

HOW CAN WE HELP?  
Teens from the fattest  
country seek solutions to  
world hunger



# **yes conference 2005**



**November 4-6, 2005**  
**Frost Valley Family Conference Center**  
**Claryville, New York**  
**Pre-Conference November 3, 2005**  
**New York Society for Ethical Culture**  
**New York, New York**

## **YOU are invited to the 2005 Fall Y.E.S. Conference:**

**Are you my brother? Teens from the fattest country seek to solve a serious world problem**

Come meet teens from Ethical Societies around the country and discuss this topic and others.

**When:** Friday evening, November, 4, thru Sunday afternoon, November 6, 2004. (Pre-conference activities start on Thursday, November 3rd, with an overnight stay at the New York Society for Ethical Culture (NY, NY)).

**Where:** Frost Valley YMCA Conference Center, Claryville, New York, 12725 on the Neversink River (read about it at [www.frostvalley.org](http://www.frostvalley.org)).

**Who:** Y.E.S. members and friends (13-18 years old, in senior high school), present officers and adult advisors.

Please note: Every youth attending must have an adult advisor at the conference site.

**How:** Fill out and mail the enclosed registration form with full payment (make checks payable to American Ethical Union) as well as signed code of Ethics and Medical Authorization Form by October 10<sup>th</sup> to: Diane Kirschner-YES/ American Ethical Union/ 2 West 64<sup>th</sup> St/ NY, NY 10023.

### Code of Ethics- Behavior Guidelines

Our common values as Ethical Culturists/ Humanists- respect for the inherent worth of every person, freedom balanced with responsibility-will govern this conference as well as the regulations of Frost Valley and the Laws of New York State and the USA, regarding weapons, alcohol, drugs and sexual activity. All participants are required to read, sign and abide by our code of ethics and return it with the registration form.

**BRING:** Sleeping bag, pillow, towel, soap, shampoo, jeans, sweatshirt, hiking/sport shoes, jacket, gloves and hat, rain gear, and flashlight. (Also pajamas you don't mind being seen in!) Optional: Snacks, CDs, journal, favorite poetry, camera, games for large groups, ear plugs.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Please consult with your Society's Director of Religious Education or Y.E.S. advisor. A chartered bus will leave NYSEC at 2:00 PM on Friday (Nov 4<sup>th</sup>). The bus will leave the conference site on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM with stops at LaGuardia Airport. Advance Reservations for the bus are required, seats may be limited. If you are flying and using the chartered bus, do not make reservations at the airport before 5:00 PM on Sunday. Directions for getting to Frost Valley are on the back of this brochure.

Questions? Call: Susan Buzek, at 301-564-9675 or email [sbuzek@aol.com](mailto:sbuzek@aol.com).

**SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY!**

## **Conference Schedule- November, 2005**

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pre-conference at New York Society for Ethical Culture in Manhattan. Chartered bus will transport everyone to Frost Valley. Bus departs NYSEC on Friday, 1:30 PM. Bus will begin loading at 1:00 PM.

### **Friday, November 6 Welcome to Frost Valley!**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 5 - 6:00 PM | WELCOME! Arrive at Frost Valley (Hussey Lodge). Bring in bags; settle in to rooms.  |
| 6:00 - 7:00 | Check-in at Margett's   |
| 7:00        | Dinner (soup and salad. Thomas Lodge Dining Hall, Forstmann Center)                 |
| 7:45        | Opening games and opening ceremony (Begin at Margett's, move outside, bring jacket) |

### **Saturday, November 6**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8:00 - 8:45 AM | Breakfast (Meals at Thomas dining hall)   |
| 8:45           | Officers and Reps only (Meet at Margett's)  |
| 9:15           | Conference activities (Meet in Margett's)   |
| 12:00 Noon     | Lunch   |
| 1:00 - 3:00 PM | Afternoon activities  |
| 3:00 - 5:00    | Free Time   |
| 5:30 -7:00     | Dinner  |
| 7:15           | Conference activities, including elections & warm fuzzies, Followed by campfire, marshmallows and music outside of Hussey |

### **Sunday, November 7**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:00 AM         | Breakfast   |
| 9:00 - 10:00    | Clean up, Pack up   |
| 10 - 10:30      | Closing Ceremony (Begin at Margett's - move outside, bring a jacket & camera) |
| 10:30 - 11:00   | Parachutes  |
| 11:00 - 12:00N  | Pix, Evaluations and Farewells  |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch   |
| 1:30            | Bus leaves from parking lot of Hussey. Good-bye!                              |

