Hey Yo!

As we’re still searching for that elusive cold front, it’s getting really close to the 2018 LCGYF Youth Convention! In about six weeks we will be meeting at the Lake Charles Civic Center for an incredible weekend together! This year is sure to be an unforgettable weekend filled with life long memories, moments of serving and life-change experiences among our Church of God youth and their leaders.

This year we are extremely excited to announce that Yira Rodriquez will be our Convention speaker! Yira is the pastor of the new Church of God church in LaRomana, Dominican Republic. Several years ago, the Lord called her away from her hometown of Santa Domingo to plant a church in LaRomana. Over the past several years, many of our youth groups have traveled to help build this church and school. Our theme this year is ‘The Battle Within: Building Your True Identity’. Justin Martindale, who has led worship for our state camps in recent years, will leading worship for Convention. He’s been a solo act at camp but will have his full band with him for the weekend.

On Saturday morning, we will have one of the founders of Friend Ships coming to share about their organization in Lake Charles. Friend Ships is an emergency outreach organization that receives donations and supplies from local business and churches. Whenever there is a natural disaster or civil turmoil, Friend Ships loads their fleet and travels to trouble. They will also be speaking about the Sea Hawk program, which challenges high school seniors and young adults to volunteer a year of their life to serve with their organization.

Pretty basic Convention information and schedule so far right? This is where we take the turn. On Saturday we typically have free time from after lunch until supper. This year, we will be heading to Friend Ships after lunch to volunteer at the docks. We are still working with them as far as jobs and tasks, but here is our current plan. Once we get all the tasks from them, we will assign our state staff to different jobs. After pre-registration we will inform individual churches what their job will be during our time serving. When we arrive, churches will meet with their assigned staff member and will begin working on their project. Right now, in our two hours of volunteering, we are planned to accomplish what would have taken Friend Ships alone about four months to finish. This is one reason why the registration deadline is important, so we can coordinate groups.

But wait, there’s more! Our registration and start time are going to be pushed back on Friday night to help our groups with travel. Registration will begin at 6 pm and our first session will be start at 8:30pm. We will not have any entertainment Friday night to allow groups to check-in and eat before or after our first session without being out too late.

So, The Battle Within, pretty cool theme, but what entertainment can go along with a battle? Well, we’re glad you asked! Our LCGYF staff has contracted Full Throttle Wrestling for a private Christian show on Saturday night! This show is expected to provided stories for years and years to come. Along with their show, we have a few additions to make this night truly unforgettable! One of them will be a dress up contest with two main categories: Come as your favorite wrestler and Most Original!

A few questions to answer:

When is the deadline for the hotel discount?

October 24 is the deadline to reserve your hotel rooms. We have worked extremely hard to find a hotel that would fit our entire group that wasn’t $200 a night or in a casino. We truly hope you plan to stay with us at the Staybridge Suites. We negotiated the rate down to $99/night. Their phone number is 337.477.7474. Please reserve your rooms as soon as possible and get as many as you may need. Our hotel is located close to Chic-fil-a, Sonic, BWW, the food court in the mall and many other restaurants.

When is my pre-registration list due?

November 5 is our T-Shirt registration deadline. To get our shirts finished in time, we need to submit our order on November 6. Please submit your list and sizes by the end of the day November 5. Please send your registration list to rjrials22@live.com

What happens if I have changes to my list?

No worries at all. If you add any students after Nov. 5th, they are more than welcomed to come to Convention, but they may or may not have a shirt. If you have more students drop out than you pre-registered, you will be charged $10 for the shirt and will keep the shirt.

When do I pay?

Please do not send any money for Convention until registration on the 16th. Lists tend to change daily as it gets close and this will keep you from having to bring multiple checks or us having to write you one back. Currently, we are not set up for credit cards. Please make checks to LCGYF. The cost is $55 per person. Students and adults on staff do not have to pay registration.

We are so excited about Convention this year. Please be promoting our event on Sundays and Wednesdays with your students and leaders!

God Bless,

Richard Rials

P.S. Mistletoe and Moss will also be going on at the Civic Center. It has a small cover fee and is set up like a Christmas super craft sale- think Pinterest Live. You may want to do a little searching and check it out. May be something your lady leaders would be interested in.