assigned, post information about the FSY session on the registration website, fsy.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. The functions of the registration website remove the need to create any additional website or blog for FSY.
5. If local priesthood leaders approve the creation of social media accounts for individual sessions of FSY, follow Church guidelines about social media, which include publicly posting the name of the account manager, posting Church-owned media only if authorized by the Church, posting photographs of individuals only with their consent, actively moderating the account to ensure that inappropriate content is promptly removed, not using or imitating the Church logo, and not claiming to officially represent the Church (see *Handbook 2*, 21.1.22). If an area office creates or already manages any social media account for FSY, the area office should contact the global coordinators to obtain information about approval for that account.
6. As requested by the session Area Seventy, plan and publicize follow-up events and activities.

Financial Administrator

The financial administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Determine a budget for each aspect of FSY, such as facilities, food, accommodations, and equipment rental.
3. Work with local unit leaders to collect, as applicable, participant fees and unit assessments.
4. Work with the area office or an agent stake to track monies and pay expenses for FSY.
5. Summarize and account for all monies at the end of FSY.

Staff Administrator

The staff administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Ensure that a sufficient number of qualified counselors and assistant coordinators have been called and set apart for FSY, and provide staff counts to all members of the logistical committee.
3. Ensure that all registered young single adults have signed an agreement that they will live the standards outlined in *For the Strength of Youth*. See that they have also read and signed a Release



to Use Image form, which gives the Church permission to use their photos and videos in Church material.

4. Confirm travel plans and housing arrangements for teachers and any other leaders who may be arriving during the conference.

Health and Safety Administrator

The health and safety administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Ensure that health-related documentation is gathered for each of the participants, such as health histories that include allergy information, health insurance information, information regarding special health or physical needs, and so on.
3. Ensure that an adequate number of trained health counselors are called and set apart and that medical supplies are available for FSY.
4. Deliver participant health information to the health counselors before the beginning of the session.
5. Work closely with the health counselors to ensure that facilities are safe and emergency equipment is available.
6. With the health counselors, locate the nearest emergency facilities and collect appropriate contact information.

Materials Administrator

The materials administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. See that needed materials (such as audiovisual equipment, easels, projectors, electrical setups, microphones, handouts, and paper materials) are available for the teachers and session-directing couple.
3. Arrange the printing and distribution of FSY materials to participants and staff (see fsv.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

Housing Administrator

The housing administrator should:

1. Be an active, worthy member of the Church.
2. Prayerfully organize and assign each participant and staff member to housing according to their companies.
3. Coordinate with the venue staff to provide room keys as needed, and ensure that check-in and checkout procedures are understood and followed.
4. Arrange housing for leaders and counselors who will be on-site the weekend before the conference begins.

Other administrators may be added as needed (for example, a transportation administrator).



Suggested Timeline

14 months before the conference

- The Area Presidency calls an Area Seventy to be the FSY coordinating Area Seventy (see pages 12–13).
- The coordinating Area Seventy calls and sets apart a couple as the in-area advisory couple to oversee FSY sessions in that area (see page 13).
- The coordinating Area Seventy assigns a session Area Seventy as the director for each session (see pages 13–14).
- The session Area Seventy calls and sets apart a session-directing couple for each session (see pages 14–15).
- The session Area Seventy calls and sets apart logistical administrator(s) and logistical committee members for each session (see pages 17–20).

13 months

- The coordinating Area Seventy determines which stakes and districts will participate in each session and the approximate number of youth who will attend from those stakes and districts.
- The Area Presidency and coordinating Area Seventy budget finances for area FSY sessions, making sure to include all youth (see guidelines on page 6).
- The session Area Seventy determines possible dates for his session(s).
- Under the direction of the session Area Seventy, the facilities administrator locates and reserves a suitable venue.
- The session Area Seventy confirms that all stakes and districts involved have FSY on their calendars.
- The coordinating Area Seventy determines translation needs for materials and informs the global coordinators.
- The coordinating Area Seventy schedules training for all adult leaders (session Area Seventies, the in-area advisory couple, session-directing couples, and logistical administrators) and, as soon as possible, the young adult coordinators (see pages 24–27 for training information).

