

WELCOME

The Gathering began with a dream to gather NAB Students people together to praise God, share in a rich time of fellowship, and to encourage each other in faith. It is an incredible experience that comes but once every three years. These are five jam-packed days where we are privileged to hear from gifted speakers, sing praises to God, engage with the Word of God and interact with others from the US and Canada.

From the first few minutes of their experience, students are stunned not only by the volume of the music but also by the sheer number of their peers who have intentionally gathered out of a desire to play, worship, learn, and grow in understanding and in faith with others from throughout the US, Canada, and abroad.

The Gathering is an epic conference/service project that gathers students together for a variety of thoughtful experiences to dive deeper in faith, community, and service. The Gathering is the only venue that gathers all students from the North American Baptist Conference in one place for a time of worship, service, transformation and fun.

Through the years the Gathering has been modified and diversified, innovated and revolutionized; however, a few key elements remain: the legacy is one of continued gatherings for small group study and devotion, large group gatherings with speakers and music, outdoor recreation, and community service. Praise be to God!

Our dream for the Gathering 2017 is that God would make Himself known to each of us! We invite you to join us July 16-21, 2017 at Chapman University in Orange, California. As you walk through the campus you will discover the Neoclassical architecture, many campus renovations, and the friendly staff. Southern California is the perfect place to see God's handiwork in His creation through its majestic ocean, beautiful beaches, and palm trees. This is a place where you can meet God, relax in the sun, swim, play sports, meet new friends, and deepen old friendships. It is the place to be!

Whether the Gathering provides the first step of faith, or helps to pave the way toward the next significant leap in our discipleship journey, this will be a time when we come together to explore what it means to be God's people. We ask each one of you to be praying for our time together. Prepare for a summer to remember at the Gathering 2017!

May God richly bless you in your preparations and keep you safe until we come together in 2017.

Blessings,
The Youth Ministries Leadership Team



CONTENTS

Welcome to the Gathering 2017 Registration Pack!

This package contains all the materials you need to promote the Gathering in your church, to register your students and adult volunteers, and to begin planning for 2017.

Included you will find:

Goals & Objectives

Registration & Payment Instructions

Leader Information & Agreement Form

FAQS

Dress Code & Rules

What to Pack

Waiver, Medical, & Special Needs Forms

All the forms contained in this Information Pack are master copies – please duplicate as necessary. Additional copies of these forms are available for download from the NAB student ministries website at www.wewilloverflow.org

If you have any questions, please contact the YMLT via the NAB student ministries web page (www.wewilloverflow.org) or email youth@nabconf.org.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Gathering 2017, a mission trip and student conference experience, is scheduled for

July 21-26, 2017 in Orange County, California. The Gathering is a ministry of the North American Baptist Conference [The NAB, a dba of North American Baptists, Inc. and North American Baptists, Inc. (Canada)]. We are planning to have 500-700 students and leaders staying on Chapman University's campus in Orange, CA. The service projects will be in partnership with NAB churches and para-church ministries in the SoCal region.

The overall goal of the Gathering is to provide the students the opportunity to become ambassadors for Jesus in Orange County and prepare them for when they return home.

There will be many opportunities for service participation and individual growth. The goal will be accomplished by the following objectives:

Encouraging participants with music, fellowship, networking and activities.

- Having structured sessions for participants.
- Providing activities for participants to interact with each other.
- Offering options for students to interact in non-formal settings.

Facilitating participant's spiritual growth.

- Nightly message by well-known youth speakers supporting the theme of the gathering.
- Nightly worship music and one evening concert.

Improving the community with service and light construction projects.

- Supporting local rescue missions and other mercy-based ministries.
- Providing labor for small property improvements.
- Partnering with established community outreaches.

Broadening the views of the participants.

- To have time away from other influences to discover themselves.
- To experience the Orange and LA County areas.
- To be introduced to students and ministry groups across the NAB.
- To develop relationships with others while serving them in Christ's name.

Safe participation.

- Personal security.
- Injury free participation.

Registration is now open online. Please talk to your local youth worker about registering. Registration rates are broken down as such:

- Super Early Bird: \$399 USD. Deadline October 31, 2016
- Early Bird: \$425 USD. Deadline January 31, 2017
- Regular: \$450 USD. All registrations after February 1, 2017

All fees will need to be paid in USD. Registration (and all documents) will be linked from our website www.wewilloverflow.org

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions should answer most questions regarding the registration process. Please use this form as a worksheet and follow/complete the instructions below.

