

Autumn Soul Leaders Guide



2019

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Welcome to Autumn Soul.

The Autumn Soul organising group and IMYC would like to **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, love, lead and serve.

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 - 18 years old.

With opportunities to serve at the weekend from the age of 17.

Autumn Soul runs 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?

25 - 27 October 2019



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.

After 8pm

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



Leaders Responsibilities

SAFEGUARDING

All leaders must be checked and trained through the Methodist Church in Ireland. So please ensure that each leader has a valid Access NI/Garda check in place and that their training is up to date (Training must be completed every 3 years). Check IMYC's website for safeguarding training dates before Autumn Soul.

RATIOS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Safeguarding guidelines suggest that we have 1 leader of each gender for 8 young people.

Leader ages: We require at least one leader of each gender (depending on the group) to be 21 or over.

Assistant leaders must also be 18 or over

Once registered, IMYC will look at the leader/young person ratio for your group.

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.

Parental consent forms are available on the IMYC website - it is your responsibility to ensure that these are completed and with you at the weekend.

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. Bags will be left on named pews in the church itself.

Remember registration takes place in HAMILTON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH and only in the Presbyterian if you arrive after 8pm

PAYMENTS

Group Booking:

We endeavour to make it easy for Youth Groups to book and pay for Autumn Soul. Online payments and PayPal are preferable. If you wish to pay in a different format please contact IMYC. All monies can be paid before the weekend, allowing a fast track option at registration.

NOTE: We are asking that all weekend money is paid in FULL instead of a deposit system. If someone pulls out we will retain £10 of the money to cover our admin and weekend supplies costs.

SWEATSHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

Sweatshirts and T-shirts must be ordered online. Please place your orders **before the 5th of October** so that your garments are ready for collection when you arrive at Autumn Soul. We ask that the young people take responsibility for this themselves and order and pay online through the IMYC website and PayPal (you do not need a PayPal account to use this).

Leaders payments:

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.

SLEEPING

Leaders ARE required to sleep in the same space as the young people in their group. Leaders are encouraged to be sensible with this and allow physical space between them and 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 500 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 before 1AM. It is important that the young people are not late and hanging around the streets.

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!

MEETINGS

We will have a quick meeting on Friday night as worship begins for introductions. One leader from each group should attend this meeting.

Friday and Saturday night at the halls - if leaders of the groups gather to make sure everyone agrees on lights out and the relevant information will be shared for the morning clear up and get out.



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 Centrepont. Here you will find IMYC staff and volunteers who will be able to answer questions, replace lost passes, provide venue information and reclaim lost property.

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

After : We will ask you for your evaluations and comments after the weekend. Please do encourage your young people to participate. We need your help to make the event better in the future.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Throughout the weekend there will be opportunities for leaders to receive prayer 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 and would love to talk to you and support in any way they can.

During the workshop time there will be a space for leaders to receive prayer and support upstairs in Hamilton Road Presbyterian in the prayer team space. Centrepoint will also be a space for leaders to browse through resources and have a snack and cuppa during workshops.

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 manner. They are constantly interceding and supporting 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 phone 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:

Gemma Barclay

(IMYC Staff)

(048) 07955869680

Gillian Gilmore

(IMYC Team Leader)

(048) 07736840708



Timetable

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 Takeaway Tea and Karaoke

7pm Doors open

7:30pm Evening Worship

10pm Late Night Extras

Sunday

9am Dodgeball Tournament

10:15am Mission Marketplace

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 run 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 5 options around the theme for the young people to choose 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 Soul-ers. Again this information will be sent out before the weekend.

TEATIME KARAOKE

For those who love a good bit of musical entertainment or a good old sing-a-long - grab some takeaway and head over to the church halls as we have some fun karaoke.

DODGEBALL

You will be glad to hear that our National Dodgeball Tournament is returning, with a brand new time slot of 9am on Sunday morning. Come dressed up and ready to go! So, get practicing, digest the rules 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!

There is a designated person to help with any disputes or rule breaking throughout the competition.

Leaders we ask you to remember this is a FUN activity. Let's try and encourage that with our young people and maybe remember that yourselves when your competitive nature comes out.



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 and Sunday is in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church which is where Late Night Extras happen. 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
- The main leader in charge of the group will be responsible to let IMYC know before the weekend.

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

Cash Only. No cards.



Packing for Autumn Soul

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, & offering)

Mobile Phone Charger

(You may want to Snapchat, Tweet & Instagram over the weekend)

Coffee Mug and Water Bottle

(There is tea and coffee and water aplenty but we are doing everything we can to be plastic and waste free so don't want to be living off disposables for the weekend)



Parental/ Guardian Information Sheet

WHAT: 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 - 18 years old. With opportunities to serve at the weekend from the age of 17.

WHEN :25 - 27 October 2019

WHERE: Bangor, Northern Ireland

PROGRAMME: We organise a full programme throughout the weekend. This year our theme is 'Released'. Following on from last year when we set upon the journey of becoming fearless, this year, we want to push the boundaries even further as we explore the adventures God has in store as we are released to impact those around us. We will have seminars that will help explore this theme, along with workshops, late night extras and a prayer space.

GDPR:

Please ensure that you have filled in a parental consent form for your under 18 year old.

MERCHANDISE: This year we have branded Autumn Soul Sweatshirts and T-shirts available for purchase. This must be ordered before the weekend through the IMYC website www.imycd.org under the Events/

Autumn Soul section. Payment is via PayPal (you do not need a PayPal account to pay through this) and the garments will be available at registration. It is the responsibility of the young people to purchase these themselves and not go through the leaders. Please be aware the deadline for placing orders is October 5th.

Things for the young people to Bring:

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 (We use social media to engage the young people over the weekend).

Parental Consent Form (This must be given and held by the leader of the group for the duration of the weekend).

Coffee Mug and Water Bottle

(There is tea and coffee and water aplenty but we are doing everything we can to be plastic and waste free so don't want to be living off disposables for the weekend)