

The Unitarian Church in Westport
Youth Group (6th – 12th) LOCK-IN

Date/Time: Sat. Sep. 23 1 PM – Sun. Sep. 24 10 AM*

LOCATION: TUCW Meeting House, Westport CT

Cost: \$20 cash at door (includes free t-shirt for youth); \$25 after 1:30 Adults/advisors: Free

WHAT TO BRING: Overnight provisions* and clothes/shoes for movement and activity

Special Notes: Event may include a short hike off TUCW property with walking return to TUCW.

*Only 9th-12th graders may stay overnight; 6th-8th may stay till 9:00 pm

I, _____ (**participant**), have read the Spirit Committee Covenant attached hereto in its entirety. I understand the importance of the Spirit Committee rules. I agree to abide by these rules for the duration of this Youth Group event. I understand that if I do not abide by these rules, the Spirit Committee and advisors reserve the right to take appropriate action, which may include my being sent home to my parent or guardian.

(**participant**) _____ Date: _____

I, _____ (**parent/guardian**), of the above youth, give my teenager permission to attend this TUCW Youth Group Off-Site Event and at the congregation overnight if he/she is in the 9th-12th grade.

I will allow the likeness of my youth to be used by the Unitarian Church in Westport, for internal or publicity purposes. [Y] / [N] _____ (**parent/guardian initial**)

I, or another adult to whom I have conferred this responsibility, will be able to pick up my youth at the location of this event if the Spirit Committee or advisors deems it necessary because of a violation of the guidelines.

Name of Alternate Adult (if applicable): _____

Alternates Contact Information (if applicable): (_____) _____ - _____

EMERGENCY & MEDICAL INFORMATION

In an emergency you can reach me at: (_____) _____ - _____

Other Adult emergency contact: Name _____ Phone _____

Health Insurance Company and policy # _____

Allergies: _____ Can this youth take part in strenuous physical activities? _____

The following medication will be needed by this youth during the event: (If N/A, Initial Here _____)

Medication _____ Amount & Times _____

Medication _____ Amount & Times _____

I acknowledge I have signed over _____ dosage(s) of _____ medication(s) to TUCW staff or volunteers to administer to my child at the above: _____ (**parent/guardian initial**)

(**parent/guardian**) _____ Date: _____

Spirit Committee Covenant

A Spirit Committee is a group of youth who, supported by adult advisors, watch over a conference or district event. They enable everyone at the event to have fun and feel included and safe by promoting an open and caring atmosphere and by enforcing the rules set forth in this covenant. SC members attempt to prevent problems from developing, and deal with problems should they happen through mediation or action.

1. **We promote inclusive behavior. (WE LOVE EVERYONE!)** Lock-ins provide an atmosphere where youth are made to feel safe, accepted and included. Exclusive behavior of any kind takes away from this sense of community. With the goals of safety and community in mind, participants are not allowed to leave the grounds of the lock-in.
2. **We promote respectful behavior. (R-E-S-P-E-C-T... like the song)** Lock-ins are a place where youth are encouraged and empowered to express themselves. This comes with the responsibility of being respectful towards one another. The space we are in must be respected and cared for; everyone will participate in clean-up. (A phrase you will undoubtedly hear more about: “No harshing on mellows.”)
3. **We encourage open-mindedness. (aka: we will be performing brain surgery on you all)** Lock-ins foster an open community, where people who are different as well as similar are made to feel welcome. Participants will try to remain open to growing in unexpected ways through the love and conflict experienced during the conference. **(just kidding about the brain surgery)**
4. **Sexualized Behavior is not allowed.** Exclusive relationships prevent the community from remaining inclusive and safe for all. Sexualized behavior of any kind is not permitted.
5. **Possession or use of Drugs and Alcohol are prohibited. (my grass is for mowing!!)** Possessing, using, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol is not permitted at any Lock-in. They destroy the safe atmosphere, as well as put all of the participants at risk.
6. **Violence and Abuse are unacceptable. (we talk out our problems here)** All forms of violence, physical, verbal, sexual or otherwise will not be tolerated during any Lock-in. **Weapons are not permitted**, and will be viewed as intending or ignoring the possibility of a violent outcome. No one can vouch for how others will behave if they were to mistakenly come into possession of an object.
7. **The “no” rule. (but you cannot say NO to cleanup or setup)** Saying “no” to anything or not wanting to participate at anytime is fine and is respected (with the exception of setup and cleanup).