

20 YPS 25

YOUTH PASTOR SUMMIT
National

NATIONAL IN ORLANDO

EVENT GUIDE

EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Monday & Tuesday: Main Worship Center Building of First Orlando Click [Here](#) for Map

Wednesday: YPS National Day at Universal Studios

MONDAY- November 3, 2025

Event Times: 12:00 PM to 8:15 PM (Eastern Standard Time Zone)

- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM: **New2Ministry Pre Conference**
- 12:00 PM: Registration
- 12:30 PM: Doors Open
- 1:00 PM: **Mainstage Session Block One**
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - [Drew Worsham](#) and [Jason Dyba](#)
 - [Zac Workun](#)
- 3:00 PM: Break
- 3:30 PM: **Mainstage Session Block Two**
 - Worship with [LU Praise Gospel Choir](#)
 - [Brent Crowe](#)
 - [Dr. Kathy Koch](#)
- 5:35 PM: Dinner on campus in Faith Hall – provided by event sponsors
- 6:25 to 8:15 PM: **Leadership Labs** – see page 3
- 8:15 PM: Day One Concluded

TUESDAY- November 4, 2025

Event Times: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time Zone)

- 9:30 AM: Registration/ Doors Open
- 10:00 AM: **Mainstage Session Block Three**
 - Worship with [LU Praise](#)
 - Samaritan's Purse Offering [Devon Rachae](#)
 - [Megan Fate Marshman](#)
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - [Luke Lezon](#)
- 12:15 PM: Lunch on campus – provided by event sponsors
- 1:15 PM: **Mainstage Session Block Four**
 - [KB](#) Concert
 - [Joel Muddamalle](#)
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - Leadership Legends Panel with Dr. Jay Strack, Dr. Kathy Koch, and Mike Calhoun
- 4:00 PM: Break
- 4:30 PM: **Mainstage Session Block Five**
 - Worship with [LU Praise](#)
 - [Levi Lusko](#)
 - Illusionist [Jared Hall](#)
 - [Ed Newton](#)
- 7:15 PM: Food Truck Rally
- 8:15 PM: Conference Concludes

WEDNESDAY- November 5, 2025

- YPS National Universal Day – Park opens at 9 AM – provided by event sponsors

EVENT OVERVIEW

Youth Pastor Summit National is a conference in Orlando Florida that brings together student pastors, educators, and volunteers into one room to **foster community, place of learning, and moment of understanding**. 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 National gathers thousands of leaders from across the country from 30+ denominations and movements. SLU also hosts 4-spring YPS events in SoCal, Dallas, Nashville, and Raleigh where we foster collaboration, community, and soul-care.

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 FOR MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Venue & Parking Notes: [BUILDING MAP](#)

First Baptist Church Orlando – [Worship Center](#)

3000 S John Young Parkway, Orlando, FL 32805

Please plan on parking in the **blue lots** to access welcome center A or the **gold lots** for welcome center B.

What to Pack: Make sure to pack a Bible, pen, notebook, and a bottle of water for you to have during the conference.

Meals: Through the generosity of our event sponsors, dinner is provided on Monday and lunch is being provided on Tuesday. For dinner Tuesday, there will be a variety of food trucks available onsite for your purchase. Make sure to stop by our sponsor tables and say thanks for providing for everyone!

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 Orlando Listed – you can access this from here:
<https://events.circuitree.com/studentleadership/Account/Login/?returnUrl=%2Fstudentleadership&skip=False>
- If you want to check in as a group (if you registered that way), there will be an express line for this at Welcome Center B on the Left when you arrive.

Wristbands: You will receive a YPS wristband when you check in. You must wear this on Monday and Tuesday as it is your access into all sessions and meals and to receive your Universal tickets for Wednesday.

MONDAY EVENING 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.

6:25 PM BREAKOUT LABS

Lab 1 in Main Worship Center

[Dr. Kathy Koch](#) – Founder Celebrate Kids

LEADING YOUTH TO HAVE GENDER-CONFIDENCE: Join Dr. Kathy as she dives into the topic of today's gender confusion in students and their peers. With truth, compassion, and clarity, she will equip leaders to have conversations that help anchor students in their God-given identity. This session will give you a practical framework, rooted in Scripture, not shifting culture, to navigate gender confusion with truth, hope, and biblical wisdom.

Lab 2 in Henry Chapel

[Julie Mullins](#) – Christ Fellowship Church

GET THERE FIRST: LEADING THE CHARGE INTO THE FIGHTING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION: The next generation isn't waiting for permission to shape the world, they already are. Gen Z and Gen Alpha are redefining culture, language, morality, and technology in real time. The question is no longer if the church will engage them, but how soon. In "Get There First," ministry leaders are challenged to move from reactionary ministry to revolutionary leadership, one that anticipates cultural shifts, adapts with wisdom, and advances with gospel urgency.

Lab 3 in LMC

[Brad Lomenick](#) – Leadership Consultant, Author and Speaker

LEADERSHIP: BECOMING A LEADER WHO IS HUMBLE, HUNGRY, AND HUSTLES: True leadership is not defined by personality, popularity, or position—it is built on character, conviction, and consistency. The "H3 Leader" embodies three essential traits that reflect the heart of Christ: **Humility, Hunger, and Hustle**. In this breakout, participants will discover what it means to lead with a servant's heart, pursue continual growth, and work diligently for the glory of God. Through biblical insights, practical exercises, and leadership reflection, attendees will learn how to cultivate the mindset and habits that set apart great leaders in ministry and life.

