

CRITERIA FOR FORMING A WYD GROUP

INFORM YOUR COMMUNITY

If you want to represent your parish or community, speak with **the youth minister, the pastor or a community leader** about forming a WYD group.

- Share what motivates you to form a WYD group
- Tell them about the three steps of WYD:
 - Preparation (Life before WYD)
 - The WYD pilgrimage
 - Cultural and tourism
 - Days in the diocese
 - World Youth Days
 - Follow-up (Life after WYD)
- Present your needs (spiritual prep, location, financing, etc.)
- Propose someone as a group leader
- Establish a communication protocol for each step of the pilgrimage

NAME THE MEMBERS OF THE WYD GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Each WYD group must have a WYD GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM. This team ensures the internal group coordination, at the service of pilgrims. **Mission Jeunesse-Youth Ministry team strongly encourages young adults (20-35 years old) to take an important responsibility in their WYD group.** Young people are an integral part of our Church-Body of Christ and of Society. It is therefore important to encourage them and to concretely propose that they be involved in both, the organization of local activities and in large-scaled projects, like the WYD.

WYD GROUP LEADER *(20 to 35 years old)*

The official representative of the WYD Group.

WYD ASSISTANT LEADER *(20 to 35 years old)*

Assists the WYD Group Leader. *We recommend one assistant per 10 pilgrims.*

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONS *(adults 20 years and older)*

Accompany pilgrims in their spiritual journey before and during the pilgrimage

Please read: WYD GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM PROFILE & RESPONSIBILITIES

INVITING YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY

Networking: Contact youth through various means:

- Parish, high school, CEGEP, university or movements.
- Present the project to your Christian Community.
- Invite members of your community to discuss the project with youth in their families.
- Organize an information evening focusing on the International WYD Pilgrimage and invite youth who have previously participated to give a witness talk on their experience.
- If you already lived WYD, share your experiences! Do not simply speak about the days themselves, but witness to the graces you have received. Let your joy go forth to inspire the young people and their parents!

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ORGANIZE INFORMATION SESSIONS

This is an important step it allows you to:

- Gather interested youth and get others interested as well
- Unite participants in the pilgrimage
- Distribute important information

The goal of these sessions is for potential pilgrims to discern their participation at WYD. These days can be a great faith experience, but the desire to participate has to come from them. The person who invited the youth can also accompany them, for it is important to realize that the pilgrimage starts with the discernment on whether or not to go.

An organizing meeting should include:

- History of WYD
- The proposed spiritual preparation program
- Travel package details
- Responsibilities of the group, the youth and the group leaders
- Technical information regarding WYD
- Approximate costs of the packages
- Meeting dates and times for package coordinators

Whatever means you use for dissemination of information, it is very important that you present a realistic project to each young person so that they understand exactly what they are signing up for as well as the implications of this commitment.

ORGANISE A WYD DISCERNMENT SESSION

In addition to WYD info session, an evening or a retreat may help the young people discern their participation in WYD.

WYD is lived not only by those getting on the plane to the host city, but also by those in the community who support the initiative financially or through prayer. We propose inviting different members of the community to get involved in animating or coordinating this session. It's a very good way to implicate young adults who have gone to past WYDs.

In addition to the elements of an info session, your discernment event can include :

- Animated prayer sessions
- Musical or theatrical presentations on the themes
- Presence and witness of young people who have been to past WYDs, etc.

A MUTUALLY DISCERNED DECISION

It is also necessary to discern before inviting someone (easiest to do in one-on-one meetings). International WYD is demanding on many levels and the person needs to be balanced, mature, with a good spirit of faith and communion.

Foresee :

- Schedule a one-on-one meeting to outline and clarify the commitment.
- Ask the person to write a letter of motivation to see if they are serious.
- Present the Profile and Responsibilities of a pilgrim
- Present the WYD group service teams
- Sign a contract between you and the pilgrim. Both parties commit to respecting the guidelines for a successful endeavour.
- Keep the letter and contract during the whole pilgrimage. In case of trouble, refer to these documents.

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CHOOSE A PACKAGE

The choice of package is an important step to consider in your WYD preparations.

The Youth Ministry WYD coordination team suggests you use the following the criteria when choosing a package :

- It is strongly suggested that the package choice be not only approved by the group leader and the pilgrims who are going to WYD, but also by the community that support the project through their prayers and finances.
- If you wish that all the pilgrims in your group share the same **travel itinerary** and **accommodations**:
 1. You must choose **one** package for the whole group.
 2. All pilgrims in your group must register and make their first deposits at the same time.

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP LANGUAGE

During the WYD event itself, catechesis is offered by language. Each group is therefore assigned to a catechesis site. Sometimes, this site is also where you will get some of your meals. It is therefore very important to choose ENGLISH or FRENCH for your group, even if you communicate in both languages internally.

DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YOUR GROUP

A big part of WYD is living the experience of community and fellowship. In order to live a better experience, the Mission Jeunesse-Youth Ministry WYD coordination team recommends groups of 10 pilgrims or less.

We strongly recommend that large groups form sub-groups of 10 pilgrims or less, each with a leader to assist the group leader. They can choose the same package, travel to WYD together, but once arrived at WYD, the coordination and the experience will be better in sub-groups.

GROUPS FROM OTHER DIOCESES:

Mission Jeunesse encourages groups to participate in WYD with their local Bishop. In cases where this is not a possibility, Mission Jeunesse is happy to welcome your group to participate with the Archdiocese of Montreal WYD delegation along with all other groups. In order to register with Mission Jeunesse you will need to follow the same registration procedure.

If you are the Diocesan representative and are coordinating the participation of several groups from your diocese but are not travelling with them you will need to name a group leader for each group. You will be copied on all communication that will be done with the group leaders.

PILGRIMS WITH NO GROUP (INDIVIDUALS)

If you do not have a group, Mission Jeunesse can propose groups that are available to welcome individual pilgrims. It is, however, not guaranteed that we can find you a group. Also, do not hesitate to invite your friends and form a group.

You are not part of a group?

Form your own group!

It only takes three people to form a group and to proceed with the registration of your group!

Contact MJ-Youth Ministry

MJ-Youth Ministry can propose groups who are open to welcoming pilgrims who do not belong to a group. However, we cannot guarantee that we can find you a group.