Welcome to Autumn Soul.

Thank You for being willing to bring young people to Autumn Soul. Autumn Soul cannot happen without the faithfulness of the volunteers and leaders who give up their time and energy to come and sleep (or not sleep) on church hall floors and who are an example to the young people in how they worship.

Thank you for partnering with IMYC as we endeavour to help young people own their faith and therefore bless their local context.

As you are committed to bringing young people away there will always be questions from yourselves, young people and parents.

We hope this Leaders Guide will answer most if not all of your questions.
What is Autumn Soul?

Autumn Soul is the national youth gathering of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Young people, leaders and volunteers from the whole island in one place, being exposed to faith, through teaching, worship and a challenge to serve.

We welcome young people from 13/14 - 18 years old.
With opportunities to serve at the weekend from the age of 17.

Autumn Soul is run near the start of the Academic year providing an opportunity for youth groups to spend time together, worship together and grow together.

If you have questions regarding age restrictions due to the age limits of your youth groups then can you please contact us at IMYC before you book them in. For example we are aware that some youth groups run from 12 - 18 years of age.

When is Autumn Soul?

27 - 29 October 2017
Arrivals @ the weekend

Autumn Soul is based in Bangor, Northern Ireland.
Once you get there you will need to register at Hamilton Road Methodist Church, Our main worship meetings are held in the Presbyterian Church, down the road.

How to get to Hamilton Road Methodist for registration

ARRIVING BY CAR OR MINI BUS:

Follow the main road through to Bangor, past the bus & train station on the left. Stay in the right hand lane going down the one way system. At the lights on the main street, follow the system to High Street, stay in the right hand lane.

Follow the road through the traffic lights, on the right you will pass a multi-storey car park. Proceed through the roundabout, then: Follow road round to the right and Hamilton Road, the Methodist is on your right.
ARRIVING BY BUS OR TRAIN:

Coming out of the stations proceed “Down Town” Turn left and follow the traffic. Turn right at the second set of lights (the first is a pedestrian crossing) There are 2 roads going out in a fork. Hamilton Road is the road to the left. Proceed straight down Hamilton Road, the Methodist Church is on the left.

https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Hamilton+Road+Methodist+Church/
@54.660599,-5.666847,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x48619e190f525875:0xfd5140309cd9ff70

After 8pm

If you arrive after 8pm please go to Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church instead of Hamilton Road Methodist Church.

https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Hamilton+Road+Presbyterian+Church/
@54.6616073,-5.6635364,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x48619e1a4ce05251:0xad31db04116ad1ef!8m2!3d54.6616073!4d-5.6613477
Leaders Responsibilities

LEADERS RATIO TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Child Protection guidelines suggest that we have One leader of each gender for eight young people.

Leader ages: We require at least one leader of each gender (depending on the group) to be twenty-one or over. Assistant leaders must also be 18 or over.

Once registered, IMYC will look at the leader/young person ratio for your group. If necessary we will ask some of your leaders to help with Night Stewarding during the weekend.

Some youth groups do not have the appropriate ratio of male/female leaders which is required to bring their groups. If you contact IMYC in advance we will see if we can put you in contact with another group to see if they can help you out with ratios.

SLEEPING

Leaders ARE required to sleep in the same space as the young people in their group. Leaders are encouraged to to be sensible with this and allow physical space between them and young people.

NIGHT TIME

If the ratio in your group of leaders to young people is more than the guidelines suggest. Additional leaders WILL be asked to assist Night Stewards with their duties. For example if you have five leaders (18 and over) and five young people, two or three will be asked to help with the organisation of the halls and clear up.
**MEETINGS**

Once the majority of groups and leaders are in the worship venue. Two leaders (the main leaders) from each group will be asked to come to centre point for a brief leaders meeting and a time of prayer. This will be held by a member of IMYC staff. It will be announced from the main stage.

**REGISTRATION**

You will be expected to register your group on arrival at the weekend. Here you will receive a leaders pack and passes for the weekend. If you have paid in full you will be fast tracked through registration.

**PAYMENTS**

**Group:**

We endeavour to make it easy for Youth Groups to book and pay for Autumn Soul. Online payments, Paypal, Cheques and cash are all accepted. As well as Euro and Sterling. Please note that whatever currency you pay your deposit in we will expect you pay the outstanding balance using that currency.

All monies can be paid before the weekend, allowing a fast track option at registration.

Hoodies & T-shirts - this year deposits for clothing will be possible during the group booking.