1. Complete the online Group/Church Registration Form.

Go to www.wewilloverflow.org/registration. Once you have submitted the form you will receive an email with further registration details.

2. Pay your \$100 per person deposit to reserve your spots.

Spots will be considered reserved for your group when payment is received. You can either pay by PayPal on our registration page or send in a check. Make checks payable to NAB and mail to:

North American Baptist Conference

Att: The Gathering 2017

1219 Pleasant Grove Boulevard

Roseville, CA 95678

Please know that we understand it may be difficult to know exactly what your numbers will be months from now. If your numbers decrease between now and January 31st, 2017, you can apply your deposit toward your final registration amount due.

Note: You must provide one adult (Team Leader) for every seven students that are attending.

3. Complete the Participating Leader (PL) Agreement Form.

Please read through the Participating Leader Information Sheet (below) and complete the form by signing at the bottom. Email or mail it in (information included on form).

4. Distribute and collect student medical and release forms.

Have all parents/guardians completely fill out the medical and release forms with signatures. Submit these forms during on-site registration on July 21, 2017. The forms will be on file with the Gathering staff during the event. You will want to make copies for your leaders to take with them to the work sites. All Participating Leaders and Team Leaders are required to fill out these forms as well.

5. Complete the Registration Lists

The group list, room assignments, team member roster(s) will be shared with you via Google Sheets after you register. For the Team Member Roster, each team must have no more than 8 participants ALL OF THE SAME GENDER (1 MALE TEAM LEADER AND UP TO 7 MALE STUDENTS OR 1 FEMALE TEAM LEADER AND UP TO 7 FEMALE STUDENTS)

6. Transportation Arrangements

Registration fee does not include transportation costs to and from the Gathering. The cost of round trip shuttles from nearby airports are: Santa Ana/John Wayne Airport \$10, LAX \$15. Costs are per person.

If you are traveling by air and would like transportation arranged for your group, please make arrangements as soon as possible by contacting Joe Broesamle at: joe@tbclodi.com

7. Provide one final payment from your church for all of your students and leaders.

Final payment deadline is May 31st, 2017. Make checks payable to NAB and mail to:

North American Baptist Conference Att: The Gathering 2017 1219 Pleasant Grove Boulevard
Roseville, CA 95678

PARTICIPATING LEADER AGREEMENT FORM INFORMATION

Please read through the following important points of information and agree to them by signing the Participating Leader Agreement Form.

- Accompanying adults are expected to be team leader and contact point for The Gathering staff. Anyone that attends as a leader will be expected to stay on campus with their group, attend all sessions with their group, and serve alongside their group.
- The Gathering dress code and rules agreements forms are included in this packet. Please review these items before signing.
- All participants will have a medical/liability release form and waiver to fill out. The form can be found below.
- The Gathering staff will assign rooms to leaders. Rooms are designed for two occupants. The Participating Leader will assign their participants to the specific room assignments.
- There is limited parking on the Chapman campus. The parking is first come first serve. There is off site parking near the campus. All participants must adhere to parking regulations and will be responsible for any fines due to violations.
- Participants will be assigned a dining card and these cards will be necessary to access the dining hall. The university charges \$15.00 fee to replace a lost or stolen dining card. This fee must be paid when the replacement ID card is assigned.
- The University charges a \$50.00 fee to replace a lost or stolen room key. This fee must be paid when the replacement key is assigned.
- NAB, YMLT, and Chapman University will perform an inspection prior to and shortly after the event. Any damage to the assigned rooms or damage done to the University property will be the responsibility of your church.

PARTICIPATING LEADER AGREEMENT FORM

Please take a minute and read the below items. After you have read and understand the items, sign the form. Your signature indicates that you have read, understand and are willing to abide by the rules of The Gathering 2017. Registration forms will not be processed without the Participating Leaders' signature.

- I have read the registration instructions for details of the items below
- Attending Adults will work along side of participating youth.
- Participants will follow the Dress Code and Rules.
- Each participant will have a signed medical release and a registration form.
- Rooms will be assigned on double occupancy.
- Parking is limited on Chapman University campus.
- A \$15.00 fee will be charged to replace lost or stolen dining cards.
- A \$50.00 fee will be charged to replace lost or stolen room keys.
- My church is responsible for any damages to our assigned rooms or Chapman University property caused by the below listed participants.
- I understand the above items and will do my very best to assure that my team and I will honor Jesus and lovingly respect others.

