

FAQs

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Who can go?

- **Can a young person sign-up to attend EYE23 on their own?** No, all young people must be registered by an adult along with at least two adult chaperones traveling and staying with them for EYE.
- **How many youth can we bring from the diocese or from each youth ministry?** AS MANY AS POSSIBLE!!!! There is no limit on delegation size. However, every delegation must meet chaperone requirements listed here: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/chaperone-requirements/>.
- **Are youth required to apply to attend EYE?** No. Diocesan or local delegations may ask youth to apply. Youth should ask their youth minister or priest to connect with their EYE23 diocesan or local registrar.
- **What are the recommended qualifications for youth attendees?** EYE23 programs focus on helping develop leadership skills, spiritual practices, and early stages of vocational discernment. Teenagers who are struggling with high anxiety and depression may find themselves under greater stress with travel and large scale interactions in unfamiliar places. Read more here: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/youth-eligibility/>.
- **Is there an age or grade requirement for youth?** EYE23 participants must have turned at least 15 and be no older than 19 by July 4, 2023. Participants should be enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade during the 2022-2023 school year, or equivalent for students in non-traditional or non-US school

settings. Current 9th graders who will be 14 on July 4, 2023, will have an opportunity to attend EYE26 as the Episcopal Youth Event is on a three-year cycle.

- **Do youth participants need to be baptized, confirmed or Episcopalian to attend?** No, no, and no! Read more: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/youth-eligibility/>.
- **Are accommodations available for youth with special needs?** Yes, accommodations can be made. Please note requirements on registration form and EYE23 staff will reach out for details, if necessary. If you have mobility concerns and do not think you can walk (at the most) 15-20 minutes between buildings, you will want to rent a scooter or other transportation device. If you have questions, please email us. You can look at a campus map [here](#).
- **What if I have a transgender or non-binary youth who wants to attend?** Awesome! Each participant is asked to identify gender on the registration form for Safeguarding and housing purposes. An EYE23 staff will reach out with any questions and will make the appropriate dorm assignment.
- **Can I sign up to attend EYE as a parish or an Episcopal school instead of through my diocese?** Yes, you can! While we encourage delegations at the diocesan level, we also know that for a variety of reasons, a diocesan-wide delegation may not work in every circumstance. Recognizing this, delegations will also be welcome from other Episcopal entities, including schools and parishes – we are calling them Open Delegations. Read more here: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/registrars/>.
- **Is there an age requirement for adults?** One adult chaperone over the age of 25 must serve as the primary contact for the delegation, and at least one chaperone traveling with the group must be a minimum of 25 years old. All other chaperones must be 21 or older. Read more about chaperone requirements: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/chaperone-requirements/>.
- **What are the requirements for adult chaperones?** Chaperone requirements are here: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/chaperone-requirements/>.
- **How many adults are required for my delegation?** There is a minimum of 2 adults per delegation and the preferred chaperone to youth ratio is one adult per six youth. Read more: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/chaperone-requirements/>.
- **Is there a limit to the number of adults our delegation can bring?** Yes, this is a YOUTH event. Adult to youth ratio recommendations are here: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/chaperone-requirements/>.

- **Can adult chaperones bring their child/ren with them?** Only if those children meet the requirements and are part of the delegation as a participating youth. This includes infants; due to the responsibilities during EYE23, we cannot welcome infants or toddlers.
- **Does EYE23 need adult volunteers?** Yes! Volunteers are needed to serve as Dorm Crew, Logistics Team, EYE Chaplain Team, Communications Team, and Medical Care Team. [Apply to be a part of the Event Team here.](#)
- **Will there be a New Community gathering at EYE23?** Yes! Details are being worked out on a New Community @ EYE23 gathering with the Office of Ethnic Ministries. Please stay tuned.

