

WELLS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY



**FROM THE
MOUNTAINTOPS**

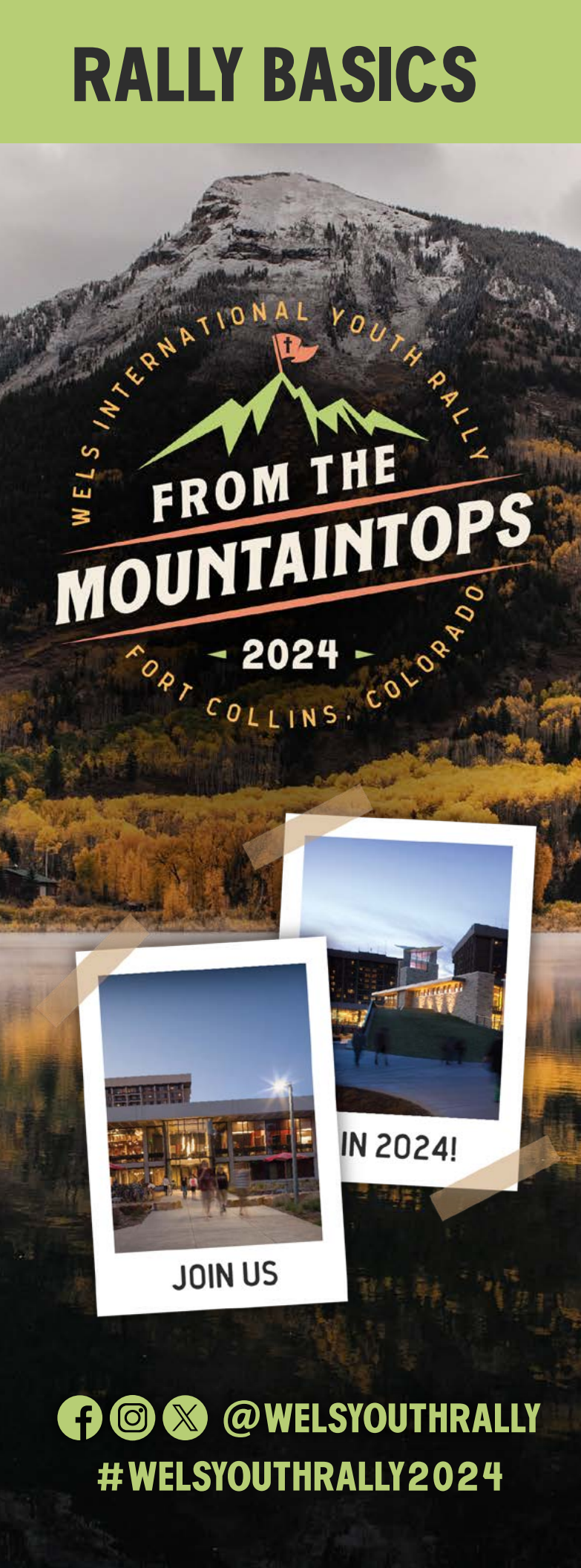
2024
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

HERE IS YOUR GOD!
ISAIAH 40:9

JUNE 25-28, 2024

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

RALLY BASICS



WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY FROM THE MOUNTAINTOPS 2024 FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

YOUTH RALLY MISSION STATEMENT

The WELS International Youth Rally exists to provide youth and youth leaders from across the synod a large-scale worship, education, fellowship, recreation, and service opportunity that deepens commitment to Christ and his church.

WELSYOUTH RALLY.NET

View and download this and additional resources: group sign-up worksheet, airport shuttle options, Christian conduct covenants, medical release worksheet, and “Terms and Conditions.” Workshop descriptions and off-site excursion information will be available after January 17. If you have questions, contact the rally coordinator at youthrally2024@wels.net or 414-527-6854.

Online registration is organized and run by
Colorado State University Conference
& Event Services (CSU CES)

Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. MT
970-491-6222 • conferences@colostate.edu



IN 2024!



