

SCYM Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report to Representative Meeting, November 2023

The Yearly Meeting Planning team met twice during October 2023 to review evaluations and lessons learned from 2023 YM and to develop a draft schedule for the upcoming 2024 YM. The team includes members of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, as well as representatives from the Bayou QM adult program planning committee, Tech Events committee, and Youth Program Support committee, along with the site coordinator, AV coordinator, registrars, and communication manager. It takes a village!

The following are some notes from the 2023 evaluations. The YM planning team will address these matters or refer them to other appropriate committees or individuals.

- Overall experience
 - 95% of respondents rated their experience a 4 or 5 (on a 1-5 scale)
 - “Great as usual. Enjoy seeing Friends, helping in planning and putting on the event.”
 - “Just great to be with everyone”
 - “good workshop, keynote, fireside chat and MWAB experience. collegiality with Friends”
 - “I got to know more people and some better. I learned a lot from business meetings.”
 - “I had a really good experience this year. I felt like I was able to connect with others.”
 - “Good, serious discussion and reflection, but time management was an issue. Weight unresolved discussion ate into workshop time. I experienced that collectively we were a more fragmented community this year, and somewhat restless.”
- Adult program
 - Multiple positive comments about the keynote, several Friends mentioned workshops and home groups.
 - “Renewal of my faith that we need to keep practicing our Quaker testimonies while taking care of ourselves and others in our community.”
- A few comments about how we might improve online sessions. The Tech Events committee may designate an online coordinator to provide more clarity around online participation.
- Concerns about a few problems with the camp when we arrived. The site coordinator will work with camp staff to address these.
- Comments regarding the food. The site coordinator and YM planning team will follow up on this.
- Concerns related to business meeting - running out of time, good order, seasoning minutes in advance. These have been referred to the YM clerk.

- “I would like SCYM to make a commitment to become an antiracist space and to explore what that looks like.” We will refer this to Ministry & Care and/or Peace & Justice.
- One comment regarding continuing to involve SCYM Friends as speakers, not just “famous Quakers.” YM planning team members felt that having perspectives from both inside and outside of our yearly meeting is valuable, and that the adult programming committee can discern how to best use SCYM Friends for the program (panels, workshop presenters, etc.)
- Suggestion to have an Adult Young Friends dorm in 2024 to help building connection among younger friends - perhaps gender-blind or gender-neutral. The registrars and site coordinator can look into this.
- Several Friends expressed a desire to pay YM fees electronically. The treasurer and Finance Committee will consider looking into this again.

For YM 2024, we may be able to use the Performing Arts Center for all the business meetings and the events we normally have in the theater - though not sure about Family Fun night. The use of the PAC is free, but hiring their techs would be an additional cost. Bill Wilkinson is looking into whether we can have our YM AV coordinators trained on the PAC tech prior to YM.

[2024 SCYM Schedule DRAFT](#)

- No online weeknight business meeting prior to being onsite at GFC.
- Longer Saturday afternoon business meeting session.
- Morning business meeting sessions moved back to 9:00 (from 8:45).
- Faith & Practice - one-hour forum on Friday afternoon.
- Keynote speaker on Friday afternoon.
- Added an ice cream social on Friday afternoon between the F&P forum and the keynote speaker, to add some fellowship time and give Friends a chance to clear their heads.
- Friday workshop slot moved to the evening.

For the committee, Denise Wilkinson, clerk
November 2023, at Representative Meeting