

# JOURNEY TO THE FATHER

High School Age Catholic Youth Conference

## CHAPERONES - CHECK LIST

**BACKGROUND** To make this conference run properly and to ensure that teens have a good experience, it is necessary that they come in groups chaperoned by an adult of the same sex in a ratio of no more than 10 teens per chaperone. In some cases, the group knows each other and the chaperone and in other cases many are strangers.

One chaperone from each group will also carry the title of GROUP LEADER. If a group is small (3 to 10 teens of the same sex), they may have only one chaperone/group leader and in larger groups there may be as many as 6 –10 chaperones with one of them being designated as the group leader. Group Leader responsibilities are listed separately.

### BEFORE THE CONFERENCE:

- Help to find teens and encourage them to register.
- Make contact with the parents of the teens and ensure that their questions are answered, that they have the list of items to bring, the emergency phone number, etc.
- Ensure timely payment of Registration Fees, which are to be turned over to the Group Leader.
- Ensure that Liability Sheets are complete, signed and in the hands of the Group Leader.
- Make contact with the teens and arrange at least one meeting/social evening for them to get to know one another and you and also to collect the forms, answer questions and understand the dress code and expectations for behaviour etc. This can be a joint meeting of parents and teens.
- Important - Ensure that teens know the name of their Group Leader.

### AT THE CONFERENCE

- Chaperones must arrive with the teens.
- Ensure teens put on the security bracelets and the teens know their assigned sleeping spots etc.
- Sleep in the tents with their small group and ensure they are all in their assigned places and accounted for before lights out.
- Attend all the sessions. We encourage groups to sit together for these sessions... if a teen has a problem or becomes a problem, the Chaperone is nearby.
- Keeps an eye on their teens during the sessions to ensure good behaviour, hats off, feet off the seats etc. ... common sense behaviour.
- Gather their group even for a few minutes at meal times and after sessions, especially evening sessions to check in with them, This gives you an opportunity to see how the teens are doing and answer their questions and perhaps pray with them.
- Attend sessions for Chaperones. There are two or three sessions (times will be published in the program book) -
  - one around supper time Friday, 15-20 min. for orientation
  - one later Friday evening if there are questions.
  - one compulsory session on Saturday afternoon

### FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE

- Ideally, chaperones would touch base with the teens at least once or twice following the conference... depending on the group, perhaps plan a small get-together. Some teens find themselves alone after the conference with no one to share with.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHAPERONES

- ☼ Patience, a love for young people and a desire to see them grow in their faith
- ☼ Willingness to sleep on the ground with them and manage on little sleep
- ☼ A Police security check is required of all chaperones
- ☼ All chaperones must be 21 years of age or older.