JOIN US

   @WELSYOUTH RALLY
#WELSYOUTH RALLY2024



REGISTRATION RUNS MARCH 6 – MAY 28

Contact Youth Leaders must preregister their group members starting March 6. Once preregistered, group members may register starting March 21 until May 28.

**\$410 — EARLY-BIRD FULL PAYMENT RATE
UNTIL APRIL 30**

\$430 — MAY 1-31

RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE MOUNTAINTOPS

The theme of the rally comes from Isaiah 40:9: “You who bring good news to Zion, **go up on a high mountain**. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, **lift up your voice** with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, ‘**Here is your God!**’”

In a world of false peaks and dark valleys, with hearts that climb prideful peaks and tumble into sorrowful valleys, the rally will proclaim the good news of God’s presence here with us and bask in the powerful promises he has made to us. Each day will focus on messages from the book of Isaiah, often incorporating other mountains of Scripture.

COMFORT from the Mountaintop
HOPE from the Mountaintop
CERTAINTY from the Mountaintop
VICTORY from the Mountaintop

- ▶ Worship music by Branches Band
- ▶ Opportunities to learn about different ministry and service options
- ▶ Workshops with a biblical perspective on timely teen topics
- ▶ Professional nightly entertainment on large and small stages.
*We’re still working on this.
Check out welsyouthrally.net for announcements and updates!*
- ▶ Optional Colorado excursion opportunities (for an extra fee)
- ▶ Time for fun and excellent CSU dining with many yummy options!

A LETTER FROM WELS COMMISSION ON DISCIPLESHIP

The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated at the closing service of this year’s youth rally. **It is a wonderful opportunity to impress on young WELS members that the Lord’s Supper is a vital component of their spiritual lives, connecting them to our God and strengthening their connection to one another.** Having the Lord’s Supper at the youth rally aligns with worship practice at large WELS gatherings such as the National Leadership Conference, National Worship Conference, LWMS annual convention, and others. Both WELS Congregational Services and the Conference of Presidents are excited to celebrate this blessing at the youth rally as well.

While the celebration of the Lord’s Supper in worship is the norm both locally and at larger WELS gatherings, the Lord’s Supper has not been part of the youth rally historically. To allow for adequate time for instruction and any preparatory conversations, good order and Christian love has moved the youth rally leadership and planning teams to announce the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at rally closing worship well in advance.

The vast majority of teens attending the youth rally are WELS. There are also non-WELS youth who attend. This reflects the expectation WELS churches have on any weekend in their worship services—we expect and welcome non-WELS guests in attendance. Celebration of the Lord’s Supper and the proper practice of the doctrine of fellowship invite education and conversation with these non-WELS guests. Celebrating the Lord’s Supper at the rally is no different; it is an additional opportunity to teach young WELS members how to talk about the Lord’s Supper with their non-WELS friends. For the WELS-teen majority, it is also a unique opportunity to celebrate

the Lord’s Supper with such a large group whose age and season of life share many similarities.

We understand that the dynamics of a teen group and its youth leader(s) vary locally. We encourage all groups to have early and open conversation about the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at the youth rally: pastors, youth leaders, parents, WELS teens, and non-WELS teens alike. We especially encourage these conversations in groups that have non-WELS teens, groups that piggyback and may not have a long-standing relationship between teens and their surrogate leaders prior to the rally, and groups for whom the rally chaperones are not regularly or consistently active leaders of the youth group. May those conversations be Christ-centered, gospel-focused, and Spirit-blessed. Your ministry partners at the Commission on Discipleship, the youth rally planning and leadership teams, and synodical leadership continue to pray for those conversations to bear fruit.

Please feel free to contact me for conversation or assistance in preparing for this year’s rally. We look forward to seeing you there, growing in grace and knowledge, and uniting around God’s Word and sacrament.



PASTOR DONN DOBBERSTEIN

Director, WELS Commission on Discipleship
donn.dobberstein@wels.net

HOW REGISTRATION WORKS

WHO AM I?

