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SOCAL

EVENT GUIDE

EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

All events take place in Refinery Building of Saddleback Church

MONDAY- March 24, 2025

Event Times: 2:15 PM to 9:00 PM (Pacific Standard Time Zone)

- 11 AM to 2 PM – New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference
 - 50 Spots Available, Lunch and resources provided. Register for this as part of your YPS Registration.
- 2:15 PM – Registration
- 2:30 PM – Doors Open
- 3:00 PM – Mainstage Session Block One
 - Worship with [Bethany Barr Phillips](#)
 - [Chuck Peters](#), 5 Enormous Needs of Gen Z & Gen Alpha
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - [Dr. Kathy Koch](#), Created to Be
- 5:30 PM – Dinner break on your own
- 6:45 PM – Mainstage Session Block Two
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - Worship with [Bethany Barr Phillips](#)
 - [Samaritan's Purse](#) and the California Fires
 - [Dr. Jeff Wallace](#), To AI or Not to AI?
 - [Eugene Cho](#), Created to Influence
- 9:00 PM – Conference Dismissed

TUESDAY- March 25, 2025

Event Times: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Pacific Standard Time Zone)

- 8:00 AM – [Youth Ministry Booster](#) Coffee Fellowship for Early Risers
- 8:30 AM – Registration/ Doors Open
- 9:00 AM – Mainstage Session Block Three
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - Worship with [Bethany Barr Phillips](#)
 - [Dr. Christopher Yuan](#), Sexual Identity/ False Identity
- 10:40 AM – Leadership Lab Session A
- 11:40 AM – Leadership Lab Session B
- 12:30 PM – Lunch provided by event sponsors
- 1:30 PM – Mainstage Session Block Four
 - Worship with [Bethany Barr Phillips](#)
 - [Drew Worsham](#), Art of Story Telling
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - [Megan Fate Marshman](#), Relaxed

EVENT OVERVIEW

Youth Pastor Summit is a two-day conference that brings together student pastors, educators, and volunteers into one room to foster **collaboration, community, and soul-care**. It is a direct response to the growing need for people to pour into this generation.

As Student Leadership University trains up the next generation, we increasingly recognize the exponential impact that the leaders have on these students. YPS gathers thousands of leaders from across their regions of the country from 30+ denominations and movements. Each YPS includes mainstage sessions and leadership labs. This year, we will host spring YPS events in SoCal, Dallas, Nashville, and Raleigh and introduce the first ever YPS National in Orlando, Florida this fall.

We bring in some of the world's best student ministry minds, communicators, and practitioners to address four foundational and ever-present questions:

1. **Spiritual Formation:** Who are we becoming?
2. **God's Mission:** What story is God telling?
3. **Ethics:** How should we think?
4. **Leadership:** Why and how do we influence?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Venue & Parking Notes:

Saddleback Church (Lake Forest Campus) – *The Refinery Building*

1 Saddleback Parkway, Lake Forest, CA 92630

*Saddleback has multiple campuses in the area so make sure to arrive at the Lake Forest Campus. If heading south on the 241 toll road, be sure to get off at the 2nd Portola exit. **YPS will be located in their Refinery building in the Auditorium at the Saddleback Lake Forest Campus.***

What to Pack: Make sure to pack a pen & a bottle of water for you to have during the conference.

Meals: Dinner on Monday is on your own. Take advantage of restaurants close to the church as traffic could get bad around 5, and you will want to make it back in time our evening session! Lunch will be provided on Tuesday. Make sure to stop by our sponsor tables and say thanks!

Registration: In order to expedite your registration and to minimize gathering in the lobby, please bring a copy/screen shot of your registration in one of the forms below. Having one of the options above will ensure a smooth check-in for you and your team the morning of the event. **Registration Proof (any of the options below will work):**

- Printed Copy or Screen Shot of your Registration Email
- Printed out or/Screen Shot of your registration account with YPS Southern California Listed – you can access this from here:
<https://events.circuitree.com/studentleadership/Account/Login/?returnUrl=%2Fstudentleadership&skip=False>

Wristbands: You will receive a YPS wristband when you check in. You must wear this for the duration of the event as it is your access into all sessions and meals.

TUESDAY LEADERSHIP LAB DESCRIPTIONS

Leadership Labs (breakout sessions) are designed to inspire and equip you and your team. We encourage every participant to take full advantage of the practical and relevant training sessions the labs will provide. Make sure your group splits up and attends as many lab sessions as possible on Tuesday.

10:40 AM Leadership Labs

Lab 1 in The Refinery Theater

Dr. Kathy Koch: *Founder of Celebrate Kids*

Building Resiliency: Dr. Kathy defines resiliency and speaks into how pastors and churches can build resiliency in their students.

Lab 2 in The Gym

Kurt Johnston: *Pastor at Saddleback Church*

Level Up Your Leadership – Developing Yourself for Lasting Impact: Practical guidance on personal leadership development, self-awareness, and growing into the leader your ministry needs.