11 months

- The session Area Seventy works closely with local priesthood leaders to call and set apart two young single adult coordinators for each session (see page 15).
- The session Area Seventy trains stake and district presidencies, bishoprics, and branch presidencies. He may work with the publicity administrator to coordinate this training.

9 months

- The session Area Seventy calls and sets apart young single adult assistant coordinators (see pages 15–16).



- The session Area Seventy schedules additional training for coordinators, assistant coordinators, logistical administrators, and the session-directing couple to be taught by the Area Seventies and in-area advisory couple, with the support of the global coordinators as needed.
- The materials administrator determines the materials needed for the conference (T-shirts, lanyards, handbooks, and so on).
- The publicity administrator sets up session information at fsy.ChurchofJesusChrist.org and sends out posters to advertise FSY.

6 months

- The session Area Seventy calls and sets apart young single adult counselors (see page 16) and health counselors (see pages 16–17), or he delegates a bishop or stake president to do so.
- The session-directing couple invites teachers to participate (see page 17).
- Under the direction of the session Area Seventy, FSY leaders begin training counselors, using “Training Topics for Young Adults” (pages 25–27).
- The registration administrator opens registration for youth participants.
- The food administrator determines food arrangements.

4 months

- The registration administrator determines a firm number of youth who will participate in the conference.
- The session Area Seventy begins holding informational, inspirational devotionals for parents, youth, and ward or branch youth leaders. Publicity administrators may assist in coordinating these devotionals.
- Local priesthood leaders help to prepare youth for the conference (see appendix on pages 30–32).
- FSY leaders continue counselor training.
- The materials administrator finalizes and arranges for the printing of needed materials.

2 months

- FSY leaders continue counselor training.
- The session Area Seventy holds a telephone conference with teachers.
- Local priesthood leaders continue youth preparation in wards, branches, stakes, and districts, including topics such as dress and grooming standards, fasting, scripture study, and service.
- The materials administrator begins receiving printed materials from local vendors.

1 month

- Local priesthood leaders continue youth preparation.
- FSY leaders complete counselor training (see pages 25–27).
- The staff administrator verifies that all leaders involved have been set apart by a priesthood leader.

**Following the FSY session**

- During the months following FSY, local priesthood leaders help their youth to build on their testimonies, feelings, and experiences from FSY. Priesthood leaders could invite the youth to share their experiences with family, friends, and other youth in devotionals, activities, Sunday class and quorum meetings, and elsewhere (see appendix on pages 30–32).
- The session-directing couple submits a report to the in-area advisory couple which includes:
 - The total number of youth attending the FSY conference.
 - The total number of YSAs involved as coordinators, assistant coordinators, and counselors.
 - The total number of sessions held in the area.
 - A few testimonials from youth and/or YSAs.
- The in-area advisory couple submits a summary report to the global coordinators.



Training

FSY Global Coordinators

The global coordinators are available to provide training for FSY. They can arrange training by telephone or videoconference. The global coordinators can train in person if FSY leaders travel to Salt Lake City, or areas may arrange to bring the global coordinators to the area for training. Contact the global coordinators at fsy@ChurchofJesusChrist.org for details.

Area FSY Training

The following topics for FSY training are offered as a suggestion and may be modified as needed to address needs and circumstances in the area. It is generally helpful to include training on the principles and procedures that give purpose, meaning, and basic understanding to the FSY program, and it is also helpful to prepare the leaders first, then the young adult counselors and assistant coordinators. Trainings should be held for leaders, young adult counselors, and assistant coordinators to provide a basic understanding of the purpose, principles, and procedures of the FSY program. The following suggested training topics may be modified as needed to address the needs and circumstances in the area.

