

What's happening next in Young Friends?



JHYM-YF RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 7 - 8:30pm, through May 25th

Young Friends and Junior Highers have teamed up to form a group to learn and take action for racial justice. This is a youth-driven group to ask questions, share experiences, learn from visitors who are called to racial justice work in their communities, and envision a world that centers Black and Brown people. [Sign up here](#) to receive the link.

SEXUALITY, GENDER, & RELATIONSHIPS RETREAT

Friday, April 23rd to Sunday, April 25th

This retreat theme is a tried-and-true Young Friends tradition that the community looks forward to each year. We take a look at gender, sexuality, and relationships through a Quaker lens that helps us to get to know our bodies and ourselves in ways that make us feel more whole. This retreat is one where YFs can talk openly and ask questions according to their own comfort levels, and we find this often brings the group together in really deep ways. This retreat includes concrete information about the body, sex, gender, sexuality, and consent that provides teens with the necessary information to make healthy and loving choices throughout their lives, and frames our relationship to our bodies and each other as sacred and constantly transforming. Plus, it'll also have all our usual fun retreat activities, like games, home groups, and hanging out. If you'd like to know more about what this retreat is typically like, and how Quakerism informs the theme, please feel free to [reach out to Maggie](#) with any questions.

END-OF-YEAR RETREAT: "There's always enough at the potluck"

Friday, June 11th to Sunday, June 13th

When you go to a potluck, you only bring one thing that you like, and that one thing wouldn't work for everyone there. But somehow, magically, everyone bringing their one thing results in each person eating a meal they find delicious. Young Friends know that when we all show up fully with our unique gifts, questions, and things we're hungry for, everybody in the community benefits and is spiritually nourished in the way they need! This retreat will be a chance to celebrate what each individual person brings to the group and explore what that means for how we each can show up in the world. We'll name gifts, play games, get to know each other, and talk about what makes community work, reflecting on what's been making *our* community work this year. And we'll round it out with a coffeehouse!

LOCAL OUTDOOR IN-PERSON MEETUPS

Dates and locations announced on a rolling basis, as it becomes safe

Many Young Friends had the pleasure of seeing each other in person this fall at Young Friends Meetups, happening in small, local groups outside on weekend afternoons, led by nearby RPs. It was so fun to get outside and move, go on a hike, play active games together, and just hang out! As the weather gets warmer and more and more people are vaccinated, we'll announce meetups happening in various locations around New England this spring and summer.



YOUNG FRIENDS
OF
NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING

What is Young Friends?

We are a loving community of teens based in New England who are exploring the Quaker way, building relationships, and getting in touch with our authentic selves as we grow. We typically gather for weekend retreats, and during the pandemic we have pivoted to be more like a youth group that meets more regularly, usually online, in small groups and as a whole group.

“As Young Friends, our purpose is to create an intentional community which empowers, supports, and nurtures its individual participants in their spiritual growth through Quaker practices and values. We continuously strive to uphold the spiritual and emotional well-being of the community and each Young Friend.”

Written and approved by Young Friends, 2015.

What is it like to be in Young Friends?

Young Friends gatherings are fun, silly, soul-searching, warm, loving, accepting, and transformative. Even though the way we gather has changed a lot during the pandemic, we still love to sing, play games, spend time in silent worship together, talk about things that matter to us, and connect with nature. During our retreats and other gatherings we're joined by Resource People, the group of adults who support Young Friends and help us build our community. Any time Young Friends get together, we do our best to practice being together in ways that help every person feel whole and loved.

Do I have to pay to participate?

During the pandemic, participation in retreats and other Young Friends gatherings are by donation. If families wish to donate, we suggest they contribute what they would have planned to pay for a typical in-person retreat, which are pay-as-led \$0-\$140 with a suggested fee of \$70.

What if I don't know anyone?

Come anyway! Young Friends are incredibly welcoming and friendly, and we show up because we want to meet new people. You'll make friends, people will talk to you, and you will have fun. This is not like high school. Seriously!

How do I get involved?

Go to www.neym.org/year-young-friends to learn more and sign up for the YF newsletter to receive weekly updates on what's going on and how to join. If you have any questions, want more information, or just want to chat, give me a call or send me a text at (978) 382-1850 or send me an email at maggie@neym.org. I am looking forward to meeting you soon!

Maggie Nelson (she/her/hers)

Young Friends Events Organizer