

July 9, 2021

Dear JYM and JHYM Friends and Families,

**The schedule on the reverse side** shows my current thinking on the JYM-JHYM Retreat schedule for the coming year. It also shows a few other ways that youth and families can participate in Quaker community and explore their spirituality, but it doesn't show everything!

- Some virtual programming will continue if there is interest, including
  - Quaker Family Nights once a month
  - JHYM-YF Racial Justice Group
  - JHYM-YF Art Hangout; maybe a Writer's Group, too?
  - JYM Hangouts on a less frequent basis -- maybe once a month?
  - Parent Tea & Chat Thursday nights
  
- Young Friend (high school) coordinator Maggie Nelson's ministry is growing into nurturing more ways for teens' growing and belonging within Quakerism both at retreats and outside of them, especially in intergenerational spaces like a Quaker meeting. Some of these local and regional *in-person* programs will be open to teens from 6-12th grades. Other intergenerational opportunities will be for *ALL* ages, with a particular focus on centering youth and families.

The most frequently asked question these days is "When will we be back in person?" I wish I could answer that. At this moment, I am working with the other youth staff in our New England Quaker community to discern exactly what our protocols are for keeping children, teens, and staff safe at both one day gatherings and at retreats. While we are all eager to be back in person, the safety and wellbeing of our communities remains our first responsibility. Thank you for your patience.

In the meantime, it felt most urgent for families to know *when* we hope to gather, even if we don't yet know *where* or *how* for some of the gatherings. I hope to release more information about in-person protocols and retreat locations later this summer, and in the meantime *welcome your questions, concerns, or hopes for our return.*

With much love and gratitude to all of you,

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<https://neym.org/nurture-youth>

## JYM-JHYM Calendar (Draft) 2021-2022

JYM Retreats are for children in grades 2-6

JHYM Retreats are for youth in grades 6-8

NOTE: 6th Graders may choose to be part of either JYM or JHYM (not both). Reach out to Gretchen with questions or concerns. [gretchen@neym.org](mailto:gretchen@neym.org) or 508-287-6441

Date(s)	Program
Sept. 18 or 19 (TBA)	JHYM <b>Tentative</b> one day <i>in person</i> reunion with current JH'ers and with those in 9th and 10th grades in Sept. (One of activities would be decorating Quaker Oatmeal Boxes.)
Oct. 2, 2021	JYM FAMILY DAY One day regional gatherings for families with children in grades K-6 at a few locations in New England
Oct. 22-24, 2021	JHYM Retreat Location & format (in person/hybrid/zoom) TBA
Nov. 12-14, 2021	JYM Retreat Location & format (in person/hybrid/zoom) TBA
Dec. 3-5, 2021	JHYM Retreat Location & format TBA
Jan. 28-30, 2022	JYM Retreat Location & format TBA
Feb. 11-13, 2022	JHYM Retreat Location & format TBA
March 5, 2022	Bread Day Intergenerational Day at Local Meetings
March 11-13, 2022	JHYM Bodyworks Retreat (6th & 7th Grades) <b>TENTATIVE</b> (may postpone to 2023 if can't be in person retreat)
April 29-May 1, 2022	JHYM Retreat Location & format TBA
May 13-15, 2022	JYM Retreat Location & format TBA
June TBA	8th Grade Retreat Location & format TBA