Training Topics for All FSY Leaders

1. The purpose of FSY is to deepen young people's conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. This purpose is accomplished by creating a climate of revelation in which all participants can be taught by the Spirit.
2. The following elements will help FSY be a success (see also pages 5–6):
 - Area Presidencies and Area Seventies train stake presidents, bishops, and auxiliary leaders well in advance of their sessions regarding *For the Strength of Youth* standards and expectations and young adult temple worthiness. Local leaders then prepare youth, parents, and young adults.
 - The youth are able to spend five to six days away from home.
 - The conference takes place in a venue that is conducive to the Spirit, where outside influences can be controlled or limited.
 - Worthy, spiritually mature young adults participate as coordinators, assistant coordinators, and counselors.
 - Leaders follow the FSY guidelines for curriculum and scheduling.
 - A limited number of adult leaders are present—only session-directing couples, the session Area Seventy, and teachers (only during the day they teach) are visible to the participants. Once adults complete their assignment at FSY, they should not stay at the FSY venue.
 - All participants live the *For the Strength of Youth* standards during the conference.



3. Help leaders become familiar with the FSY schedule by reviewing each day's schedule, teaching the purpose of each activity, and giving leaders opportunities to practice how to fulfill the purpose of each activity.

Nothing can enhance FSY more than having leaders who are prepared to be instruments in the hands of the Lord. Leaders might consider doing the following:

- After being called and set apart, take time to record the promises and counsel from the blessing.
- Seek personal revelation regarding assignments and responsibilities through prayer, scripture study, temple attendance, and fasting.
- Prepare to teach the doctrine using the scriptures, general conference talks, *Preach My Gospel*, and the *Come, Follow Me* curriculum.
- Study the FSY staff handbook thoroughly.
- Prepare financially. Although serving as a leader at FSY may be a financial sacrifice, the experiences and blessings that will come from accepting and magnifying this calling will be priceless.

Training Topics for Stake, District, Ward, and Branch Leaders

1. Roles of local priesthood leaders, including:
 - Teaching and preparing parents and youth about the FSY conferences
 - Conducting interviews with youth
 - Completing registrations and approving youth to participate at fsy.ChurchofJesusChrist.org
 - Determining ways to follow through with the youth after FSY
 - Setting high standards and asking the youth to follow the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*

For more ideas, see appendix on pages 30–32.

2. Calling and setting apart worthy leaders, including spiritually mature young single adult counselors, under the direction of the session Area Seventy

Training Topics for Young Adults

Because of the significant impact that young single adult counselors have on the youth attending FSY, the most experienced leaders should give special attention to training them. The session Area Seventy, in-area advisory couple, session-directing couple, and coordinators could be invited to participate in the training. Training will be most successful if each person attending the training is involved and understands his or her role.

The training of young single adult counselors should begin as soon as they are called or at least six months before FSY begins. It is often helpful to divide the training into three parts or sessions, which



can be completed over a period of days or weeks, as described below. In areas where distance is a concern, training may be provided through other means such as videoconferencing, email, or telephone.

PART 1: COME UNTO CHRIST

During the first phase of training, concentrate on helping the counselors gain a vision of how they can “come unto Christ” (Moroni 10:32) and help youth do the same. The goal is not just to get youth to attend FSY but to help them become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They will then manifest their conversion by living worthy to enter the temple and make covenants; participating in missionary work; becoming worthy husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers in the future; and building the kingdom throughout their lives.

During the training sessions:

- a. Use FSY get-acquainted games, cheers, line dances, and other activities to help teach and inspire the young single adult counselors.
- b. Study and ponder the scriptures, including 2 Kings 6:8–17; 2 Timothy 3:14–16; Doctrine and Covenants 64:29–34; 84:85, 106.
- c. Study and ponder recent general conference talks, especially those given by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles that relate to service, youth, the annual youth theme, or coming unto Christ.
- d. As a follow-up to the training, consider holding a fast for guidance and inspiration as young single adult counselors prepare for FSY and anticipate questions the youth may ask. Suggest that the young adults study the following scriptures: Isaiah 58:6; Mark 9:29; Luke 18:9–14; Alma 5:46; 6:6; 17:2; Helaman 3:35; 3 Nephi 27:1.

