

International Youth Camp 2017 July 29th – August 5th 2017 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

August 12th 2016

Dear youth organizations,

to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, **300 youth from 20 countries** from around the world are invited to gather for a week of learning, cultural exchange and fellowship. The life and works of Martin Luther will serve as the inspiration and framework for the International Youth Camp, and together, we will explore the history, the controversies and the lasting legacy for the global Church.

The youth groups will gather for one week, from **July 29th to August 5th 2017**, in **Lutherstadt Wittenberg**, the birth place of the Reformation and where Martin Luther preached and taught during much of his adult life. This camp aims to bring together youth committed to **cultural exchange and ecumenism**, primarily youth from German organizations who have existing partnerships with international groups. Throughout the week, there will be opportunities to deepen intercultural relationships through art and performances, sharing of stories and ideas and planning group activities. The programming will be geared toward youth between **18 – 25 years of age**, and we strongly encourage the groups to consist only of members from that age demographic.

The International Youth Camp and its planning team is committed to diversity and hopes to foster a community of welcome and inclusion. We believe that having a variety of perspectives at the table is not only essential and incredibly beneficial. We value diversity in the forms of ethnicity, gender, ability and learning styles, and encourage people of all walks of life to participate.

Please refer to the information package attached for all the details about the camp, the application process and contact information.

Application deadline is **September 10th 2016**.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming your youth to the International Youth Camp 2017!

Sincerely,

The International Youth Camp 2017 Planning Team

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Information about the International Youth Camp 2017

Background:

The International Youth Camp (IYC) was first proposed by the Protestant Youth Federation (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V. (aej) and the Student Christian Movement (Evangelische Studierendengemeinden in Deutschland (ESG), and accepted at their Annual General Meeting in 2013.

In the spring of 2016, an international planning team was created with members from seven countries and four continents and representing a variety of Protestant denominations. In May 2016, the international planning team began the preparations for the IYC and will continue to meet throughout 2016 and 2017 to plan, discuss and prepare the camp.

Theme & Objective:

The overall theme of the week will be the life of Martin Luther, the man often called "the Father of the Reformation." The IYC 2017 will take a three-prong approach to explore the life of this remarkable person by focusing activities on "head, heart and hand."

The goal of the International Youth Camp 2017 is to bring together 300 youth from over 20 different international and religiously affiliated youth groups for a week of learning, cultural exchange and fellowship. The aim is to be an exchange programme between Protestant German youth groups and their existing partner youth organizations or groups from diverse countries from around the world.

Schedule for the week:

The IYC 2017 will run from **July 29th to August 5th 2017** in **Wittenberg, Germany** (approx. 40 minutes by train from Berlin).

- Arrival on July 29th 2017
- Programme begins on July 30th. Six full days of activities and programme (July 30th, 31st, August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) including Keynote addresses by international speakers, workshops, discussion groups, site visits around Wittenberg, cultural presentations, social activities (music, games, sports).
- Departure on August 5th 2017

Travel Arrangements and Costs:

For the recovery of travel costs, insurance and visa grants can be paid by subsidies by the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

Accommodation and Meals:

The event will take place at a camp ground near Wittenberg, Germany (less than 10 minute walk from the city centre). We will have programme tents, meal tents and sleeping tents.

There will be on-site bathroom and shower facilities, on-site catering, WIFI and a fully equipped stage with the necessary technical equipment.

We are committed to the inclusion of people of all abilities and cultures and will make very effort to accommodate and assist with any needs. Please include the necessary information in the application.

The organizers will cover the participants' accommodation and meal costs for the duration of the IYC 2017. The organizers will also cover local transportation costs and entry fees.

Participation Requirements:

- 1) Existing partnership with German youth group (recommended)
- 2) Youth between the ages of 18-25 years old
- 3) Youth groups must have a gender balance of at least 40%
- 4) sufficient Knowledge of English
- 5) Active community involvement

Important conditions, skills and behaviour:

- 1) Participate actively and thoughtfully in all aspects of the program and sharing of experience
- 2) Demonstrate a commitment to learning and international cooperation
- 3) Model respect, open mindedness and curiosity
- 4) Prepare a cultural presentation about the partnership to present in the group

Financing:

The International Youthcamp receives subsidies by the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In addition the participating groups have to contribute an organization fee of 210€ per person. (Participants and Leaders) This organization fee includes accommodation, meals, the programme and the reimbursement of travel costs for each group. (From hometown of the german partner to Lutherstadt Wittenberg and back according to the aej policies) Please contact us if you have further questions about the reimbursement.

Group Leaders' Pre-Conference:

Group leaders will be invited to participate in the Pre-Conference in **Wittenberg, Germany** from **February 1st to 5th 2017**.

Application for the International Youth Camp 2017

Applications are to be completed by the group leader on behalf of the youth participants. Please send the completed application to the following address or email address:

Attn: International Youth Camp 2017
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V.
Otto-Brenner-Straße 9
30159
Hannover, Germany

Email address: youthcamp@aej-online.de.

Youth Group Information:

Group Name and Organization:	Partner Organization and Country:
Group Leader's Name:	Address (including postal/zip code and country):
Phone Number:	Email Address:
Number of Youth that would participate:	Denomination:
Allergies of Group Members:	Dietary and/or Special Needs of Group Members:
Other Relevant Information:	

