



Intergenerational Spring Seminar 2017

Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet

FAQ for Youth and Sponsors

What should you expect from your Youth Sponsors?

- Sponsors must attend a required orientation training prior to the start of the Seminar.
- The sponsor is responsible for the safety, health, and well-being of the youth at all times throughout the Seminar. The UUA strongly recommends that the sponsor be approved by the youth's congregation and complete a background check.
- Sponsors should be in close touch with parent/guardian and know what to do in case of any issues relating to the youth. Please make sure to inform your youth sponsor of any medical conditions you might have prior to arriving in New York City. Take time to talk things through so that your expectations of each other are clear. We recommend that youth, sponsors, and parents/guardians create and sign their own written "Agreement" together, with expectations for youth and sponsor roles, responsibilities, and limits. Download our [PDF Sample Agreement](#) (this is just an example – make it your own).
- Sponsors should be reachable by phone at all times during the Seminar.
- Sponsors will accompany youth to location of Spring Seminar and supervise them throughout.
- Follow Spring Seminar safety guidelines and abide by the Seminar Covenant (as included in required Seminar Participant Forms)

Who do Youth Sponsors report to or call during an emergency?

- Any incident should be reported as soon as possible to Seminar leaders, which includes Seminar Staff (Deans & Chaplains) and United Nations Office Staff.
- As noted above, before traveling to the Seminar, Sponsors should discuss with parent/guardian what is expected in case of an emergency.
- Two Youth and two Adult Chaplains are available as a resource throughout the Seminar, should issues arise.

When do Youth arrive with their Sponsors in New York City?

- The Youth along with their Youth Sponsors will arrive for orientation by 6pm on Wednesday, April 5th.
- The Youth and Sponsors will lodge at Hostelling International NYC; this is also where the majority of Seminar programming will take place. The address is below:

HI New York City Hostel
891 Amsterdam Ave
New York, NY 10025

What are the expectations for youth behavior?

- Youth are expected to respect their fellow peers and adults at all times, including other residents and staff at the hostel.
- Respect the venues by cleaning up after each activity and meal.
- Follow Spring Seminar safety guidelines and abide by the Seminar Covenant (as included in required Seminar Participant Forms)

How will sleeping arrangements work in the hostel?

- HI New York City Hostel policies require that rooms be gender exclusive. The Spring Seminar Registration Form gives Youth and Sponsors the chance to indicate their preference for which room they will sleep in.
- Youth and Sponsors will be assigned to rooms based on their indicated preferences. Seminar Staff will aim to lodge Sponsors as near to their sponsored Youth as possible. At least two adult Sponsors will be in each dorm room in the hostel.
- Dorm rooms in the hostel contain twin-sized bunk beds with between 8-12 beds per room. In the hall there are gender-specific bathrooms that are shared with all hostel residents on that floor. The bathrooms contain private showers. Check out [the hostel's virtual tour](#).

How will people travel between the hostel and the United Nations and other venues?

- Travel will be done via NYC subway. Youth will travel in Travel Squads with their sponsors. Each Travel Squad will include at least two adult sponsors, one of who will be the assigned leader who is familiar with NYC and can lead the group.

What to do to best prepare for the Spring Seminar?

- Make sure to read over all materials on the website in detail. A list of everything required to bring with you/prepare for will be included. The materials can be found at www.UUA.org/UNSpringSeminar

Is there required or recommended pre-reading?

- Yes there will be required pre-reading for the seminar. It will consist of 2-4 articles which will be sent to all registered Seminar participants via email in February, 2017.

Are there any dress code requirements when attending the Spring Seminar?

- Business-casual attire is needed for the panel at the United Nations Headquarters (Thursday, April 6th, 2017).
- We ask that all participants maintain respectful dress throughout the Seminar.