## **Conference Planners, YES conference, 2004**

YES Officers

Rosie Finkelstein, YES President (Bergen)

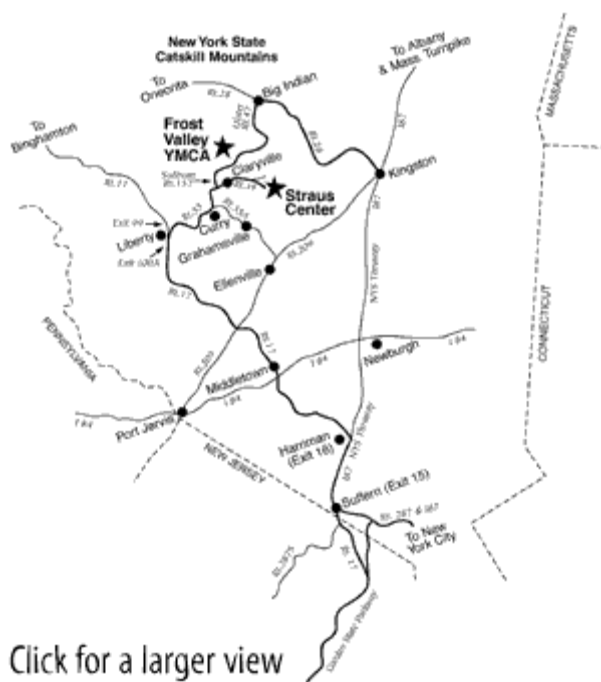
Samantha Shiffman, YES Vice President (Bergen)

Ali La Chen Baker, YES Secretary, (Bergen)

Daniel Rosner, YES Treasurer (St Louis)

# Directions to the Frost Valley Facilities Located in the West Valley of the Neversink River

Frost Valley Family / Conference Center  
2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2291 [www.frostvalley.org](http://www.frostvalley.org)  
Forstmann Family & Conference Center  
Town of Denning, Ulster County, New York



## From New Jersey and Points South:

From the New York Thruway Exit 16 (Harriman) go 55 miles west on Route 17 to Liberty (Exit 100A). At the end of the exit ramp turn right onto Route 55 east. Follow directions from Liberty (below).

## From Binghamton, NY and Points West:

Take Route 17 east to Exit 100 (Liberty). At end of exit ramp turn right onto Route 52 west. Drive 1/4 mile and take a sharp right onto Route 55 east. Follow directions from Liberty (below).

## From Connecticut and Points East:

Take 1-84 west to Route 17 (Middletown, NY). Go west on Route 17 to Liberty (Exit 100A). At the end of the exit ramp turn right onto Route 55 east. Follow directions from Liberty (below).

## From Liberty, NY:

Take Route 55 east ten miles to Curry. Look for sign on the right side of the road marked "Claryville." Turn left onto County Road 19 and go four miles to Claryville. Look for sign on right side of road marked "Frost Valley." Turn left onto County Road 157 (it becomes County Road 47) and drive seven miles to Frost Valley West Valley of the Neversink facilities. (For further directions, go to [www.frostvalley.org](http://www.frostvalley.org))



**Youth of Ethical Societies**  
affiliate of the American Ethical Union  
Rosie Finkelstein, Pres; Samantha Shiffman, VP;  
Susan Buzek, Youth Advisor

Howdy fellow YES goers,

O yes it is that time of the year again when fabulously amazing people come together at the YES conference. The New York Society for Ethical Culture in Manhattan will welcome us to grace their building for the pre-conference. After the pre-conference, off we go to our final destination of Frost Valley. There, all the fun and activities will truly begin.

At this very moment we are developing the ideas and activities for this year's theme which is World Hunger. We plan to focus on world hunger on both a global and national level. We are developing questions on ways in which we can help solve world hunger as a community as well as through our government. This topic gives us the chance to reflect upon what truly needs to be addressed, we can focus on the core problems rather than those which skim the surface.

We truly want this conference to be a memorable experience, and this is where you come in. Aside from our normal discussions and activities we would like for each teen group to plan a food drive to benefit their local food banks or shelters. We would also like to take part in a mini fast. The length of the fast is still undetermined, and that is up to you. If you would like to fast a meal or a day it is at your discretion.

