

# High School Youth Rally

## My One True Way

### Welcome to Parish Leaders

Dear Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Leader:

Our diocesan High School Youth Rally will be held Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Coralville Marriott. We look forward to seeing you there!

The day's features include our keynote presenters, Ceili Rain. They are the 2006 Unity Award winners for Group of the Year. They have a unique Celtic-rock sound and a powerful Christian message. It will be different and exciting to have a musical keynote. We'll also have a great bunch of breakout sessions to help youth grow in faith, two great meals, Mass with Bishop Martin Amos, more music from Leap of Faith, games, a dance, and much more.

Whether you're a first-timer or an old-timer, this note will help you prepare for the day. Here's what you'll need to know to bring a group from your parish.

#### **How do we promote the rally?**

Talk it up! Personal contact is important. To help spread the word, you'll find promotional materials on the youth ministry page at [www.davenportdiocese.net](http://www.davenportdiocese.net). These include:

- A sample bulletin announcement that you can adapt
- A flier that you can post in bulletin boards or run in your parish bulletin.
- A brochure that can be given to youth and their families.

Some leaders type up their local info, then tape/glue it onto a printout of the pdf and run off copies.

If you'd prefer to have a "word document" that you can type your own local information directly onto, e-mail Barb Butterworth at [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org)

You'll want to answer the following questions:

#### **Who's the rally for?**

Students in grades 9-12. Of course, you'll want to bring plenty of chaperones, too.

#### **What does it cost?**

We are charging \$35. You may wish to charge more than that to your participants, depending on whether you're arranging bus transportation, including a meal (other than lunch and dinner, which are included), picking up the cost of adult registrations, etc. T-shirts are available for \$15 each.

#### **From when to when?**

We want you to arrive around 8:45 a.m. to get your group registered and settled in. The onstage action starts at 9 a.m. The evening meal ends around 5:45 p.m., and fun optional activities (games, dancing, hanging out) continue until 7:30 p.m. You'll want to add travel time to/from your parish.

#### **What's are the deadlines?**

Deadline to register: **Oct. 12**. Send your registration form to [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org) by then. Nametag spreadsheet is due **Oct. 19** (if you need extra time; Oct. 12 is fine, too!) E-mail to same address. More about these forms is on the next page. Please set your deadlines in advance of ours so you can get us what we need.

(more)

### **What is expected of parish group leaders?**

First, thanks for taking on this worthy task! Your youth won't experience this event if somebody (you) doesn't organize things. Be sure to enlist helpers. You'll be surprised to know how many parents want to help make this event possible for their children. Here are four tasks that need your attention:

#### **1) Get the word out! (see previous page)**

Engage many folks to publicize and organize...parents, parish secretary, DRE, catechists, pastor, etc.

#### **2) GROUP Registration forms**

At [www.davenportdiocese.net](http://www.davenportdiocese.net), you'll find two forms you'll need to register your group.

- The group registration form: This is an editable form that does the math for you! Just punch in your numbers and it tells you what to pay. Once you've filled it out, SAVE it on your computer, then attach it to an e-mail to [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org) **Again, we need this by Oct. 12 so that we can order t-shirts, meals, and other supplies for the day**
- The nametag form: This is an easy spreadsheet. Type in the names of each participant, SAVE your file, then attach it to an e-mail to [butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org) **We need this by Oct. 19**

#### **3) INDIVIDUAL paperwork**

- At [www.davenportdiocese.net](http://www.davenportdiocese.net), you'll find a form you'll need for each participant (youth AND adult), it's the Parental permission/medical release form: You'll need two copies of this. You'll keep one that day. The other you give to the participant to fold into their pocket/wallet/purse

***You can collect these anytime before you arrive Oct. 28. Don't bring extra copies for the diocese.***

- The brochure has a sign-up slip that individual youth submit to you. Don't give these to diocese.

#### **4) Engage other adults**

##### **Ratio:**

Each parish group must have at least 1 adult for every 10 youth, although a 1-to-6 ratio is more ideal. Youth are not allowed to attend this event without adult supervision from their parish.

##### **Safe environment guidelines:**

While it's ideal to use regular parish youth volunteers who are compliant with diocesan Safe Environment guidelines, it is permissible to use parents who wish to help out as a "one-shot deal." If they won't be in regular contact (four or more times a year) with parish youth, it is not required that they do "Protecting God's Children" training or have a criminal background check done. However, normal safe environment procedures apply to these and all supervising adults. These include:

- Any physical contact must be public, appropriate and non-sexual
- Avoid being alone with minor in any room, or in any vehicle
- For more guidance, see pp. 8-9 of diocesan "Policies Relating to Sexuality and Personal Behavior."

##### **Adult drivers**

- Those driving youth to/from the rally must be 21 or older, fully licensed and properly insured. They should submit a "Driver Information Sheet" (see Appendix C of "Policies Relating to Sexuality and Personal Behavior") to be kept on parish files. They must never be alone in a vehicle with a minor.

Updates on details and logistics, such as the day's schedule, a list of breakouts and activities, code of conduct, maps, etc., will be posted at [www.davenportdiocese.net](http://www.davenportdiocese.net) (youth ministry page). Steer your young people to [www.davenportyouth.org](http://www.davenportyouth.org) for more info about the rally. If you have questions, please contact me at (641) 842-5148 or [finan@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:finan@davenportdiocese.org). Thanks for all you'll do to guide youth to this experience!

In Christ's peace,

Pat Finan, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Diocese of Davenport