PART 2: ATTEND THE TEMPLE AND STUDY THE GOSPEL

Where possible, meet together as FSY leaders to attend the temple and to share testimonies, insights, and ideas to help each other with specific assignments. Encourage those who are not endowed to perform baptisms for the dead. In addition, consider doing the following:

- a. Read and discuss together Moroni 10:32; Doctrine and Covenants 76:22–23; 128:15, 18; 138.
- b. Study “Lesson 2: The Plan of Salvation” in *Preach My Gospel* (pages 47–60), and discuss how you have been blessed by the Savior’s atoning sacrifice.
- c. Where it is not possible to meet together, prepare individually.



PART 3: LEARN THE FSY HANDBOOKS

This training phase may be divided into two or more sections as needed. Mix in FSY games, cheers, line dances, and so forth with the training. Focus on becoming familiar with:

- The FSY staff and participant handbooks.
- This guide (*FSY Planning Guide*), especially the job description and assignments of each leader.
- The day-to-day schedule and who is responsible for each activity.
- The FSY games and how to relate the games to gospel principles.

Methods for Training Counselors

The following methods have proven effective in training young adults:

1. Role-playing or acting out specific scenarios for counselors or assistant coordinators to handle. Scenarios could include:
 - Participants not paying attention during a devotional.
 - A participant not wanting to participate in the Cheer-Off.
 - A participant wanting to leave FSY and return home.
 - A counselor not keeping on schedule for quiet time and lights out.
 - Other situations where young adults can practice lovingly correcting inappropriate behavior.
 - Situations in which assistant coordinators can assist counselors.
2. Discuss ideas for counselors to use in:
 - Welcoming the youth and getting to know them.
 - Reflect and Review.
 - Discerning when or if a youth needs special help or correction.
 - Disciplining with love, as necessary.
 - Demonstrating the joy of living the gospel.
3. Practice and prepare to teach from the scriptures and the words of living prophets. Important skills include:
 - Asking effective questions and getting everyone involved.
 - Sharing scriptures, testimony, stories, and quotes.
 - Using object lessons and demonstrations.
4. Breakout sessions. Break into smaller groups to explore specific roles, responsibilities, and assignments. Groups could be divided by their role (counselor, assistant coordinator, and so on) or by assignment (Musical Program, Variety Show, and so on).
5. Panel discussion with the session Area Seventy (if possible) and the session-directing couple:
 - Give young single adults opportunities to ask questions about their callings and about working with the youth.
 - Discuss questions that the youth might ask.



Sample Weekly Agenda

Pre-session

7:00–8:00 p.m.	Session-directing couple devotional
8:15–8:45 p.m.	Assistant coordinator and counselor introductions, goal setting, and questions
8:45–9:45 p.m.	Counselor mingle, receive group assignments
10:00 p.m.	Lights out

Day 1

7:45–8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30–9:00 a.m.	Business meeting
9:15–10:45 a.m.	Orientation practice
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Check-in
1:15–2:15 p.m.	Meet Your Counselor
2:15–3:15 p.m.	Meet Your Company
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Orientation
4:45–5:45 p.m.	Dinner
6:00–7:00 p.m.	Session-directing couple family home evening message
7:30–9:00 p.m.	Family home evening activities and goal setting
9:15–9:45 p.m.	Reflect and Review
9:45–10:30 p.m.	Quiet time (journal, personal scripture study, prepare for bed)
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

Day 2

7:00–7:15 a.m.	Participant morning devotional
7:15–8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15–9:15 a.m.	Gospel study
9:30–10:20 a.m.	Session-directing couple morningside
10:30–11:20 a.m.	Classes
11:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.	Classes
12:30–1:20 p.m.	Lunch, Musical Program rehearsal
1:30–2:20 p.m.	Classes
2:30–3:20 p.m.	Classes
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Variety Show tryouts, Musical Program rehearsal, and free time
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00–6:30 p.m.	Meet with your company, dance etiquette
6:30–9:00 p.m.	Dance
9:15–9:45 p.m.	Reflect and Review
9:45–10:30 p.m.	Quiet time (journal, personal scripture study, prepare for bed)
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

