YOUTH WEEK 2024

10 ideas to celebrate

YOUTH WEEK

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 for and with young people in your community. Organise a prayer meeting or prayer walk through your neighbourhood.

3. Get active – Organise a 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.

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 every young person in your corps (or every grandchild of your faith community members). Send a card 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 – In small groups, reflect on Jeremiah 23:3-4. What does it mean for you to find a place in the 'sheepfold'? Who has been a 'shepherd' to you? How can you be a 'shepherd' to others?