Registration

- **What is the cost for EYE23?** Attendance to EYE23 will cost \$400 per person. That includes programming, meals on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and traditional dorm lodging for four nights (July 4, 5, 6 & 7).
- **Are adults required to pay the registration fee?** Yes, everyone is required to pay the registration fee for EYE23.
- **What is included in the registration fee?** The registration fee includes programming on July 5, 6, and 7, and breakfast, lunch and dinner each of those days. Delegations are responsible for their own meals on July 4 when arriving in the Washington DC area and on July 8 upon departure.
- **What information do I need to input on the registration form?** In order to register a Youth Attendee and/or Adult Chaperone, you must be able to provide their: Full Name, Birthdate, Gender, Demographic Information, Primary Language, Special Accommodation(s), Food Allergies, and T-shirt size.
- **Can my group come for only one day?** No. Every delegation must be on campus and participating throughout the entire event.
- **What date does everyone need to be registered for EYE?** The deadline for registration is March 17, 2023.
- **Am I required to register my entire delegation at the same time? Or may I add them one at a time or do them as they come in?** You may add them as they come in, but you will be asked to complete each registration and pay the deposit as registration occurs.
- **What if I need help with the online registration form?** Email us: eye@episcopalchurch.org.

- **What forms of payment for EYE23 do you accept?** Check and credit card, with a preference for check payments (so we can avoid credit card fees). There will be a 3% charge for any credit card payment. There is a 10% deposit due when registering each participant.
- **What payments are due when?** A 10% deposit will be collected at the time of registration. *The remainder will be due by June 2, 2023.*
- **Where do we send payment by check and to whom do we make the check payable?** Checks should be made payable to **DFMS** with EYE23 in the memo. Send check to: The Episcopal Church, ATTN: David Stickley, 815 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017.
- **What if I need to cancel a registration or change a participant?**
 - Cancellations & Refunds – If you need to cancel, you must notify us via email to eye@episcopalchurch.org by April 21. If you cancel by April 21, your registration fees will be refunded, less a \$50 processing fee per person. Refunds will be applied to either the credit card used for payment of the original fee or in the form of a check drawn on a US bank. Cash refunds will not be considered. Refunds will not be provided for late arrivals, early departures, “no-shows”, or cancellation requests received after April 21, 2023.
 - Substitutions & Transfers – You may transfer registration to another eligible party if they are unable to attend. Registration transfers and substitutions may be requested via email until June 1. After this date, any change requests will be evaluated on an individual basis. There will be a \$25 processing fee charged per registration transfer.
- **Does our delegation need to be certified by someone? What does that mean?** The chaperones need to be certified that they have been Safe Church Trained (as defined by your diocese or organization) within the last 3 years by the Diocesan Bishop for a Diocesan Delegation or a rector/headmaster for Open Delegations.

Transportation

- **Does my delegation have to travel together?** The Chaperones for each group that comes to EYE23 are responsible for their own delegation’s travel. Travel to and from EYE23 is the responsibility of the chaperones.

- **What is the best way to get to UMD?** There is lots of information here from UMD. <https://cvs.umd.edu/visit/maps-directions>.
- **Is my delegation required to fly into a particular airport?** Three airports serve the Washington DC area. Baltimore (BWI) and National Airport (DCA) will be the most convenient/best price to our location. Dulles (IAD) is also in the area, but farther away.
- **How does my delegation get from the airport to UMD?** EYE23 will not provide transportation between the airport and campus. Each delegation will be responsible for their own transportation to campus. You may choose to take the local train or other public transportation, which is easiest from DCA.
- **Is there subway, train or bus service available from the airport to UMD?** <https://cvs.umd.edu/visit/maps-directions>
- **Can my delegation take the train to DC?** Before or after the event: Yes! More information here: <https://cvs.umd.edu/visit/maps-directions>.
- **What if I'm driving to EYE23? Is there a charge for parking? Where should we park?** Yes, there is a \$20.00 per vehicle, per weekday. If you are planning to park a car, we will have a form for you to fill out and payment due in the spring.
- **Will there be bus parking available at UMD?** Bus parking is available at a cost of \$200. You can request parking at registration.
- **What are the requirements for minors traveling on airlines without their parents?** You need to check with each individual airline to understand the requirements and any documentation you might need.
- **What time do we need to arrive and depart EYE23?** Delegations must be checked in on campus no later than 9pm on July 4. (If your plane is delayed, we will work with you, but you need to plan on arriving at UMD by 9pm.) You need to depart campus on July 8 by 10am.

