



ABBEY YOUTH FESTIVAL

SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY & SEMINARY COLLEGE

75376 RIVER ROAD, ST. BENEDICT LA 70457 phone 985.867.2233
e-mail: info@abbeyyouthfest.com www.AbbeyYouthFest.com fax 985.867.2270

AYF 2012: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PAYMENT IS DUE IN FULL BY THE DEADLINE DATES:

- Group accounts will close out when payments are received
- Special instructions will be given within your account page for what to do if you must reopen your account to add on to your "PAID OUT" account.

IMPORTANT:

- YOU **MUST** DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE [POLICIES & PROCEDURES](#), and [LIABILITY & PHOTO RELEASE FORMS](#).
- **EACH PARTICIPANT (adult & youth) MUST BRING A COMPLETED LIABILITY & PHOTO RELEASE FORM.**

PARTICIPANT POLICIES

- The Abbey Youth Festival is for teens and young adults **ages 13 (8th grade) and up**
- 1 chaperone (21 years or older) is required for every 10 teen participants. 18-20 year olds do not classify as chaperones.

WHAT TO BRING, WEAR, AND THE LIKE:

The Abbey Youth Festival is an outdoor event. All of the day's activities will occur in the open air. Therefore, everyone should bring:

- Rain Gear
- Hats, umbrellas, hand water sprayers for cooling – *(The day's sun is hot; a hat is important.)*
- Clothing appropriate to the day's weather **(No tank tops or short shorts for boys or girls!)**
- Backpacks *(Teens should not leave their items unattended – backpacks will ensure their safekeeping.)*
- Comfortable shoes
- Sunscreen, chap stick
- Picnic blankets or tarps for ground sitting *(chairs are not available)*

NOTE: Folding chairs are only allowed around the perimeter of the field and only for use by adults and those who have a special need. Tents, beach umbrellas, and any other shading devices that may obscure vision to the stage must also be kept on the perimeter of the field.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Alcohol, cigarettes, illegal drugs, firearms
- Laser pointers, fireworks, noisemakers, gag items
- Candles, lighters, and matches

- “**Free Hugs**” signs (*While most teens mean well, these signs have at times, been used to coerce members of the opposite sex to hug people whom they would rather not touch at all.*)
- **Headphones, personal stereo and CD players, video games** and other entertainment devices (Cell phones should be turned off during the event – *Leaders, please help in encouraging this.*)
- **Football, frisbees, baseballs and any other throwing games** are not allowed on the site. Participants will be required to return these items to the vehicle in which they came to the Festival. The Festival Site has no room for ball games. Youth Ministers must be proactive in deterring teens from such games, especially during talks. (*Anyone who does not understand this rule is welcome to call us at 985-867-2233 or email info@abbeyyouthfest.com ; we’ll be happy to explain.*)

SMOKING POLICY:

- No smoking will be allowed during the festival events, nor will smoking be allowed in the main gathering area. Louisiana State Law prohibits the use of tobacco products by anyone under 18 years of age.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

- Because the Abbey Youth Festival is an outdoor event, severe weather and/or prolonged inclement conditions may necessitate complete cancellation, changes of schedule, or early completion of Festival events. All efforts will be made to ensure that the Abbey Youth Festival is not canceled insofar as this is possible and safe for all participants (But “acts of God,” are indeed in His hands, not ours.)
- If an entire group or individuals of a particular group decide not to attend AYF, a refund **MAY** be available if cancellations are made at least 30 days from the day of the event. Inside 30 days, no refunds will be provided. It will be up to the group leader to fill any vacant spots. (*Status of all refunds changes after T-shirts have been ordered, and is contingent upon date of needed cancellation.*)

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES: (see link for details)

- Arrival & Registration - 9:30am
- Opening Session - 10:45am
- Closing & Departure - 9:00pm

PARKING:

- Parking for the Festival will be within the Abbey grounds. Attendants will direct vehicles to the parking area, and then participants will disembark.