Day 3

7:00–7:15 a.m.	Participant morning devotional
7:15–8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15–9:15 a.m.	Gospel study
9:30–10:20 a.m.	Session-directing couple morningside
10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.	<i>Preach My Gospel</i> Activity
12:30–1:20 p.m.	Lunch, Musical Program rehearsal
1:30–3:20 p.m.	Sharing the Gospel Activity



3:30–4:30 p.m.	Musical Program rehearsal or free time
3:30–6:00 p.m.	Variety Show tryouts
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00–6:30 p.m.	Banner and cheer preparation
6:30–8:45 p.m.	Games Night and Cheer-Off
9:00–9:30 p.m.	Favorite Food Night
9:30–10:00 p.m.	Reflect and Review
10:00–10:30 p.m.	Quiet time (journal, personal scripture study, prepare for bed)
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

Day 4

7:00–7:15 a.m.	Participant morning devotional
7:15–8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15–9:15 a.m.	Gospel study
9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Living Christ Activity
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Lunch, dress rehearsal for Variety Show
2:00–3:15 p.m.	Variety Show
3:15–4:30 p.m.	Free time
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Musical Program dress rehearsal
4:30–6:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00–6:15 p.m.	Invitation to reverence and testimony tips
6:30–8:00 p.m.	Musical Program and devotional
8:15–9:15 p.m.	Testimony meetings
9:30–10:00 p.m.	Reflect and Review
10:00–10:30 p.m.	Quiet time (journal, personal scripture study, prepare for bed)
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

Day 5

7:00–7:15 a.m.	Participant morning devotional
7:15–8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15–9:15 a.m.	Gospel study
9:15–10:10 a.m.	Company Reflect and Review
10:20–10:50 a.m.	Session-directing couple morningside
11:00 a.m.–12:20 p.m.	<i>For the Strength of Youth</i> Activity
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30–4:00 p.m.	Service activity
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Free time, dinner, pictures
6:00 p.m.	Meet with company
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Dance
8:00–8:15 p.m.	Slide show
8:15–9:00 p.m.	Taking It Home
9:15–10:10 p.m.	Reflect and Review
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

Day 6

6:30–7:30 a.m.	Participant checkout
8:00–8:30 a.m.	Wrap-up meeting
8:30–9:30 a.m.	Breakfast (FSY staff only)



Appendix: Sample Letter and Attachment for Local Priesthood Leaders

Local priesthood leaders are essential to the success of FSY. You might consider using a letter similar to the following sample to help them understand their role in ensuring that youth and young adults have a testimony-building experience at FSY.

Date:

To: Stake, District, and Mission Presidencies; Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies

Dear Brethren:

In preparation for our upcoming For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help make FSY a testimony-building experience for your youth. Your involvement before, during, and after FSY is essential to its success.

You might consider the following (more details are enclosed):