Lodging

- **What is the lodging at EYE23 like?** Lodging is dorm-style, with 2-4 individuals to a room with banks of showers at each end of the floor. Each shower is divided by a curtain. Dorms floors will be primarily gender binary. We will identify one dorm with greater flexibility to accommodate gender fluidity for those who request this option.
- **Are the dorms air conditioned?** Yes.

- **How are roommates in the dorms assigned?** Registrar are responsible for dorm assignments once all registrations are complete. Most likely this will be sometime in April or May.
- **Who supervises the youth in the dorms?** The adult chaperones who came with them.
- **Do adult chaperones stay in the same dorm as the youth?** Yes. Chaperones must stay in the dorm with their delegation.
- **Are adult chaperones required to have a roommate?** Yes.
- **How far are the dorms from the dining hall? From the program meeting space?**
 - Dorms are about a 5-8 minute walk from the dining hall.
 - From the dining hall to the meeting spaces it is a 2-10 minute walk depending on where you are going.
- **Is on-campus transportation available?** No on-campus transportation is available. If you have mobility concerns and do not think you can walk (at the most) 15-20 minutes between buildings, you will want to rent a scooter or other transportation device. If you have questions, please email us. You can look at a campus map [here](#).
- **Does our delegation have to stay on campus?** Yes.

Program

- **Who will the speakers at EYE23 be?** Speaker names/bios will be available the week before EYE23. Check the EYE23 app and website for updates.
- **What workshops will be offered at EYE23?** Workshop titles and descriptions will be available the week before EYE23. Check the EYE23 app and website for updates.
- **What is the schedule for EYE23?** The schedule for EYE23 will be available the week before the event. Check the EYE23 app and website for updates.
- **Will there be mission work opportunities before or after EYE23?** You may organize local mission opportunities with nearby dioceses before or after EYE23 as a delegation, nothing will be provided by the EYE23 planning team.
- **Will we be visiting the Washington National Cathedral during EYE23?** No, however, you may choose to visit the National Cathedral or do other sight-seeing before you arrive on Monday, July 4 or when the event is over on Friday, July 8.

- **Will we be doing any sight-seeing during EYE23?** No, however, you may choose to visit the National Cathedral or do other sight-seeing before you arrive on Monday, July 4 or when the event is over on Friday, July 8.
- **Will there be fireworks on July 4?** Yes, participants can gather on the UMD quad to view local fireworks displays.
- **Will there be a t-shirt or gift exchange?** No. There will not be an organized gift exchange. You will receive an EYE23 t-shirt.
- **What if I'd like to offer to lead a workshop during EYE23 (but am not chaperoning a delegation)?** EYE23 is a closed event. Only invited guests and registered participants are allowed on campus during the event. Anyone wishing to offer a workshop must fill out a request form when it becomes available. We will notify them via email if a workshop is approved by the Youth planning team.

Planning and Preparing

- **What should I bring to EYE23?** A packing list for EYE23 will be emailed and available on the website in May.
- **If clergy are chaperoning our delegation, should they bring vestments? Do you need help with worship services?** No vestments are NEEDED. There will be opportunities for youth and adults to volunteer to help serve at the worship services. Clergy may bring stoles if they wish to wear one. DFMS staff will be in contact with Bishops who are coming about vestments they may wish to wear.
- **What is the weather like at UMD at that time of year?** Please check the weather online before you come. It will most likely be warm and humid.
- **How do I prepare my youth to attend EYE23?** Getting your delegation together prior to EYE23 would be helpful! Allowing the group to get to know one another and to learn more about the rhythm of EYE23 would be helpful. Also, it would be helpful to prepare them for the magnitude of this experience. EYE23 is an international youth event planned by young people and implemented by young people and adults who accompany them. Watch the EYE17 [videos](#) to get an idea of what is in store.
- **How do I prepare adult chaperones attending EYE23?** Have them read and perhaps re-read this FAQ section you are reading now, as well as attend one of the informational webinars we'll hold on Zoom in the spring. Be honest and thorough with the expectations and responsibilities of the role at EYE23.