Signature

Date

Please email a signed form to youth@nabconf.org or mail it to:
North American Baptist Conference
Att: The Gathering 2017
1219 Pleasant Grove Boulevard,
Roseville, CA
95678

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GATHERING 2017?

The Gathering is the only conference that gathers all students from the NAB Conference in one place for a time of worship, transformation, and fun. It acts as a catalyst in students' lives, helping them see the big picture of God's Kingdom and inspiring them to dive deeper in their faith—together.

WHO MAY ATTEND THE GATHERING?

High School and Middle school students as defined by your local church.

WHAT ARE THE REGISTRATION COSTS?

Super Early Bird - \$399 per participant until October 31st, 2016

Early Bird - \$425 per participant until January 31st, 2017

Regular Bird - \$450 per participant after February 1st, 2017

*** US FUNDS ONLY**

This is an all-inclusive price from your arrival on campus through your departure.

(please note that there is an added cost if your group needs an airport shuttle)

Round trip airport shuttle costs per person - Santa Ana/John Wayne Airport \$10, LAX \$15

WHAT DO REGISTRATION FEES COVER?

Attendance to Service Projects, Worship/Teaching sessions, on-campus recreation, and many other activities

Fourteen meals (from dinner 7/16 through lunch 7/21)

Five nights of housing

A safe environment

Access to a state-of-the-art student union center, swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, soccer field, and so much more

Transportation to all off campus service projects

Many other benefits which do not fit easily into a list

HOW AM I GOING TO PAY FOR IT?

Student savings

Church fundraisers

Family contributions

Sponsorships

Mission Support Letters

TO WHOM SHOULD THE REGISTRATION FEES BE PAID TO?

Families are to make payments directly to the local church for all registration fees and the church will submit payment for the group.

*Send one check per mailing, payable to NAB or use the PayPal feature on the website.

The deposit payment needs to total \$100 USD for each participant you want to secure. Please write your church name and location on the memo line. The final payment needs to be postmarked by May 31st, 2017 and contain the remaining balance for all spots registered for.

Mail all checks to:

North American Baptist Conference Att: The Gathering 2017 1219 Pleasant Grove Boulevard
Roseville, CA 95678

WHAT SORT OF SUPERVISION CAN I EXPECT?

The leaders from each church are the first point of supervision for their students. Like most camps and retreats we take our students to, we attempt to provide a healthy balance between supervision and freedom. It is mandatory for students to be at meals, service projects, worship and teaching sessions, and in their dorms at lights out. In between, students will have some freedom with the activities they choose, but the boundaries of where they can go and what they can do are clear. Security and Supervision for youth includes: leaders from your church, the Chapman University security team, the Gathering volunteer security team.

WHAT ARE THE SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS?

Each student will be assigned to a dormitory for their group to sleep in. Each room will have two same gender students living in them. The adult leaders will be in rooms next to the rooms of their students.

We make effort to have alternating floors for guys and girls. Chapman University provides bedding and towels for each student.

HOW DO WE GET TO CALIFORNIA AND TO CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY?

Every church is responsible for getting their students and leaders to the Gathering. For groups who will be flying, transportation to Chapman University and return to the airport is available for an additional fee per person: Santa Ana/John Wayne Airport \$10, LAX \$15

WHAT KINDS OF SERVICE PROJECTS CAN OUR GROUP PARTICIPATE IN?

Our Southern California association of churches are currently working on the specific projects and locations. Past projects have included VBS, sports ministry, cleaning and beautification projects, etc.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE GATHERING?

Sunday, July 16

2:00 p.m. – Check-in begins in dorms
2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. free time
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Leader Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Main Session
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Small Groups
9:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Late Night Options
Midnight – Lights Out

Monday, July 17 – Thursday, July 20

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Service Projects/Lunch
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Main Session
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Small Groups
9:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Late Night Options
Midnight – Lights out

Friday, July 21

8:00 a.m. – 9:00a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Main Session
11:00am – 12:00 p.m. Check-out
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. – Goodbye

AS A LEADER, WHAT FORMS DO I NEED TO HAVE FILLED OUT?

