

Soul Mates Leaders Guide



2020

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Dear Leader,

Thanks for booking a group into Soul Mates Weekend. We hope that you and your group enjoy the weekend and draw closer to God and each other as a result of it. Please find below some helpful information which will help you and your group throughout the weekend activities.

We recognise the hard work, dedication and personal cost that leaders make to bring children to this event. Our hope and prayer is that children will learn about God, the Bible and themselves, partly because of faithful acts of service and example of leaders.

We hope that this document will provide answers to some if not all of your questions and help you know things that you maybe haven't thought about yet. If not then please do not hesitate to contact IMYC.



What is Soul Mates?

It is the national children's discipleship weekend organised by the Methodist Church In Ireland youth and children's department.

Who organises Soul Mates?

Irish Methodist Youth And Children's Department (IMYC) organises Soul Mates weekend with a committee of volunteers who are passionate about children learning about God, the Bible and themselves.

Who is it for?

The weekend is for children aged between 9 - 13 years of age.

All children must come as part of a group from the local church.

When is Soul Mates?

It is the first full weekend in March. It runs from the 6 - 8th March 2020 this year.

Where is Soul Mates?

Lurgan Town, Northern Ireland. (North Western District, under the new Methodist Connexional Structure)

SMWK WEEKEND PROGRAMME 2020

FRIDAY

18:30pm	Arrivals & registration
20:00pm	Worship Celebration
21:15pm	Supper
21:30pm	Entertainment

SATURDAY

8am	Breakfast
9am	Worship Celebration
10:30am	Seminar 1
11:25am	Seminar 2
12:30pm	Lunch
14:00pm	Workshop 1
15:30pm	Workshop 2
17:30pm	Dinner time
18:45pm	Worship Celebration
20:00pm	Supper
20:30pm	Soul Stars

SUNDAY

8:30am	Breakfast
9:30am	Worship Celebration
11:30am	Hometime

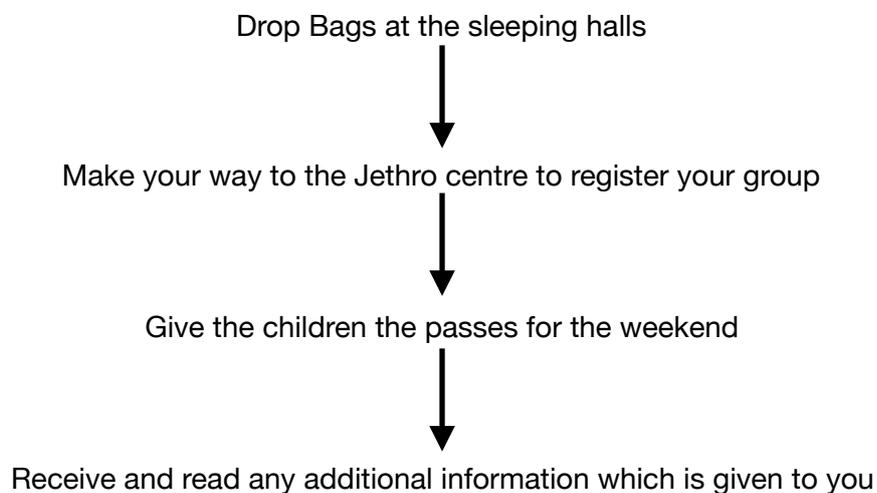
PROGRAMME INFORMATION 2020

Arrivals & registration:

Before you travel to Lurgan you will receive an email which will inform you about which church halls your group will be sleeping in during the weekend.

Registration and sleeping halls Jethro centre opens at 18.30pm

On Arrivals to Lurgan:



Tips for getting through registration quickly:

1. If groups are paid in full and no money needs to be exchanged then leaders can go to the "Fast Track" queue.
2. One leader instead of the whole group goes to the registration table.
3. Have all your forms filled out and copied, ready to give the registration team.
 - Have two copies of each child's parental permission forms. (you keep one and we keep one)
 - Have emailed through the Fire Register in advance
 - Fill in the workshop choices for the young people in your group online.



WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Over the weekend we will host 4 worship sessions where all young people and leaders will be in the one space. There will be praise songs, dramas, a speaker, memory verse song, prayer, creative prayer and videos shown in this space. The sessions are set up to engage the children and to encourage participation.

In 2020 we are introducing a new worship band made up of mostly teenagers. Please pray for them as they lead us in song and set an example to our children.

**** If any child has additional needs a quiet space is provided for the child and leader to go and sit for some time out over the weekend. The sound from the worship celebrations will be playing at a low volume in this space.



ENTERTAINMENT

Friday evening

Each year we provide fun activities for the children after supper. Board game cafe, discos and other age appropriate activities. These allow the children to have fun, get to know each other and for some, run around and blow off steam.

Saturday evening

SOUL STARS - is our talent show. It is open to any child or group of children at Soul Mates wishing to enter (1 entry per group). The overall winner will walk away with the much-coveted Soul Stars trophy. To make sure the children in your group get the opportunity to perform they need to have the entry form completed and sent to IMYC before the weekend. Any last minute entries must be in before 10pm on Friday 6th March 2020. Specific information about this will be emailed out TWO weeks before the event.

Make sure to sign up quickly as there are limited spaces!

The rules are:

- No more than one entry per group.
- **No longer than three minutes for each entry.**
- The entries can be

A song; A dance (please bring a copy of the song to be used); Playing a musical instrument; Comedy (joke telling); Sketch/drama; An imitation of someone famous; A mime to their favourite song (please bring a copy of the song to be used)

Things for the leaders to check:

- Make sure the entries are age appropriate.
- Check any costumes and attire is appropriate for being on stage
- ***SOULMATES WEEKEND reserves the right to refuse any group the opportunity to perform if we feel that the act is inappropriate.***



FOOD

Breakfast

Breakfast is served in halls by leaders, volunteers, staff and committee all working together. People will be assigned specific roles over the weekend and we ask that everyone helps out where they can. The options for breakfast are eggy bread, cereal, juice, tea, coffee and toast. Those who have informed us about any allergies will have specific supplies in their halls for breakfasts.

Suppers

Pancakes, muffins, biscuits, juice, chocolate and fruit. There are options available and again those with allergies will be provided for.

Saturday Lunch

This is provided by the school where the seminars take place. A hot meal is given to leaders and children. This is organised by the canteen staff who belong to the primary school. There are usually 3/4 options available for everyone and of course those with specific dietary needs (who have informed us) will be catered for.

Saturday Tea/Dinner time

Hot dogs, crisps, drinks, chocolate and fruit will be supplied for everyone in the Jethro centre. Stewards will direct groups once they come in about where to go and what to do.

***** LEADERS PLEASE NOTE**

For those children and leaders with special dietary requirements we ask that leaders help us as we distribute the food. We have asked for photos this year of those with special dietary requirements so we can identify them. To help us it would be useful if the group leaders nominated a leader who would make sure that the individual takes the specific food which has been provided for them.



SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Seminars

Be happy leaders. Our new structure seminars will mean less admin for you and for us.

The seminars this year are all following the same theme, therefore you will be allocated rooms for your children to attend. They will get to be part of a classroom, small group style seminar and then a larger seminar where many groups will be in together.

Seminars take place in the local primary school which is just around the corner from the Jethro Centre. Stewards will police the roads and crossings to assist you in walking your groups over to the primary school after the morning worship.

Workshops

Once your booking has been confirmed you will be sent a link to the choices for workshops. There are fewer workshops this year and the website will take you through the process.

Leaders Cuppa!