CONTACT YOUTH LEADER (CYL)

The main point of contact between your church's group and the youth rally office, the CYL must attend the rally and be the first point of contact on site in case of emergency, discipline, or communication for all members of your group.

YOUTH LEADER (YL)

Age 20 or over with a passion for encouraging youth in their faith and a commitment to supervising youth entrusted to you.

YOUTH (Y)

As of the spring of 2024:

- ▶ Confirmed and completing eighth grade
- ▶ Graduating senior from high school
- ▶ Anywhere in between

Note: Adult/youth ratio must be 1 adult to 6 youth of the same gender at all times during the rally.

THE TIMELINE

STARTING MARCH 6: CONTACT YOUTH LEADERS (CYL)

Visit welsyouthrally.net/register. You will be directed to CSU CES's registration site. CYLs start the registration process by fully registering themselves and saving spots for the total number of group members (Y and YL) attending the rally. It is best if you can do this between March 6–18. **When you register, you must know if group members will be choosing an excursion and on which day. Please discuss this prior to registration so your group members choose the correct excursion and day.**

STARTING MARCH 21: YOUTH (Y) AND YOUTH LEADERS (YL)

Once your CYL preregisters, it "opens the door" for group members to complete their registrations. Starting March 21, Y and YL go to welsyouthrally.net/register. You will be directed to CSU CES's registration site. Begin your registration by selecting your CYL from a list. You will need to know if you are participating and paying extra for the off-site excursion your group has selected (decide the excursion and day prior to registration with your group and CYL, at least one youth leader must accompany youth). Enter your personal and medical information (find a medical worksheet online to gather applicable details), choose workshops, and pay the full rally fee (\$410 until April 30, \$430 May 1–28). During registration everyone will be asked to agree to the "Terms and Conditions." After successful registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

BY APRIL 30: In order to take advantage of the early bird rate you must complete your full payment prior to April 30. If you select to "pay by check," your mailed envelope (with your check and the printed invoice from your registration) must be postmarked on or before April 30.

MAY 28: Registration closes, payment is due, no additions, no refunds after May 28. Substitutions are allowed of the same gender, attendee type (Y or YL), and anticipated lodging assignment at no charge until June 3. Contact CSU CES directly for any substitution requests. Note: If you are requesting a substitution, payment will not be refunded to the original attendee. Payment for any increase in fees as a result of substitutions is due immediately. Payment must be received by CSU's Conference & Event Services before check-in will be available for the rally.

JUNE 3: NO MORE SUBSTITUTIONS.

Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be provided less a \$100 cancellation fee March 6–May 28. Unfortunately, no refunds after May 28. Excursions will not be refunded at any point.

Find the group sign-up sheet, Christian conduct covenants, medical release worksheet, and "Terms and Conditions" online at welsyouthrally.net/register. After January 17, you will also find a list of small group workshops and excursions.

REGISTRATION FAQs

HOW DO WE GET A GROUP ORGANIZED?

ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT [WELSYOUTHALLY.NET](https://welsyouthrally.net)

1. Gather interested Y and YL for a meeting. Explain the rally deadlines and make your own deadline dates so you can get organized. Direct potential rallygoers to welsyouthrally.net for all the information in this book and so much more.
2. Choose a CYL who will be the main point of contact prior to and during the rally for your group.
3. Ask potential rallygoers to commit by your deadline date. Gather names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers using our group sign-up template so you can communicate efficiently with them.
4. Starting March 6, the CYL can go online and preregister you and your group. Ideally, if your group is ready, please do this before March 18. You're off and running!
5. Starting on March 21, remind Y and YL to complete their registrations after the CYL has saved spots for them. It would be helpful to direct them to the medical release worksheet, small group workshops, and excursion opportunities to help make their process more efficient.
6. Discuss as a group if you are going to choose an optional off-site excursion. Excursions are priced per activity, starting at \$25 per person. Optional excursion costs are in addition to your registration fee. A YL from YOUR group must accompany Y. All members of the group do not need to choose the same excursion (or any excursion) as long as a YL accompanies Y going off site.
7. Once rallygoers register, they will receive a confirmation e-mail.
8. Continue to communicate with rallygoers and parents to make sure they finish their registrations.
9. Plan your transportation to and from the rally. Check out our social media sites to see what other groups are doing.
10. Meet prior to the rally to go through the Christian conduct covenants. Ask rallygoers and parents to sign these and return them to you. These are for you to keep and reference during the rally.