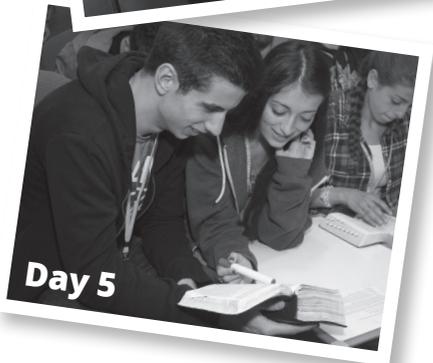
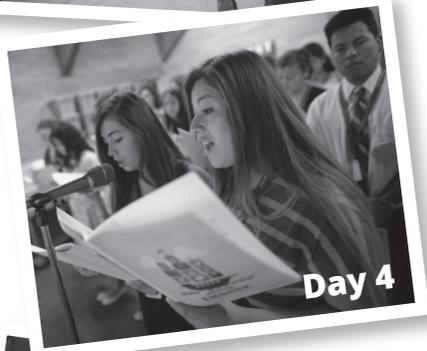
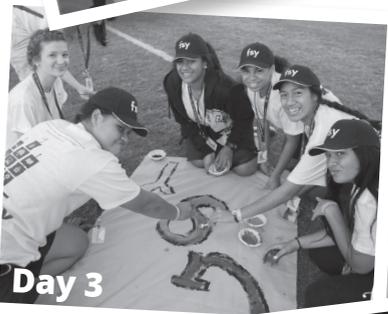
1. During interviews, activities, and other teaching opportunities, help the youth prepare for FSY. Encourage them to attend the conference, and teach them the standards they will be expected to live (the same standards that are described in *For the Strength of Youth*). Encourage the youth to set personal goals for spiritual growth as they attend FSY.
2. During FSY, help parents and other family members share in the experiences their youth and young adults are having. They can do this by setting and working on personal and family goals related to FSY experiences.
3. After FSY, give the youth opportunities to share their experiences and continue to grow spiritually. Ask them about the goals they have set, and offer support as they work to achieve them. Encourage youth leaders to plan activities that follow up on and reinforce the experiences the youth had at FSY. Encourage the youth to strengthen their families by sharing these experiences in their homes and by teaching family home evening lessons.

Thank you for your diligent efforts to strengthen your youth. May the Lord bless you and inspire you in His great work.

Sincerely,

Area Presidency or Area Seventy

Enclosure



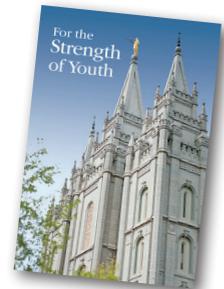
FSY

Youth in our area are participating in a For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference. The FSY, which is based on the annual youth theme, will bring youth from throughout the area together over six days, where they and their young adult counselors can be strengthened in their efforts to come unto Christ.

Local leaders are key to the success of FSY. Their role is essential before, during, and after the conference.

Before FSY, local leaders might:

- Show enthusiasm and support for FSY.
- Invite area youth between the ages of 14 and 18 years to attend. (Youth who will turn 14 years old during the FSY session year may attend with parental and Area Presidency permission.) Prayerfully consider who might benefit from a specific invitation.
- Help youth complete registrations, and coordinate financial assistance for youth as needed.
- Hold devotionals for youth, parents, and leaders to help them:
 - Understand FSY and its goals.
 - Live the standards found in *For the Strength of Youth*.
- Interview each youth and help him or her commit to live the standards found in *For the Strength of Youth*, including dress and grooming standards.
- Use activities to prepare youth for FSY. This could include learning music found at youth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org and preparing acts to perform at the FSY Variety Show.
- Invite youth to set personal goals for spiritual growth during FSY. As directed by the Spirit, local leaders might suggest goals for their youth to consider.
- Give quorum and class presidencies specific opportunities to help other youth prepare.



During FSY, local leaders might:

- Pray daily and specifically for youth and young adults who are participating.
- Help families of youth and young adults feel included in the FSY experience by encouraging them to set and work on spiritual goals.



After FSY, local leaders might:

- Ask the youth in follow-up interviews to describe what they felt, what they learned, and what goals they accomplished at FSY. Ask them to bear their testimonies and share goals they have set.
- In devotionals, classes, or activities, invite the youth to share their experiences with their families and ward or branch members by singing, bearing testimonies, and showing photos.
- Give youth opportunities to teach the gospel (using what they learned at FSY) in sacrament meeting, devotionals, classes, and activities.
- Encourage parents to invite their youth to share their experiences and testimony at family home evening and to teach family home evening lessons (using what they learned at FSY).
- Remind the youth to continue to live the standards they experienced at FSY.
- Encourage FSY-type youth activities.