

**National Youth Week
(4-14 April)**



Our story is love

Event planning guide

Youth week is an opportunity for EVERYONE to celebrate the achievements and contributions of young people. We can listen to the stories, ideas and concerns of our youth. We can engage with young people to have fun and take action together.



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Before you get started:

- Involve young people in planning, running and participating in Youth Week events.
- Consider the needs and resources in your community.
- Research what other churches, services and schools are planning. Consider partnering or volunteering at one of these events. Or, if you are planning your own event, invite others in the community to join with you.
- Think about the safety aspects and submit your Mission Activities and Program (MAaP).

Suggestions:

- Host one or more smaller activities. Think about how you can make spaces where everyone in your community can:
 - **CELEBRATE** the achievements and contributions of young people
 - **LISTEN** to the stories, ideas and concerns of our youth
 - **ENGAGE** with young people to have fun and take action together
- Host a big event that incorporates lots of ideas. For example, run a Twilight Market:
 - With market stalls that feature products created by young people
 - Include an art competition
 - Invite young people to provide the music
 - Have a karaoke competition
 - Make spaces where young people can speak for five minutes each on issues they are passionate about

Use this table to brainstorm ideas for a small or large event.

EXPRESS – ideas and views For example: Online 'Soapbox', invite a young person to preach a sermon	ACT – on issues that impact young people For example: As a group, volunteer for a day at a local youth service
CREATE – encourage young people's creativity For example: Art competition	PERFORM – promote young people's skills For example: Host a picnic and invite young people to provide the entertainment
ENJOY – host something just for fun For example: Outdoor cinema, barbecue, twilight markets	CELEBRATE – the achievements and contributions of young people For example: Youth Awards or graduations from youth programs