One thing that you must remember is that this is your YES conference. It is what you make of it. It is highly encouraged for you to bring meaningful stuff. Bring that poem that's hot off the press, whip out the guitar and let your voice be heard, all is welcomed from artwork to quotes. Whatever moves you feel free to share. Send us an e-mail to tell us what you might like to bring.

We cannot wait to see all of your gorgeous, youthful, brilliantly inspirational, shining little faces. Get ready for YES '05, because we are ready for YOU.

Sincerely,  
Rosie & Sam

Rosalie H. Finkelstein, YES EI Presidente ([rosesilly7@msn.com](mailto:rosesilly7@msn.com))  
Samantha L. Shiffman, YES EI Vice Presidente ([crazedchic324@aol.com](mailto:crazedchic324@aol.com))



**Youth of Ethical Societies**  
affiliate of the American Ethical Union  
Rosie Finkelstein, Pres; Samantha Shiffman, VP;  
Susan Buzek, Youth Advisor

20 September 2005

Dear Parents of YES members,

As a YES teen advisor, I was often asked by my teens' parents exactly what teens get from the YES conference. Teens themselves often cannot articulate what was so great. (One year my teens focused on the walk to and from the dinner lodge. It was hard for parents to understand why that was important.) I thought I would send you my answer as you are making the decision about sending your teen to something that costs money and takes time away from studies and sports.

Here are some comments I've heard and some things I have observed from teens that have gone:

*"It was awesome. I loved the way that people looked out for each other and the acceptance I saw for people who are different. The only thing that matters is the kind of person you are."*

*"I decided to just be myself this weekend, because I didn't know anyone there, and I was accepted anyway! It was mind-blowing to think that I can be myself and have people like me just the same."*

*"It was very cool to meet other people from Ethical Culture and to see what they were like."*

*"I learned so much and people talked about such interesting things. It will take me awhile to know what all I have learned from this weekend."*

*"I found out that ethical culture isn't just this weird thing I have to explain to my friends. It is full of cool people who have done amazing things."*

Some teens come home with friends that they keep throughout their high school and college years. They so love the "YES" experience that now we meet annually for the YES-alumni Reunion (FES-Future of Ethical Societies). Finally, teens get a chance to discuss topics that they might not have time to or may be afraid to discuss at home, because of what people might think. We had a very moving and very thoughtful discussion about the things we learned in the year after September 11<sup>th</sup>, more recently about the concerns surrounding the elections, and this year about the poverty and hunger revealed in the USA by Hurricane Katrina. People have shared very personal experiences, and have needed a place to express their ideas and concerns about these very important events and issues. I have felt such respect for the teens as they stepped forward to speak out about things they found difficult, as well as things which had inspired them. Overall, I think the YES conference is a time for teens to learn and to explore what they think, and to develop their world view.



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Susan Buzek, Youth Advisor

To Parents of YES members – page 2

So, what are the down sides? The teens (and adults!) usually come home exhausted from the weekend. They travel long distances, they are with people constantly, and they talk non-stop. They don't sleep. I have had teens come home and not go to school the next day, they are so exhausted. Sometimes they become sick the following week from all the stress and excitement.

I have seen some teens get upset because they have a hard time connecting with anyone at the conference, especially if they have been struggling with depression, or are seriously introverted. However, each year we work hard at helping first year teens to connect, and the last couple of years the first year teens I have spoken to have had a wonderful experience. Also, sometimes, even the bad experiences can be learning experiences, as teens learn to moderate their energy output, and not exhaust themselves, or learn that in order to have a good time they have to give of themselves and be willing to risk entering the group.

Do I think it is worth it? Yes. Some of the most profound spiritual experiences I have had have been with teens and advisors at the YES conferences. The teens and the advisors are truly wonderful people and we create a wonderful place together there at the conference. I think of it as Brigadoon- a magical place which only exists in fact once a year, but exists in our thoughts and memories the rest of the time. So when you make your decision for you and your teen, you might want to balance these things together and see whether going to the YES conference is the right thing for your teen, this year.