**Leaders:**

We are aware that leaders are asked to pay the same amount of money to come to the weekend as the young people. We recognise that this is different to Soul Mates (our 9-13aged event). Leaders do get just as much out of Autumn Soul as the young people and this is part of the reason why. We do encourage leaders to ask churches to help with the finances for the weekend so please don’t be afraid to ask your local congregation for support.
SAFETY

Bangor is a beautiful town with lots of activities night and day. Autumn Soul venues are very close to the local night life which is usually in full flow during the weekend. It is the responsibility of the leaders to know where their group are at all times and we strongly recommend that young people are not allowed to walk around on their own. We suggest groups of three and at night groups must have a leader with them if they decide to go into town instead of Late Night Extras

Our Responsibility to Leaders

SAFETY

We endeavour to provide a safe environment for you and your young people to experience God and build relationships.

COMMUNICATION

Before: Through email, social media, publicity and conversation. We will use all means at our disposal to answer questions and provide information about the weekend.

During: We have an allocated area which is called Centrepoint. Here you will find IMYC staff and volunteers who will be able to answer questions, replace lost passes, provide venue information, hoody sales and reclaim lost property.

You will even find a nice coffee machine and a seat to take a short time out.
PASTORAL SUPPORT

Throughout the weekend there will be opportunities for leaders to receive prayer, meet the speaker and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in the midst of organising your young people. We recognise that the worship sessions and response times provided are not just for the young people. We have older people on the prayer team for example who we will seek to put you in connection with throughout the weekend.

IMYC staff will also be around to provide a listening ear, give advice or pour you a coffee or tea.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Methodist Church in Ireland is committed to the wellbeing of the children and young people among them and to that end in 1995 put together the first Child Protection Policy called ‘Keep Them Safe.’ This document was used by the other churches as they sought to develop their policies. In 2004, in conjunction with the Presbyterian Board of Social Witness, an updated and expanded policy was put in place called, ‘Taking Care’. This is the document on which our child protection policies are based.

See our safeguarding section on our website for policies

www.imycd.org

Safety at Autumn Soul

STEWARDS

We have a dedicated team of volunteer stewards who will be everywhere you turn. You will find them in yellow t-shirts, a smile on their faces and sometimes holding a big red hand!

They are there to keep you moving in the right directions (depending on where you want to go) and they will be looking after venues.

Please remember that they are mostly young and are volunteers. Please treat them with respect and grace during the weekend. Without them Autumn Soul cannot function.
**PRAYER TEAM**

We have a dedicated & trained Prayer Team who are available most of the weekend. Prayer will always take place in twos and any child protection issues which may come up will be dealt with in an appropriate manor. They are constantly interceding and support all of us through prayer and petition before and during the weekend.

**VENUES**

We use many Church venues throughout the weekend. Your groups will be sleeping in various halls around the town. They will be locked when you leave each morning yet we encourage you to not leave valuables in bags as we cannot police all peoples who may be using the venues throughout the day.

**POLICE**

The Police Service Northern Ireland are informed that Autumn Soul is happening.

**FIRST AID**

We will have an onsite First Aider throughout the weekend. Where possible, first aid will be administered in Centre Point. If medical care is needed for you or one of your group then please speak to one of the stewards with a walkie talkie who will radio through for the first aider. If there is a serious matter then leaders will be expected to go to A&E with the individual.

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

If there is an emergency then we ask that you contact the following people:

**Lisa Best**  
(IMYC Event Organiser)  
(048) 07545923176
Each year we look at our scheduling and seek to make it better for the next year. In 2017 we have changed the structure of the Saturday and added a few more things into the Sunday. We hope that our packed programme will be one where people are encouraged, challenged and have fun throughout the weekend.

**Friday**

7pm  Registration

8:30pm  Opening Worship

10:30pm  Late Night Extras

**Saturday**

9:30am  Morning Worship

11:45am  Seminars

1pm  Lunch

2pm  Big Sing

3:45pm  Workshops

5:15 - 7pm  Dinner Time

7pm  Doors open

7:30pm  Evening Worship

10pm  Late Night Extras

**Sunday**

9am  Question panel/prayer walk

10:15am  Dodgeball Tournament

12:30pm  Lunch

1:30 - 3pm  Closing Worship
Programme

LANYARDS

Each person who is registered to attend Autumn Soul will receive a lanyard with their own individual programme attached for the weekend. This will include what is happening where, when and at what times. The lanyards are also seen as your pass to gain access to venues and receive lunches at the weekend.

MAIN STAGE

The stage is full of young people and young adults who have given time to be involved in planning worship, playing in the band and producing visuals. The band is made up of young people who have been part of Autumn Soul in the past and who have auditioned to be on the stage. This is one thing that marks Autumn Soul out from other youth events. It is ran by young people for young people and main stage is one place where we work hard to make that happen.