- **What training is required of adult chaperones? GREAT QUESTION!!!** Each chaperone needs to complete and be background checked and compliant with the Safe Church, Safe Communities Training within 3 years of July 2, 2023.
- **What if I have youth with medications?** The adult chaperones are responsible for monitoring youth medications and ensuring they are distributed as prescribed.
- **What if someone in our delegation has medications that need to be refrigerated?** No problem! Refrigeration will be provided at the EYE23 Medical Center.
- **What forms should I bring for each youth in my delegation?** Forms will be available by April 1 and must be submitted prior to the event. Required forms include a Contact Form, Health & Medical Authorization, Release Form, and Community Covenant.

Bishops

- **Is it required for my bishop to attend EYE23?** YES! Well, not actually, but we would love for all bishops to attend!
- **Can my bishop be one of the adult chaperones for my delegation?** Yes! They will have to stay in the dorms with your delegation if they are serving as a chaperone.
- **Is advance registration for bishops required?** Yes, registration for bishops not chaperoning a delegation will open on January 6 and closes March 17. <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/bishops/>
- **How does my bishop register for EYE23?** Tell them to check their email for instructions and watch this page of the EYE23 website: <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye/bishops/>.
- **Where are bishops staying during EYE23?** Bishops will need to make their own lodging reservations if they are not chaperoning their delegation. We will share some local options on the website. The registration fee for non-chaperone bishops, staying off-site will be announced soon.
- **What if my bishop is only coming for one day, is there a one-day registration fee?** No, we do not offer discounted registration.
- **If my bishop is bringing their spouse, do they need to pay the registration fee, too?** Yes. All participants and guests must be registered. We do not offer discounted registration.
- **What is the deadline for bishops to register for EYE23?** March 17, 2023.

- **What do I do when my bishop misses the registration deadline?** Please email us at eye@episcopalchurch.org and we will check our capacity.
- **What vestments do Bishops need to bring to EYE?** Registered bishops will receive an email identifying participation opportunities and vestments in June.

For Parents

- **Is it safe on UMD campus?**
 - Yes!
 - Blue Light Emergency Phones (or Public Emergency Response Telephones – PERT) provide a direct connection to the University of Maryland Police Department and are located throughout the campus either inside or outside of residence halls, administrative and academic buildings. Use a blue light emergency PERT phone to contact police or call for an escort.
 - The University of Maryland Police Department’s escort service is for anyone who feels unsafe walking across campus at any time. Student Police Aides (SPAs) provide escorts and patrol the campus on foot and on bicycle. Call 301-405-3555.
- **Can my child bring their cell phone?** Yes, but they should not plan to use it during worship, plenary sessions, or workshops as it will disturb others.
- **What if there’s an emergency during EYE23?** Our trained staff and the staff of UMD will work together to respond to any emergencies. If there is a family emergency, we will issue an emergency phone number in June so parents can get in touch with EYE23 staff.
- **Can my child bring a family member as a guest?** Only registered participants may attend EYE. All registered participants will be issued an EYE name badge which they must wear at all times. For security purposes, anyone without a name badge will not be admitted to EYE meeting spaces.
- **Can my child or adult chaperone leave campus to visit their local family member during EYE23?** No. They may visit them before or after the event if your delegation leader allows.

Covid-19

- What are the requirements around Covid-19?

As you build your delegation, please note that, in response to the Executive Council resolution of June 2019, The Episcopal Church has developed a model vaccination policy for its youth events. [You can find the policy here](#). All participants, chaperones, volunteers, staff, etc. attending EYE23 must adhere to this policy. This includes being up-to-date with Covid-19 vaccination. We are in the process of determining the Covid Protocols and Policies for EYE23. For now, we are abiding by the [same policy](#) that was used at General Convention in 2022.

Please contact eye@episcopalchurch.org if you have any questions that are not answered here.