Lab 4 in Faith Hall 3rd Floor 301 AH/BG

[Mike Calhoun](#) – Pastor of Ministry Training at The Summit Church

THE VOLUNTEER CHEAT CODE: DEVELOPING GLOBAL LEADERS FOR MINISTRY LONGEVITY: The foundation of every thriving student and next-gen ministry is a commitment to the development and discipleship of future leaders. Finding student and volunteer leaders, equipping them, and keeping them engaged can feel like a never-ending challenge. This breakout equips ministry leaders with biblical principles and proven strategies for both their own personal growth as well as developing leaders with ministry longevity.

Lab 5 in Faith Hall 3rd Floor 301 C/F

[Chuck Peters](#) – Director of Lifeway NextGen

FLIP YOUR SCRIPT FROM HEAR TO HERE: DEFINING A NEW SPIRITUAL JOURNEY STARTING POINT FOR STUDENTS: Traditional ministry models assume that students arrive at our churches ready hear what we have to say, but that's not a realistic expectation for this generation of students. To reach them more effectively, we need to change our assumptions and adjust our strategy to meet them where they are in light of their spiritual, emotional, and psychological needs, so that their eyes, ears, hearts, and minds will be open to respond to the gospel and begin a healthy journey of faith.

Lab 6 in Faith Hall 3rd Floor 301 D/F

[Dr. Jonathan Denton](#) – Assistant Professor of Christian Studies/Student Ministry at CSU and [Dr. Amanda Denton](#) – Middle School Girls Minster at The Church at LifePark

THE COMEBACK GENERATION: Statistics and stories are showing that this generation of students are returning to God and the church. This breakout will prepare you with a plan to call this generation of students to faith and equip them to live missionally and share their faith with their friends and the world.

7:25 PM BREAKOUT LABS

Lab 1 in Main Worship Center

[Dr. Sean McDowell](#) – Worldview Expert

HOW TO HAVE SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: (Acts 17) Paul's speech at the Areopagus is one of the most famous passages in the New Testament. It is not only insightful and interesting but offers some practical steps for how to engage non-believers in genuine dialogue. In this talk, Sean offers 3 simple steps, from the example of Paul in Mars Hill, for how to have spiritual conversations with people who see the world differently.

Lab 2 in Henry Chapel

[Drew Worsham](#) – Mentalist, Illusionist

THE POWER OF CURIOSITY IN LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP: What if the most powerful shift in your leadership isn't more answers, but better questions? Come explore a curiosity-driven framework for leading teams and discipling the next generation.

Lab 3 in LMC

[Kate Downing](#) – Student Director at BattleCreek Church

FIGHTING WITH FEAR: HELPING TEENS TO LIVE FEARFUL & UNAFRAID: What are they afraid of? Probably a lot. Teenagers today are exposed to more stress, worry, and anxiety than any other previous generation. Let's learn and grow together so you can equip your students to face their fears by diving into what the Bible has to teach us about fear.

Lab 4 in Faith Hall 3rd Floor 301 AH/BG

[Ryan McDermott](#) - Teaching pastor and the Senior Executive Director of Family Ministry at Christ

TECH & TEENS – SOCIAL MEDIA, AI, & AUTHORITY: From social media trends to artificial intelligence, technology is shaping how teens think, believe, and belong. This breakout explores how digital culture influences authority, identity, and discipleship. Leaders will examine practical and theological approaches to help students navigate online influence, discern truth from noise, and use technology for Kingdom purposes.

Lab 5 in Faith Hall 3rd Floor 301 C/F

[Amanda Mejias](#) – Lifeway Girls Brand & Women in Youth Ministry Specialist

BEFORE THEY LEAVE: EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO OWN THEIR FAITH: Our students won't be in our ministries forever, so what is our hope for them when they are gone? And how do we get there? More than talking and hoping about what you want for your students, creating a discipleship plan is key to setting students on a path to knowing and loving God with all their hearts, souls, and minds. Together, let's put practical steps and measures in place to define, celebrate, and evaluate the fruit of our ministries.

Lab 6 in Faith Hall 3rd Floor 301 D/F

[Nathan Schneider](#) – Next Gen Ministry Leader in the Florida Baptist Convention

LEADING THE MENTALLY FRAGILE – STUDENTS IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS: The mental health crisis among students is no longer emerging, it's here. This breakout will help ministry leaders recognize signs of emotional distress, respond with biblical empathy, and build safe environments that promote mental and spiritual health. Participants will explore how the church can serve as both a refuge and a resource for those struggling with anxiety, depression, and trauma.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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. 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. **No transfers are possible after 2 PM on October 31st or onsite.**

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE WEDNESDAY INFO

Address

Universal Studios/ Islands of Adventure

6000 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

Who will get a ticket?

We know how rare it is to simply relax and enjoy the moment in the busyness of ministry. No matter when you registered for YPS National, **each attendee will receive a FREE ticket** to Universal Studios or Islands of Adventure for a full day at the park. This is an update as Universal Studios and Student Leadership University got together to secure tickets so each attendee could have one!

At YPS National, we don't just want you to make the most of your time in sessions and Leadership Labs — we want you to redeem the time at the park, too. You'll also receive an incredible assessment tool on the state of student ministry. While you're at the park, take a few moments to verbally process with fellow leaders and co-laborers in ministry. We know there's real value in these conversations among your teams.

When will tickets be valid for?

Tickets will be valid for one park (either Universal Studios or Islands of Adventure) on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

When will tickets be distributed?

Tickets will be distributed at the close of the conference on Tuesday. Attendees must be present to receive a ticket and still be wearing their event wristband.