We will also invite other groups and Play It By Ear to join us, engaging us with God.
LATE NIGHT EXTRAS

Cafes, dancing, entertainment, chill out, snacks and drinks. All activities are in one venue. Allowing young people to go back and forth between rooms to experience all the different things that are on offer during the late evenings. All programme finishes at 12am, allowing you and your groups time to get back to the halls where you are sleeping.

SEMINARS

We invite friends of IMYC to come and deliver seminars for us on the Saturday morning. There will be approx 5/6 options around the theme for the young people to chose from. Descriptions of the seminars are posted online, emailed out and a copy put in the leaders packs. Allowing the young people to have some time to think about which seminar they would like to attend.

WORKSHOPS

Energy, reflection, creativity, chill out and madness. All words which will describe the variety of workshops available to Autumn Soulers. Again this information will be sent out before the weekend.
Our National Dodgeball Tournament took place on the Sunday of Autumn Soul last year and this is where it shall stay. Dress up, get practicing, digest the rules (there will be some new ones) and get those trainers on. A brilliant activity allowing young people to burn off some energy and get nice and sweaty before they go home!
Sleeping

The accommodation provided at Autumn Soul will be on Church hall floors, so sleeping bags are essential and air beds are optional.

The Church/halls you are sleeping in will be allocated on your arrival at registration. Depending on how early groups book, we may be able to have your allocated Church Hall emailed out to you before the weekend! But no promises with this!

Boys and Girls will be separated into sleeping halls, Leaders are required to sleep in the same halls as their young people!

ALLOCATING ACCOMMODATION:

As far as possible we try and accommodate groups who request to be together. We do try our best but sometimes it is not possible - We are sorry and ask for grace as we try and juggle 600 young people into halls.

DOORS LOCKED:

For the safety of the young people at Autumn Soul please be aware that the doors to the sleeping halls will be closed at 1AM. It is important that the young people are not late and hanging around the streets.

NIGHT STEWARDS

Your night stewards will arrange a Leaders meeting on both nights to provide information and give instructions for that night and the following morning. Night Stewards are there for safety and information. Leaders are responsible for their own groups when it comes to sleeping! Remember, those groups with over the allocation of leaders WILL be asked to assist with night stewarding during the weekend.
Food

AUTUMN SOUL IS A NUT FREE ZONE!

Please ensure that your group does not bring any nut products with them. This is really important.

We also ask those who cater for us to not provide nut products, please do help us keep a check on this. If you see nut products around please do inform a steward who will pass on the information to the right channel.

Also please use your common sense and confiscate.

BREAKFAST

Cereal, bread/toast, milk, tea, coffee, spread, juice, milk & disposables are provided in the kitchen of the accommodation halls. These of course can be used for supper as well.

LUNCH

Packed lunches are provided on both Saturday and Sunday - your weekend pass is your lunch ticket! For Sunday lunch we plan to serve hot dogs, crisps, chocolate, fruit and drinks.

LUNCH COLLECTION POINTS

The lunch collection point on Saturday is at the front of the Hamilton Road Methodist Church. On Sunday it is in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Halls. If you are not sure, ask a steward or follow the crowd!
DINNER/EVENING MEAL

Evening meal on Saturday is not provided, Bangor has a healthy selection of take outs and restaurants.

Please note that the food hall in the shopping centre closes at 5pm. The Presby Halls will be open to eat your take outs. Stewards will direct you to the correct room.

FOOD ALLERGIES

It is really important that you pass on information regarding any food intolerances so that we can provide appropriate food for all those who attend Autumn Soul. For example

Gluten Free
Dairy Intolerance
Banana intolerance

LATE NIGHT EXTRAS FOOD

After worship on Friday & Saturday evenings, Late Night Extras will have food and snacks on sale.

Friday night - Chippy Van (allowing people to get hot food without having to walk into town)

Saturday night - Waffle machine - or something similar

Cafes will also serve an array of tuck shop, hot & cold drinks and snacks
As with any trip there is a list of things which are essential and important to pack:

**Sleeping Bag**
Air Bed, roll matt, Pillow
(optional)

**Toiletries / Wash bag**
(There are no showers available until Sunday at the Dodgeball Tournament)

**Clothes**
(Check out the weather forecast before you come, but prepare for all types of weather)

**Sports gear for Dodgeball**
(if you are taking part)

**Bible & Notebook**

**Money**
(Sat dinner, Late Night Extra’s, hoody money & offering)

**Mobile Phone Charger**
(You may want to Snapchat, Tweet & Instagram over the weekend)