

The Youth Program Support Committee met on Saturday morning, November 5, with four of the six members present. We considered how to implement a program for children and youth at our SCYM annual sessions held at Greene Family Camp in April 2023. Due to changing demographics and our recovery from pandemic shut downs, we anticipate a smaller number of children and youth to attend than 4 years ago. We hope to have more children and youth in attendance than we had in April 2022. We ask all monthly meetings representatives to tell their monthly meetings about our programming for children and youth and to encourage families to come to Greene Family Camp.

Our plans are for:

- ★ Activities for groups of children of wide-age ranges. Groups would be fluid: children would choose based on interest rather than age, though some activities will draw older children and some, younger children.
 - Older elementary - teens
 - Teen group, if more than 2 or 3 teens
 - Younger elementary - preschool
 - Child care for the youngest, as needed
- ★ Multiple workshop-style activities during adult programming times between breakfast and dinner
 - At least two activities offered during each adult session times
 - Children /youth would self-select which activity to attend
 - Activities would be correlated with adult schedule times
 - either 45-minutes or 90-minutes, most likely
 - with two 45-minute sessions for each 90-minute adult session (adjusted by adult schedule, if two-hour sessions)
- ★ A mix of activities to encourage fellowship and spiritual nurture content.
 - Fellowship
 - Spiritual nurture, sharing and content
 - Q&A for older children & youth: Who are Quakers? What do they believe? How do they know God? How do they know “who to be, what to do and how to love?”
 - Arts / Crafts
 - Play and physical activities
 - Nature walks
 - Music
 - Skit design and preparation
 - Stories, including Godly Play and Faith & Play stories, books, storytelling
 - A mix of active and quiet activities, with interests for older and younger ages

- ★ Volunteers would sign up for short periods of time (2 hours or less).
 - We will need lots of volunteers, but only for short periods.
 - Two volunteers per group. No children alone with only one adult that is not a family member. (Child and Adult Safety)
 - People who can share particular interests (music, art, nature, play, etc) can offer their interest and time to the youth program.
- ★ We need the support of monthly meetings to let us know if there are children in their meetings, their ages and if their families could be encouraged to attend yearly meeting sessions at Greene Family Camp.
 - Please send the names, ages and contact information to <https://www.scym.org/contacts/youth>
 - Please update monthly meeting listings in SCYM with names of families with children. This will give us an idea of how many children there are in SCYM and would make it possible to send them invitations to attend SCYM at GFC.
 - We ask monthly meetings to encourage families to bring their children and youth to SCYM sessions at GFC for a good Quaker experience with other Quaker children.

We have a proposal to offer Quaker Parent Mutual Support groups to SCYM parents. See proposal below.

PROPOSAL

The Youth Program Support Committee (YPSC) proposes to the Representative Meeting that SCYM offer parents in our monthly meetings and worship groups the opportunity to join a SCYM Parent Mutual Support Group (SCYMPMSG) via zoom, modeled after the Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups, now in their third year. QPMSG is cross-branch and across continents, but we would have only SCYM parents at this time.

FORMAT

The format for the groups is for a small group of parents (5-7) to meet via zoom every two weeks for ten sessions, led by two experienced Quaker parents who also are part of SCYM. The sessions are limited to one-hour. Groups are arranged by time slots. The purpose of the groups are for Quaker parents to connect, share their joys and concerns, to welcome the Spirit into their daily lives, to feel the support of SCYM, to be glad and sad with each other and to hold each other in the Light. Ideally, the groups

would begin in the second week of January 2023 and conclude the week of May 22, 2023.

TESTIMONY

Anne Collins has served as a co-facilitator for the past year and reports the depth of connection that her group shares. Her group decided to continue meeting after taking a break for the summer. They now meet monthly, with breaks for holidays and summer. Not all QPMSG groups have continued beyond their twelve sessions, but a number of them have.

PERSONNEL

Anne volunteers to help set up the groups, to help find common times for them to meet and to train the facilitators about ways to facilitate the sessions. She needs a co-organizer to make this happen. Monthly Meetings need to inform Quaker parents raising children of this opportunity. Monthly Meetings are invited to recommend the experienced parents (their children are grown) who can be invited to co-facilitate the groups that form.

We believe that this would be very beneficial for SCYM parents, their children and the meetings that they worship with.

CALENDAR

Session 1 - week of January 9

Session 2 - week of January 23

Session 3 - week of February 6

Session 4 - week of February 20

Session 5 - week of March 6

Session 6 - week of March 20

Session 7 - week of April 10* - 3 wks. between sessions, to skip SCYM at GFC

Session 8 - week of April 24

Session 9 - week of May 8

Session 10 - week of May 22

Submitted by Anne Collins

Written - November 8, 2022