

The following guidelines have been approved by the Archbishop of Miami.
For more information, please call the Office of Youth Ministry
(305)762-1100, (954)525-5157 x1100

GUIDELINES FOR GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN WORLD YOUTH DAY

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Spiritual preparation of those participating in WYD is important for its success. Studying and reflecting on the Holy Father's message for WYD, using the materials on USCCB's web page, or following the ePilgrimage on WYD's website will help participants understand this experience as a faith experience and not as tourism.
2. All (adults & teens) Archdiocesan participants need to sign a release of liability provided by the Office of Youth Ministry on its website (www.miamiyoungchurch.com/wyd). These need to be submitted to the pastor and a copy sent to the Chancellor's Office.
3. World Youth Day registration package includes emergency health insurance, but ONLY for the days of the event. Participants should bring medical insurance or purchase traveler's insurance.
4. This program requires strenuous walking and some physical endurance; it may not be advisable for individuals with certain medical conditions.
5. ALL GROUPS claiming the sponsorship of an Archdiocesan parish or organization must have the approval of the pastor or director.

AGE POLICY ESTABLISHED BY THE ORGANIZERS OF WYD:

A) Pilgrims aged 16-17 traveling with a parent

NOTE: for the purposes of this policy a family is defined as at least one parent, aunt, uncle, or grandparent with at least one child, niece, nephew or grandchild.

Pilgrims under 18 may be registered if they are traveling with one or both parents for the whole period of attendance at WYD08 including Days in the Dioceses (if they are participating).

B) Pilgrims aged 16 to 17 traveling without a parent

If a child turns 16 by 31 December 2008 may be registered as a pilgrim if;

- The child is traveling as part of a registered group for the whole period of attendance at WYD08 and ;
- written parental consent has been given for the child to travel with the nominated group; (provided by the Office of Youth Ministry: www.miamiyoungchurch.com/wyd) and;
- a named adult traveling with the group has accepted in writing that they will have responsibility for the child (provided by the Office of Youth Ministry on its website (www.miamiyoungchurch.com/wyd)).

C) Pilgrims under 16

- Family groups with at least one member under 16 at 31 December 2008 may register. However, WYD08 will not be able to provide accommodation for these family groups. Therefore only Packages B and C will be available.
- Children who do not turn 16 by 31 December 2008, traveling without a parent, **will not be permitted to register.**

ARCHDIOCESAN POLICIES FOR GROUPS TRAVELING WITH PILGRIMS AGED 16-17

1. Groups bringing pilgrims who are under 18 years old will have to conduct a criminal background check on EACH adult traveling with them. Please contact the Central Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults at (305) 762-1045, 1043; (954) 525-5157 X1045, X1043
2. Adults in the group will be asked to sign an Archdiocesan Code of Conduct and attend a Safe Environment Training (called Virtus: Office of Safe Environment 305-762-1250)
3. Results of background check, Copy of Virtus Certificate, and Code of Conduct will be submitted to the parish/organization's headquarter.
4. Pastors/Directors of Ministry, Organizations will submit to the Chancellor's Office a list of participants name's & ages, and attest that they have complied with these policies. (see sample letter at www.miamiyoungchurch.com/wyd)
5. WYD offers a variety of registration packages. Groups with pilgrims 16-17 years old **may not choose the simple accommodations package (A) nor participate in Days in the Diocese.** These options involve the possibility of staying with local families or sharing rooming space with other pilgrims.
6. Groups with minors who are staying at hotels are reminded that no adult may share a bedroom with a minor.
7. Chaperones and group leaders must be at least 21. The adult/minor ratio is 1 per 5.

THE ARCHDIOCESE STRONGLY ADVISES AGAINST THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 16. If they do, they must be accompanied by a parent (*parent, aunt, uncle, or grandparent*) and comply with all the policies established by WYD organizers and the Archdiocese of Miami (1-7 above).