MEALS AND SPENDING MONEY:

- **NEW POLICY: Like AYF 2011, all lunch and dinner meals will be pre-ordered as part of the registration process via meal “tickets.”** Menu choices are available here ([insert link](#)). **No cash** will be accepted at food and beverage booths - rather, **ONLY** colored meal tickets will be accepted. (Additional food and drink tokens worth .50 cents each will be available for purchase on-site for drinks, snacks and “seconds” towards the end of meal-times.)

- Prices have been coordinated so as to allow participants to purchase full meals, via pre-orders, for approximately \$5.00 to \$7.00 per meal.
- Also available are many religious articles, T-shirts, books, and Catholic/Christian music CD's, including the CD's and productions of our presenters. These items help to keep the spirit of the day alive. These items will need to be purchased with cash. Tokens and tickets will not be accepted at vendor tents.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** All vendor and exhibitor booths will be CLOSED during the keynote talk and prayer sessions of the day. Any vendors or teens that dishonor this policy will be warned, and then, if persisting in their disobedience, will be asked to leave AYF. This is VERY important in order for the good of all involved in the day. Youth ministers, please be clear about this with your teens BEFORE you arrive on site, so we are all on the same page.

WRISTBAND POLICY:

- Upon arrival at the Abbey Youth Festival, each participant will receive a wristband and Festival program with a schedule, song lyrics, and other pertinent information. All pre-purchased meal tickets and T-shirts will also be given to the Group Leader for distribution.

Wristbands must be worn at all times!

DIRECTIONS TO THE ABBEY YOUTH FESTIVAL:

FROM NEW ORLEANS:

- **Take the Causeway North.** Travel on US 190 past I-12, past LA-21 (go over the small bridge), and continue on US 190 past LA 437. Stay on US 190 until the junction of US 190 and LA 25 (Traffic light at junction; Shell Service Station on your left at the corner).
- US 190 turns off to the left toward Hammond. **DO NOT** go left. Instead, continue North on LA-25 for only about 300 yards. Turn right on **Airport Road** (where you see the Oak Tree Golf Course and Driving Range). Stay on **Airport Road** until you reach a stop sign at the end of the road. Turn left onto **River Road**. Travel about 400 yards until you see a **sign for Saint Joseph Abbey**. Turn right on the bridge. Welcome!

FROM BATON ROUGE:

- **Take I-12 East, and exit at EXIT 63-B (Covington).**
- Once you exit, you will head north on US 190, past LA-21 (go over the small bridge), and continue on US 190 past LA 437. Stay on US 190 until the junction of US 190 and LA 25 (Traffic light at junction; Shell Service Station on your left at the corner).
- US 190 turns off to the left toward Hammond. **DO NOT** go left. Instead, continue North on LA-25 for only about 300 yards. Turn right on **Airport Road** (where you see the Oak Tree Golf Course and Driving Range). Stay on **Airport Road** until you reach a stop sign at the end of the road. Turn left onto **River Road**. Travel about 400 yards until you see a **sign for Saint Joseph Abbey**. Turn right on the bridge. Welcome!

FROM SLIDELL:

- **Take I-12 West, and exit at EXIT 63-B (Covington).**
- Once you exit, you will head north on US 190, past LA-21 (go over the small bridge), and continue on US 190 past LA 437. Stay on US 190 until the junction of US 190 and LA 25 (Traffic light at junction; Shell Service Station on your left at the corner).
- US 190 turns off to the left toward Hammond. **DO NOT** go left. Instead, continue North on LA-25 for only about 300 yards. Turn right on **Airport Road** (where you see the Oak Tree Golf Course and Driving Range). Stay on **Airport Road** until you reach a stop sign at the end of the road. Turn left onto **River Road**. Travel about 400 yards until you see a **sign for Saint Joseph Abbey**. Turn right on the bridge. Welcome!

CONTACT:

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