Participating Leaders need to complete the PL Agreement Form and make sure that every participant (students & leaders) have completed and handed in their Waiver/Release and Medical forms (special needs if applicable). Each group needs to look after their own permission forms specific to their context.

AS A PARENT, WHAT FORMS DO I NEED TO HAVE FILLED OUT?

Please complete and hand in to your youth leader the Waiver/Release and Medical forms (special needs if applicable). Your group may have its own permission form that they require for the trip as well.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GATHERING 2017?

The NAB student ministry website is your best source for updated information –
www.wewilloverflow.org

THE GATHERING 2017 DRESS CODE

Modesty and Christ-like impression are the key ideas when it comes to dress at The Gathering. For encouragement, please read these Bible verses: Romans 14: 1-22, 1 Corinthians 8:9 -13, Philippians 4:3-9. LET'S MAKE AN EFFORT TO DRESS MODESTLY IN A WAY THAT HONORS JESUS AND REFLECTS PURITY!

Here are the rules:

1. Clothing must not contain any swear words, slang, sexual references or any other innuendo that is inappropriate.
2. Absolutely no "sagging" pants so that your underwear shows.

3. No halter tops, tube tops, or “bare back” tops. Any kind of top that shows more skin than material is not acceptable.
4. Any top worn should cover the stomach so that no skin is showing – no half shirts, cut off shirts, or “short” shirts, please.
5. Tank tops need to have an inch or more strap width. No bra straps showing.
6. Girls, swimsuits must be one piece or cover all torso skin from the shoulders down. Colored tanks or T’s will need to cover bikinis.
7. Guys, no Speedo-style swimsuits. Skin from the waist to just above knees should be covered.
8. The Gathering Staff as well as your Participating Leader (PL) may direct you to change your clothing if it is inconsistent with The Gathering Dress Code.

**Whether you are eating or drinking, or whatever you are doing, do it for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31**

THE GATHERING 2017 RULES AND AGREEMENT

- I understand that attending The Gathering is a privilege as well as a great opportunity for spiritual growth for myself and for others.
- I have read and agree to follow The Gathering Dress Code.
- I realize there are no cell phones, radios, iPods, laptops, tablets or other electronic devices are to be used during required events.
- I realize that I can bring a camera to The Gathering
- I realize that no cigarettes, alcohol or non-prescription drugs are allowed at The Gathering and that any participant found with them will be sent home.
- I understand that members of the opposite sex are not allowed in my dorm room.
- I understand that participants must follow all event rules including being at all meals, all meetings, all work activities, dressing modestly and no messing around (wrestling, contact sports, rough housing, etc.)
- I understand that the purpose The Gathering is to share Jesus’ love with Orange County and NOT for a participant to “find” a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- I understand that a positive attitude and a servant spirit is what is expected of everyone.
- I give NAB permission to use my likeness in photos, videos, PowerPoint, or on the World Wide Web in order to promote NAB and its functions and to better engage students.
- I agree that The Gathering Staff, Youth Ministry Leadership Team (YMLT) a ministry of the NAB, Chapman University staff, and my own church staff will be supervising the participants and that these staff members need to be honored and followed as leaders and supervisors.

WHAT TO PACK

Below is a list of recommended items to pack for the Gathering.

- ☐ Alarm clock
- ☐ Beach towel
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Closed toe shoes for service project
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Insect repellent

- ☐ Journal and pen
- ☐ Long pants
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Modest Swim Suit
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Spending money
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Suntan lotion
- ☐ Sweatshirt/Light coat
- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Underwear

ITEMS PROVIDED BY Chapman University:

- ☐ Bed linens
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Room Key

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- ☐ Alcohol/Controlled substances
- ☐ Any weapons
- ☐ Firearms/Fireworks
- ☐ Immodest clothing
- ☐ Laser Pointers
- ☐ A bad Attitude

THE GATHERING 2017 – PARTICIPATION, RELEASE, WAIVER & IDEMNITY AGREEMENT

WHILE THE NAB YOUTH GATHERING STAFF WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILD, WE DO REQUIRE THAT THIS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BE READ, FILLED OUT, SIGNED AND DATED BY THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF EACH CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES WHICH OCCUR AT THE GATHERING 2017.

