

Churches of Christ

Oklahoma State Youth Conference

Purpose

- Provide a time of devotion and praise for youth of Oklahoma
- Provide a time of fellowship for the youth of Oklahoma
- Provide a forum to select the representatives for the National Youth Conference Pageant (Mr./Miss Congeniality and Mr./Miss National)
- Provide a forum to develop ideas for the National Youth Conference State Roll Call (and T-Shirt selection)
- Provide an opportunity for the State Chorus to practice, and to sing for the conference participants

History

Through the vision, effort, and tenacity of Johnny Brooks, long time youth director for the Creston Hills congregation, we held our first State Conference in 1998. Our first conference was held from Friday to Sunday, and it was well represented by many congregations through our great state. It was approximately 3 years before another State Conference was held. Today we typically have one a day conference to minimize the resources required for a multiple day event. We will forever be grateful to brother Brooks for sharing his vision, and allowing us to be a part of it. It is our prayer that we will continue to conduct our conference for as long as God wills it to occur. Other conference years and locations are listed below:

Location	Year
Edmond (Oklahoma Christian)	1998
Tulsa (North Peoria)	2001
Chickasha (1 st & Georgia)	2002
Oklahoma City (Northeast)	2003
Tulsa (Virgin Street)	2004
Lawton (Rose Hill)	2005
Oklahoma City (Northeast)	2006
Oklahoma City (Eastside)	2007
Chickasha (1 st & Georgia)	2008
Oklahoma City (Estes Park)	2010
Tulsa Oklahoma (North Peoria)	2011
Chickasha (1 st & Georgia)	2012

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Typical State Conference Program

- Morning Refreshments (optional)
- Registration (name tags are typically used, registration forms help provide a total count of participants for historical purposes)
- Opening prayer and scripture led by the Youth
- Welcome & Purpose (youth or adult from the host congregation)
- Devotion led by the Youth (Songs of praise and adoration)
- Keynote Speaker
- Breakout sessions (Pageant, Roll-Call, Chorus Rehearsal, T-Shirt)
- Lunch
- National Youth Conference Information (RYC Board Representative)
- Breakout sessions (final preparations)
- Pageant Presentation (Mr./Miss State Congeniality & Mr. Miss State Youth Conference)
- Presentation of the T-Shirt ideas (with vote if necessary)
- Presentation of the Roll Call (with vote if necessary)
- Choral Presentations from the State Youth Chorus
- Dinner (optional)
- Final Remarks (RYC Board Representative and/or host congregation representative)
- Dismissal Song and Prayer

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Conference Registration Fees

- Past conference fees have ranged from \$5 to \$10 (they were \$15 one year, but a t-shirt was included in the fee)
- Registrations typically cover refreshments, lunch, and were possible, pageant expenses.
- The amount of registration is ultimately at the discretion of the host congregation, but each hosting congregation is encouraged to focus on the Purpose of this event in making this determination.
- Registration does not typically cover the cost of the Key Note speaker. Therefore, host congregations are encouraged to solicit volunteers: your preacher, your male youth director, or one of your male youth who shows promise and/or desire to become a preacher, etc.

Other Important Information

- The Oklahoma State Youth Conference is typically held in the month of March
- Regarding T-Shirt selection, it will be up to the participants to select a new t-shirt design, or a previous t-shirt design (those that have the old designs are not required to purchase a new t-shirt)
- Roll Call should be developed using National Youth Conference criteria (e.g. no more than 8 on stage, no dancing, no put-downs)
- After Conference Youth Activities can be provided at the discretion of the hosting congregation (e.g. if activities are provided, congregations may be encouraged to stay overnight so that they can participate – which usually translates into attending worship services with the host congregation on the following day)

Contacts

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Pageant

- No less than 3 judges should be solicited to judge the pageant
- When selecting judges, members of the church are preferred; however, judges should not be associated with your congregation if you have youth pageant participants.
- National Youth Conference Pageant criteria should be used to accept applications from prospective participants
- National Youth Conference Pageant criteria should be used to select the winning participant in each of the four categories (e.g. Mr./Miss State Congeniality is for ages 13-15, Mr./Miss State Youth Conference is for ages 16-20, participants are given 6 minutes to display their talent and to complete their speech on the conference theme)
- Contestants should perform and be judged even if they are the only participant in the given category (providing anonymous results of the judges decisions may help the youth prepare for the National Youth Conference, or for next year's State Conference)
- If financial resources are available, a crown and certificate should be provided for the winning female participants, and a scepter and certificate should be provide for the winning male participants (other prizes can be awarded totally at the discretion of the host congregation)
- Gifts for the judges is left to the discretion of the host congregation
- The host congregation should select a conference theme and make it available to all congregations on the mailing lists (it is preferable to use the National Youth Conference Theme, but it is not always known by the time of the State Youth Conference)
- Only one participant for each category per congregation is allowed to participate in the State Pageant. Therefore, all elimination competitions should be held at the congregation level prior to the State Conference.
- See Pageant Guidelines for more information.