FOR ALL ATTENDEES

WHAT DO RALLYGOERS NEED TO KNOW TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION?

1. Explore welsyouthrally.net, especially the "Register" tab to find forms listed below.
2. Y, use the medical release worksheet to gather necessary information.
3. Read the "Terms and Conditions." For Y, a parent will be asked to electronically acknowledge this form during online registration.
4. Research the workshops you would like to attend (after January 17).
5. Discuss as a group if you are going to choose an optional off-site excursion, which will be in addition to your registration fee. A YL from YOUR group must accompany Y. All members of the group do not need to choose the same excursion (or any excursion) as long as a YL accompanies Y going off site.
6. Y and YL pay the same rally registration fee.
7. All CYL and YL must pass a background check

WHAT AGES CAN ATTEND THE RALLY?

The rally is intended for teens finishing up eighth grade through graduating high school seniors, a five-year span. Some youth groups have younger and older kids involved. Please consider those cases individually. Contact the youth rally coordinator with questions: youthrally2024@wels.net.

CAN I BRING NON-WELS FRIENDS?

While the rally is more of a nurturing event and less of an outreach event, if you have non-WELS teens who are interested, talk to your pastor and the teen's parents. Would the teen benefit spiritually from attending? If yes, please bring them! Please note that we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during Friday's closing worship.

HOW MUCH IS IT? DO CYL, YL, AND Y PAY THE SAME RATE?

The registration fee for all rally attendees will be \$410 for early-bird registration (until April 30) and \$430 from May 1–28. This covers lodging from Tuesday night through Friday morning, seven meals, snacks, and all rally activities, except the optional excursions.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Each group is responsible for its own transportation to and from Fort Collins. Connect with other youth leaders

REGISTRATION FAQs

(facebook.com/groups/welsyouthrally) to share your transportation needs or opportunities. If you are organizing busing and would like to offer it to the group, please pass along information to youthrally2024@wels.net for posting online at welsyouthrally.net.

WHAT IF I NEED A RIDE FROM THE DENVER AIRPORT?

CSU CES has secured special rates with two local shuttle companies. Shuttle and car rental information is available at welsyouthrally.net/travel.

ARE THERE OFF-SITE EXCURSIONS?

Yes. This year, you will be able to choose one for an additional fee. A YL from your group must accompany Y from your group on each excursion. A list will be available after January 17 at welsyouthrally.net.

WHAT ABOUT PIGGYBACKING?

Piggybacking (having a Y from another congregation join your group) is allowed. If at all possible, it's best to have YL and Y from the same congregation. However, we do realize that in some cases this is prohibitive for Y from smaller congregations. If your group has a piggybacker, simply register the Y with your church group. Please get to know each other. You will be responsible for this Y.

I HAVE SOMEONE WHO IS OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL BUT NOT 20. CAN THEY ATTEND?

Talk to your CYL and pastor to decide if this person should attend as a Y or if he/she can take the responsibility of a YL.

HOW DO WE HANDLE ROOMMATES?

The CYL will assign roommates. Rallygoers will be separated by gender. YL will be housed near but not in the same room with their Y. YL will stay with leaders from other churches. Married couples will not be allowed to room together. Any singles "left over" will be paired with those from another church. The residence hall rooms have single, twin beds. Most rooms house two. Bedding, pillow, and towels will be provided. CSU CES will provide the CYL with a template to complete roommate assignments that must be returned to them.

CAN I ADD RALLYGOERS?

You may prior to May 28. Before you add rallygoers, consider if you have the proper ratio of one adult per six youth of the same gender. CYL, please e-mail conferences@colostate.edu

with your name and the new total number you are bringing. It is helpful to know how many will be in your group total (CYL, YL, and L). Additions cannot be accommodated after May 28.