Lab 3 in The 2nd Floor Classroom

Amanda Mejias: *Lifeway Girls Brand & Women in Youth Ministry Specialist*

Not Just a Girl Thing: God's Invitation Through Feelings: Whether it's you, your team, or your teenagers, dealing with big feelings is inevitable in ministry. Cry night at camp, anyone? The issue we often face is how to validate how we feel without allowing feelings to control our hearts and minds. Let's study together how God wants to create ministries that promote authenticity without compromising truth.

Lab 4 in The Diner

Dr. Jonathan Denton: *Assistant Professor of Christian Studies/ Student Ministry at CSU*

StudentX - Charging into the Future of Youth Ministry: In this breakout session, we will explore how to develop a compelling vision to impact this generation and beyond, assemble a dynamic team to bring that vision to life, and execute it with excellence at every opportunity to engage and empower our students.

11:40 AM Leadership Labs

Lab 1 in The Refinery Theater

Dr. Christopher Yuan: *Author, Speaker, Bible Professor*

Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, desire, and relationships shaped by God's grand story.

Lab 2 in The Gym

Justin Knowles: *Youth Pastor at VantagePoint Church*

Breaking Through Ministry Roadblocks – Reignite Passion and Growth: Learn key steps to move past stagnation, refocus your team, and breathe new life into your ministry.

Lab 3 in The 2nd Floor Classroom

Zac Workun: *Student Ministry Specialist for Lifeway, Co-Founder Youth Ministry Booster*

Unlocking Parent Ministry – Practical Solutions for Stronger Family Engagement: Explore strategies to bridge the gap between church and home, equipping parents to be the primary discipler of their kids.

Lab 4 in The Diner

Bethany Barr Phillips: *Worship Leader, Song Writer, SLU 2025 Artist in Residence*

Worship Beyond the Stage: The Heart of an Artist in Residence: With TikTok preachers and worship industry a part of this generation's church culture, how can we prepare and point them on a path that is beyond popularity? In an age where students are taught to be devoted to themselves, how do we encourage them to cultivate a

devotion to God? In this breakout, we'll discuss and gain insight on both personal faith and church culture to point our students to pursuit of God rather than performance for Him.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference Gathering at YPS?

Get what you need before the conference even starts! A 3-hour lunch and learn for those who are New2Ministry (2ish years or so). A roundtable session that is wildly practical, conversational, pro-active, and specifically tuned to set up you, a new-ish youth ministry leader with an action plan for how to better build a healthy ministry. Our friends at Lifeway Students want to connect and equip you with the strategy and stuff you need to lead well now. You can sign up for this as part of your regular YPS registration. Space is limited to 50 people.

Is YPS really only \$15?

Yes! Through the generosity of Lifeway Students and other sponsors, this conference is being provided for only \$15 to all advanced registration attendees who register two weeks in advance, \$20 for those under the two-week window, \$25 at the door (if the event still has space). Lunch is provided, but you are on your own the rest of your meals as well as lodging if needed.

How can I qualify for exclusive YPS benefits and make my YPS experience better?

Launching in 2025, membership has its privileges at YPS! YPS attendees have the opportunity to become a YPS Pioneer or YPS Champion and earn special perks for their YPS experience. The SLU team will email attendees directly once they qualify.

- **YPS Pioneer:** Are those that attend YPS in the spring and YPS National OR attend any YPS and refer 3 new churches. Have your friends enter your name in the referral field when registering. We'll also reach out to you with a form so that you can provide us the information of who you've referred.
 - Benefits of General Admission plus...
 - FREE Content to host a student weekend event emailed directly to you including:
 - Themed artwork
 - Opener video + slides
 - Sermon manuscripts
 - Comprehensive leader guides
 - Digital attendee booklet
 - Small group discussion questions
- **YPS Champion:** Are YPS Pioneers that also attend an SLU event in 2025 with your students.
 - All Benefits of Pioneer Status plus...
 - 15% discount on resources & custom merch at YPS and YPS National
 - On-site membership perks at National:
 - Special State of the Youth Ministry Document
 - VIP Onsite Registration Line & Early entry door
 - Exclusive Champion wristband
 - Special onsite lunch and lounge

Who should attend YPS?

Youth Pastor Summit is geared to all youth pastors and key youth leaders (staff or volunteers). It is also open to Christian educators. **All attendees must be 18 years or older.**

Can my spouse attend?

Of course! We love when couples do ministry together. Make sure you register them so that they are guaranteed a spot. Each attendee of YPS must be registered for the event and each attendee must register with their unique email address.

I have a small child; can they attend with me?

We think families are great and time together is important. However, this event is ***only for those who are 18 and older*** and who have graduated high school. We want everyone to have the best experience possible at this event, so please make arrangements to leave your children at home or arrange childcare outside of the conference.

Can I transfer my ticket to someone else?

If you are registered as a group, we will do a one-time transfer of any of your participants, without penalty. Transfers are not available on individual registrations. This one-time transfer must occur a minimum of ten business days before the event. To make a transfer on your account, email us at yps@studentleadership.net from your group leader's email indicating the individual(s) you are canceling and the name, email, and DOB of the new registration(s). We will only make a transfer(s) on each group registration one time, and once you have made a transfer, your group is then finalized.