Warm Regards,  
**Susan**

Susan Buzek  
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American Ethical Union  
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Bethesda, MD 20817  
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Y.E.S.  
YOUTH OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES  
AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION  
CODE OF ETHICS

YES members are acting as ambassadors from their Ethical Societies to the National Conference and are therefore expected to maintain the highest personal moral standards which are exemplified in thoughtful, kind, fair, and responsible behaviors. All YES members demonstrate by their actions that YES is a worthwhile and responsible organization. Behavior guidelines for all YES activities and conferences are founded on our common values as Ethical Culturists/Humanists. Primarily, we respect the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and expect every freedom to be balanced with a corresponding responsibility. Conference attendees are asked to pledge the following for the duration of the conference:

1. I will not use or have in my possession illegal drugs, alcohol, dangerous materials, or firearms.
2. I will not smoke.
3. I will not engage in sexual activity. (This is defined as intercourse, oral sex, intimate touching, or sharing of sleeping bags).
4. I will follow instructions from the adult advisors and the YES officers, and encourage or support others to do so.
5. I will observe the designated curfew hours set by the YES Central Conference Committee, including scheduled lights out and quiet hours.
6. I will not leave or arrive at unscheduled times during the conference, unless I have direct permission from the YES registrar, YES advisor(s) and host.
7. I will participate actively and to the best of my ability in the scheduled program.
8. I will not engage in behavior that my parents would not approve of (for example: tattooing, body piercing, dying or shaving of hair, etc.)
9. I will clean up after myself and take responsibility for keeping the conference site clean and orderly.
10. I understand and agree that if I violate the above rules, I will appear before a disciplinary board of YES central committee members and advisors, including my own advisor. I also understand that as a result of this violation, depending on the severity of the infraction, I may be dismissed from the conference.

I have read and understand the Y.E.S. Code of Ethics and pledge to uphold it.

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Signature of conference participant

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Date

**2005 YES Conference**  
**Authorization for Treatment of Minors**

If your child needs medical or dental treatment, you as a parent or guardian must give permission. To ensure that emergency medical treatment may be provided if necessary, please complete this form. Every attempt will be made to contact parents prior to any treatment.

The people accompanying your child on this activity are the ones designated to act in your behalf. This authorization releases the American Ethical Union, advisors, and local Ethical Societies from liability.

Name of minor: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We, being the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the above-named minor, do hereby appoint

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of teen group advisor accompanying minor- NOT Susan Buzek) to act in my/our behalf in authorizing emergency medical, dental, and surgical care and hospitalization for the above-named minor during the time period:

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Month                      Day                      Year                      Month                      Day                      Year

This document will be presented to a physician, dentist, or appropriate hospital representative at such time as emergency care may be required.

Name of Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Insurance Co/Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note any physical conditions, allergies, and medications that pertain to your child:**

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2005 YES Conference Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliated Ethical Society \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Group Advisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs or Concerns, [please include medical conditions, or medications taken on a regular basis (confidential)]:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you coming to New York on Thursday night, November 3rd?

Circle one: YES NO

How will you travel to New York? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need bus transportation from New York to Frost Valley on Friday afternoon? Circle one: YES NO

Will you ride the bus from Frost Valley into New York on Sunday afternoon? YES NO What is your destination? \_\_\_ Plane? \_\_\_ Train?

Is this your first conference? YES NO

Fees:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150.00 Conference fee (includes registration, YES dues, room and board)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Pre-conference (New York City) activities. (You will need additional money for lunch on Friday, admissions, shopping, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Bus transportation to & from conference site

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 YES T-shirt Size: XS S M L XL (Adult)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed. Make check payable to: American Ethical Union. Earmark: YES conf for (teen's name) To pay by credit card, please use enclosed Credit Card Payment form.

Mail to: Diane Kirschner, YES Registrar  
American Ethical Union  
2 West 64<sup>th</sup> St  
New York, NY 10023-7104

*Remember—To be fully registered, send: Registration Form, Payment, signed Medical Authorization, & signed Code of Ethics.*

*\*Give a copy of your medical authorization form to your youth advisor.*

**SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY!**

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM

Please complete this form if you wish to pay by credit card and return it with your other registration materials to

Diane Kirschner, YES Registrar  
American Ethical Union  
2 West 64<sup>th</sup> St  
New York, NY 10023-7104

Please charge the credit card circled below:

Visa          MasterCard                          Discover                  American Express

Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print numbers clearly)

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print numbers clearly)

Amount to charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_