



Leaders Notes

Youth Week is an opportunity for us to focus on the young people in our corps, in our families and in our communities. We celebrate our young people for who they are. We pause to ensure that we are hearing their voices. We join with them in their journey to independence.

The theme for 2023 is '**We walk with hope**'. As followers of Jesus, we find enduring hope in lives inspired by his love and grounded in his promises. As a faith community, our role is to hear, encourage and support young people in their journey.

If you have young people in your faith community, include them in the planning and decision making for Youth Week. If you do not currently have young people in your faith community, check out the ideas list for ways to engage the older people in your corps to support young people in their wider circles.



Ten ideas to celebrate Youth Week 2023

- 1. Share hopes** – Ask young people in your corps to prepare a one to two sentence answer to the questions, 'What are your hopes for the future?' and 'What/who brings you hope in challenging times?' If you don't have many young people, you could ask adults to answer this question too. Invite people to ask this question of any young people in their family. Allocate time in your church meeting to listen to their answers.
- 2. Pray** – Pray through the prayer points provided or customise them to reflect the needs of young people in your community. Include these points in your newsletter or print copies and make them available for anyone who would like to pray.
- 3. Get active** – Organise a Walk for Hope, fun run or colour run to raise funds for a Salvation Army youth initiative in your area. Invite people of all ages from your corps and community to join in.
- 4. Volunteer** – Encourage members of your corps to become a volunteer for a youth service in your area. For example: a mentor for The Salvation Army Drive for Life program.
- 5. Connect with community** – Find out about events that are happening in your community for Youth Week and organise to take a group from your corps to join in.
- 6. Celebrate young people** – Celebrate young people and their achievements by hosting an afternoon tea in their honour.
- 7. Thank youth workers** – Thank youth workers for their dedication, service and influence. Ask young people to also nominate those who have been influential in their lives. Invite young people to write notes of thanks and read these out during the meeting. Where possible, present each one with a small gift.
- 8. Plant a tree** – Plant a tree for each young person in your corps (or each grandchild of your faith community members). Send a card (see example below) to each of them letting them know that you will be praying for them as they grow.
- 9. Have fun** – Plan a fun event for your young people to deepen intergenerational connections with others in your faith community. For example: a picnic, beach day or campfire.
- 10. Reflect** – Print copies of We walk with hope – reflections and encourage people in your faith community to use them as personal devotions or in small groups during Youth Week.

Tree planting card example:

Dear _____,

Today we planted a tree for you.

As we watch this tree grow, we will also be praying for you.

Our prayer is that you will walk with hope.

From your family and friends at _____





For more information

Youth Week across Australia is organised at a state, rather than a national level. This means that the timing and themes vary from state to state. For more information about what is happening in your state or territory, contact the relevant members of the Youth Social and Mission teams.

	Mission	Social
WA	Auxiliary-Lieutenant Steve Freind steve.freind@salvationarmy.org.au	Yvonne Hunt yvonne.hunt@salvationarmy.org.au
SA/NT	Major Erica Jones 0430 917980 erica.jones@salvationarmy.org.au	Katie Lawson katie.lawson@salvationarmy.org.au
VIC	Lincoln Proellocks 0421 278 245 lincoln.proellocks@salvationarmy.org.au	Rob Ellis 0448 563 931 rob.ellis@salvationarmy.org.au
TAS	Marj Rava 0419 250 781 marj.rava@salvationarmy.org.au	
QLD	Captain Leisa Humbley 0412 655 219 leisa.humbley@salvationarmy.org.au	Danielle Bowman 0419 541 203 danielle.bowman@salvationarmy.org.au
NSW/ACT	Auxiliary-Lieutenant Lauren Luiker 0418 682 413 lauren.luiker@salvationarmy.org.au	Tom Austin 0438 262 677 thomas.austin@salvationarmy.org.au