As soon as leaders enter the school there will be a leaders table with refreshments on it. Tea, coffee and treats, please lift something to enjoy as you attend the seminars with the children throughout the morning.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 2020

SLEEPING HALLS

Each group will be allocated church buildings which will have halls for us to use over the weekend for sleeping.

High Street Methodist Lurgan (HSM);

Jethro Centre Lurgan (JC);

High Street Presbyterian Lurgan (HSP).

Saint Saviours - Dolingstown

- Leaders sleep separately from their children, whilst staying in the same room. This means that leaders can still supervise their children, but still observe Taking Care Guidelines.
- We have lights off at midnight and everyone is expected to be asleep by 00.30. Group leaders are responsible for settling their children.
- In each of the halls, there will be a team of volunteers to assist you however you are responsible for the safety and discipline within your group. They will host a leaders' meeting at the earliest chance in the halls on Friday night after the evening program.
- ***Access to the sleeping halls during Saturday is not realistic. So please ensure that the children and yourselves have EVERYTHING that you may need for the days programme.***

LEADERS CHECK LIST

- You are responsible for the children that you bring
- Leaders must sleep in the same rooms as the children yet not with them
- If there are any emergencies then contact us immediately (an emergency number will be given to you)
- You will receive an email before the event telling you which sleeping halls you have been allocated. Go there on arrivals to drop bags.
- Don't forget to have your fire registration sheet and parental consent forms filled in for registration

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 2020



CAR PARKING OVER THE WEEKEND

BE CAREFUL - THE MAIN HIGH STREET IN LURGAN HAS TIME CONSTRAINTS ON THE PARKING SPACES.

FRIDAY

Cars can be parked in the Jethro Centre BUT NOT overnight

Where possible, please leave cars/ minibuses at the sleeping halls.

SATURDAY

Unless there is a disability of a leader or child, cars ARE NOT allowed to be parked in the Jethro Centre throughout the day. There are businesses which run out of the Jethro centre throughout the day and clients need to be able to park there.

Those who have to drive to the Jethro centre should park their cars in the petrol station car park beside the centre.

If you are driving your car for whatever reason to the school for seminars then IT MUST be moved by the end of lunch time, otherwise the car will be locked in the school for the rest of the weekend

SUNDAY

All cars must be removed from Church car parks when you leave to go to the Jethro Centre for the final worship celebration.

****** For those groups who DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. Please bring your bags to the Jethro Centre after breakfast on the SUNDAY. for storage until after the worship celebration.***

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 2020



SUPPORT PROVIDED DURING THE WEEKEND

CENTREPOINT

- When you come into the Jethro Centre, Centrepoint is immediately on your right. It will be open all weekend. This is the place to come if you have any questions, need advice, or First Aid.
- It is also the place where leaders will find a good cup of coffee and some treats. Please remember to put a lid on your coffee cups!

PRAYER TEAM

- Prayer team is available throughout the weekend. Most prayer responses are explained from the front of worship to help people understand.
- They will be identifiable by blue t-shirts and badges.

FIRST AID

- A Soul Mates First Aider will be available during programme.
- At night contact the key volunteer in your halls, who will contact the First Aider on duty.
- During the day and evening come to Centrepoint and they will contact the First Aider.
- In an emergency: Contact the emergency number (this will be provided)

STEWARDS

These are a group of volunteers who give up their time to wear a yellow t-shirt to fulfil menial tasks which make the weekend happen. They are there to point you all in the right direction and to make the weekend run as smoothly as possible. Give them a HIGH FIVE, a smile and be kind to our volunteers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 2020



Please refer to the “frequently asked questions’ on the IMYC website for any queries around safe guarding drop outs, add ons and ratios.

www.imycd.org/soul-mates/

Leaders check lists to remember

- Inform your parents - refer them to the parents information on the IMYC website
- Contact parents of children with dietary requirements for photos
- Register your group in advance for Soul Stars
- Complete the Fire Register
- Have two copies of your parental consent forms (one for us and one for you)
- Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or queries