

YFC Office Phone (607) 432-0594 (9am-noon, M-F)

<http://centralnewyork.yfc.net>

cnyyfc@cnyyfc.org

Upcoming Events:

Laurens	Wednesday (6:30- 8:00pm)
Unadilla	Thursday (6:30- 8:30pm)
Walton	Tuesday (6:30- 8:20pm)
Teen Center	Saturday (6:00- 9:00pm)
Book Sale- Teen Center	February 7+8, 9-3
Art/ Talent Show- Teen Center	March 21 Practice-TBD Show- 6:30pm
5K Joker Run/ 1 mi. Walk Fundraiser	April 4- 10:30am

January 2020 Newsletter



Youth for Christ's 7th Annual 5K "Joker Run"/1 mi. Walk

Saturday, April 4, 2020
Race Start: 10:30 AM, Unadilla, NY
Start: Unadilla Elementary School
End: YFC Teen Center, 16 Watson St.

More Information to follow in the Feb. Newsletter

Registration forms are available by calling 607-432-0594 or email
cnyyfc@cnyyfc.org or at <http://www.cnyyfc.org/events>.

Online registration is also available again this year-
<https://www.raceentry.com/races/yfc-joker-run/2020/register>.

Participation or Volunteer Opportunities

Art/ Talent Show (March 21): We need participants who would like to delight us with something special. To be added to the show, please contact the YFC office at (607) 432-0594. You may win a prize! Art pieces and music will need to be pre-approved. Entries need to be in by March 10.

5K Joker Run/Walk (April 4): We need volunteers to help with pre-race preparation, race operations, and cleanup after the race. Please let us know if you can lend a hand.

Christian Skate: A reminder that there is a Christian Skate at Interskate 88 on the second Monday each month- **Feb. 10th, Mar. 9, Apr. 13th, May 11th.**

Praises!

- Chris Knowlton has come onboard as a new staff member. His responsibilities will include spiritual development for staff and volunteers.
- For the new partnership with the Otsego Sheriff Department. They will be dropping in at the Teen Center regularly.
- The Teen Center roof was patched for the winter.
- For partnership with the Anchor service.

Prayer:

- For several sick YFC teens and alumni.
- For changes at the Laurens Campus Life Club.
- For our ownership of the Teen Center and that it would happen in a timely manner.
- For new board members to join us.

Central NY YFC Staff:

Dorothy Davidson,
Executive Director

Mike Knowlton,
Ministry Staff

Helena Salati,
Ministry Staff

Jody Wisse,
Office Manager

Attention!

**Bike Trip Alumni-
Join us this summer
for our 40th Bike Trip
August 3-8.**

**(Details in future newsletters
and registration forms will
be available soon.)**



The Bike Trip Experience

My experience with the bike trip this past summer was interesting. The trip happened to be my very first time camping. I had never given a thought to sleeping outdoors, especially since I am a city boy at heart. So, after the bike trip it was funny that I found myself at Walmart looking at camping equipment and finding that it is relatively inexpensive. I was pleasantly surprised that a 2-person tent costs only a little over \$30 and a bed pump about \$6.

On the first day of the trip I did not know what to expect. The only thing I knew was that I was asked to take photos because of my experience in photography and media over the past 15 years. This was the only familiar activity that I would be doing during the entire trip. In addition, I would help Joaquin Gonzales write instructions/directions on the road with chalk. Without any camping experience, setting up a tent each night was also new to me. Honestly, I found that it was not that difficult. My prior knowledge consisted of watching films that showed a couple of people struggling to set up a tent, as they tried to figure out how all of the metal pieces fit together. My tent was actually relatively simple compared to other people on the trip who had more elaborate ones to put together each night.

The first night was very uncomfortable as I listened to coyotes howl in the distance and other noises coming from the fields. The next morning I was told that I could download a "whitenoise" app and thankfully this helped me sleep through the next 4 nights.

The second night I slept great because I was so tired from lack of sleep the previous night. Sleeping was not a problem anymore, but a new problem arose. I felt I was not connecting with many people. I wanted to leave and told Jarod Brey that I felt I was wearing out my welcome. I have always struggled with getting to know new people and sometimes I can be a very difficult person to deal with. After a discussion with Jarod I decided to stay, even though I would rather have gone back home.

Once I made this decision, events started to come into their proper perspectives. I was having fun not only taking photos, but also getting to know a small portion of the church family. Each day became a blessing and it continued to get better. My anxiety was not as bad as it had been the first two days and I started feeling more comfortable. We did not have cell phone service and this gave me an opportunity to get away from technology for a while. I was relaxing more and actually talking directly with people as it was intended to be, not through a messenger app or social media. It was so refreshing for six days to be out in the woods and on the road.

During the trip, I shared my story about water tubing. I actually got up and spoke in front of all of the bike trip participants, a first for me. Honestly my story entailed somewhat of a bad experience for me and I felt I needed to share it. I was asked to complete a video compilation from 700 photos that I took during the trip. We returned on a Saturday and the presentation needed to be completed for the next day to be shown during the service at Main St. Baptist Church. It was hard to think about going home on the last day because I had so many different and new experiences, some good and some unpleasant.

However, I can say for a fact that given the opportunity, I would definitely participate in another bike trip. But first, we've got to get through another cold, bleak winter season. Now I know why Kurtis Wilson was so excited to be on the bike trip. The bike trip in his words: "It's like Christmas to me!" Believe me, that is not so far from the truth.

What I have learned on this trip is that I am not worthless in the eyes of God. When people do not find worth in me, I do not need to worry about that. God sees my worth and that is all I need.

Andre Martinez