CAN I MAKE SUBSTITUTIONS?

Yes, substitutions of the same gender and type can be made until June 3. Please contact CSU CES directly.

AS THE CYL, HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY GROUP MEMBERS ARE COMPLETING THEIR ONLINE REGISTRATIONS?

Ask them and encourage them to do so in a timely manner.

WHAT IF I AM HAVING PROBLEMS REGISTERING?

Please contact CSU Conference & Event Services (open Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. MT): 970-491-6222 or conferences@colostate.edu.

IS THERE ONSITE REGISTRATION?

No, you must register online before May 28.

I REGISTERED, BUT NOW I CANNOT GO. CAN I GET A REFUND?

Refunds will be allowed (less a \$100 cancellation fee that covers CSU CES's administrative fee) prior to May 28. No refunds for any reason after May 28.

I HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

You will have an opportunity to indicate your special dietary needs during registration. CSU dining commonly accommodates many different needs. If you have additional concerns, connect with CSU CES; they can connect you to the dietitian.

WHY ARE THERE BACKGROUND CHECKS?

WELS and CSU have the utmost concern for the safety of all minors attending the rally. WELS has partnered with a trusted third-party vendor to perform background checks on all adults wishing to attend this event. Shortly after registration, prospective CYL and YL will be provided with additional information regarding the mandatory background check that will be performed. Adults who do not submit their information for a background check or do not pass the background check will not be able to attend the rally. The safety of your personal information is also of utmost concern to us. Results of background checks will only be available to the WELS Director of Human Resources and HR Generalist.

*Tuesday check-in and Friday wrap-up times are locked in so you can plan your transportation accordingly.
Daily schedules may be slightly adjusted.*

TUESDAY, JUNE 25—COMFORT FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

Noon–6:00 p.m..... Arrival and check-in, get settled, see the campus, visit exhibitors, dinner on your own
7:00–8:30 p.m. Welcome and worship
8:30–10:30 p.m. Welcome to CSU party
10:45 p.m. Church group reflection
11:30 p.m. In your room
Midnight..... Lights out

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26—HOPE FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

7:00–9:00 a.m..... Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Devotion
9:30–11:00 a.m..... Keynote #1
11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Lunch / Excursions depart at various times
1:00–2:15 p.m. Small group workshops session #1
2:45–4:00 p.m. Small group workshops session #2
4:15 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
5:00–6:45 p.m. Dinner
7:00–8:30 p.m. Performance: TBA
8:30–10:45 p.m. Time to chill
10:45 p.m. Church group reflection
11:30 p.m. In your room
Midnight..... Lights out

THURSDAY, JUNE 27—CERTAINTY FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

7:00–9:00 a.m..... Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Devotion
9:30–11:00 a.m..... Keynote #2
11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Lunch / Excursions depart at various times
1:00–2:15 p.m. Small group workshops session #3
2:45–4:00 p.m. Small group workshops session #4
4:15–5:00 p.m.. Choir rehearsal
5:00–6:45 p.m. Dinner
7:00–8:30 p.m. Performance: TBA
8:30–10:45 p.m. Time to chill
10:45 p.m. Church group reflection
11:30 p.m. In your room
Midnight..... Lights out

FRIDAY, JUNE 28—VICTORY FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

7:00–9:00 a.m..... Breakfast, pack up, and check out of your room
9:30 a.m. Closing worship and goodbye
11:00 a.m. Depart for home

#WELSYOUTH RALLY 2024

CHECKLIST

YOUTH

- Youth Christian conduct covenant
- Medical release worksheet
- 2024 WELS International Youth Rally
"Terms and Conditions" Youth

YOUTH LEADERS

- Youth leader Christian conduct covenant
- 2024 WELS International Youth Rally
"Terms and Conditions" Youth leader

CONTACT YOUTH LEADERS

- Contact Youth Leaders
- Group sign-up sheet

EVERYONE (AFTER JANUARY 17)

- Small Group Workshops
- Excursion Opportunities