Although NAB Gathering staff and your church staff will take reasonable steps to provide equipment and supervision so your child can participate in activities for which she/he may not be skilled in, we now remind you that these activities are not without risk. Certain risk cannot be eliminated due to the nature of The Gathering. The elements that contribute to the character of the event can be cause of loss or damage to your property, accidental injury, or illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma, or death. We do not want to frighten you or reduce your enthusiasm for these activities, but we do think it is important to be informed and know in advance about inherent risks.

I, the undersigned, give permission for my daughter or son to participate in the activities that occur at The Gathering 2017. These activities include, but are not limited to, construction projects, strenuous games, and other projects. I, on behalf of myself, my children, my assigns and my estate agree to release and hold harmless the North American Baptist Conference [The NAB, a dba of North American Baptists, Inc. and North American Baptists, Inc. (Canada)], and Chapman University, its officers, Board, agents or employees, for any and all claims for injuries, cause of action, or liability related to my child's participation in any activity occurring at The Gathering. This release does not apply to intentional and/or willful acts of misconduct by the NAB, Chapman University officers, Board, agents or employees. We, the undersigned, have read The Gathering Dress Code and The Gathering Rules and Agreements and agree to the terms as described therein. Should the NAB, Chapman University, or anyone acting on their behalf, be required to incur attorneys' fees and cost to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify and hold the NAB and Chapman University harmless for all such fees and costs. By signing this document, I acknowledge that if anyone is hurt or property damaged during my or my child's participation in these activities, I and/or my child may be found by a court of law to have waived any right to maintain a lawsuit against the NAB and Chapman University on the basis of any claim which has been released herein. I have had sufficient opportunity to read this entire document. I have read and understood it, and agree to be bound by its terms.

Parent or guardian's signature _____

Date _____

(You may sign your own release if you are 18 or older)

Printed name _____

Relation to Participant _____

Name of Participant _____

Name of Church attending with _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Participant's Signature _____

THE GATHERING 2017 - MEDICAL AND LIABILITY RELEASE

(Please complete with blue or black ink only)

NAME _____ M/F _____ AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____ HOME PHONE (_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROV. _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

CELL PH. (_____) _____ CHURCH ATTENDING WITH _____

IN EMERGENCY NOTIFY _____ RELATION _____ PHONE (_____) _____

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Drug Allergies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Heart Condition | <input type="checkbox"/> | Behavior/Nervous Disorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food Allergies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> | Physical handicap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Allergies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seizure Disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stomach Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Insect stings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Health History

If any of the above are checked, please give details (i.e. include normal treatment of allergic reactions)

Date of last tetanus shot: _____ Name, dosage, and frequency of any medication that must be taken regularly, or as needed: _____

FAMILY DOCTOR _____ PHONE (_____) _____

Any activity restrictions: Yes _____ No _____ What restrictions? _____

If your child should require medical attention for injuries received or illnesses contacted prior to coming to The Gathering, please send us the information necessary to give your child proper medical service during your child's stay.

Do you have Health Insurance? Yes _____ No _____ Policy # _____
Name of Insurance company and Address _____

Medical Release:

In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency during The Gathering, I hereby give my permission to the hospital, clinic or physician or dentist selected by The Gathering staff to hospitalize, to secure proper treatment and/or order injection, anesthesia, or surgery for my child as deemed necessary. I also authorize the nurse/EMT on duty at The Gathering to administer medical aid as required for illness or injury. The signature of the parent or guardian below is intended to serve as a medical release.

Parent or guardian’s signature _____ Date _____

(You may sign your own Release if you are 18 or older)

Printed Name _____

Relation to Child _____

SPECIAL NEEDS & EXTRA SUPPORT

We respect the privacy of all participants, but we want to be prepared to offer help if needed, and to do it, it is helpful to be aware of attendees with various disabilities, those with special needs and those who might benefit from extra support or other considerations. Students requesting accommodations for special needs must clearly indicate their need(s), and will receive notification of our ability or inability to accommodate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We will make every reasonable effort to assist students with physical, mental, and/or emotional impairments who are able to function in a public school setting. All buildings and events at Chapman are handicap accessible. Churches are encouraged to send a volunteer to serve as a one-on-one Companion for any student with special needs who may require this level of assistance or supervision, and if a one-on-one Companion is not required, to plan for the necessary student support. Please indicate/explain in detail your special need (communication, comprehension, dietary, medication, vision, other issue):

Please check the severity that best describes the student’s condition:
☐ Mild ☐ Mild to Moderate ☐ Moderate ☐ Moderate to Severe ☐ Severe

