Join us this year for
YOUTH DAYS
August 16-17 2024
In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
At the Sheraton Hotel Station Square

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Greetings and Salutations

The middle of winter is upon us. As the cold wind and weather bear down, I am writing to everyone a good way to stay warm. Be Kind. A simple act of kindness can warm the heart. Say something nice to someone every day, whether it be the color of their shirt or the beauty of their smile. Being kind only takes a second, but it can have a lasting impact on someone’s day. Lifting their spirits and yours warming our souls even if the weather is cold and dreary out. Take a minute today and try it, bet you become a little bit warmer.

Your SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee is starting work on the 2024 Youth Days to be held in Pittsburgh, PA. It’s fast approaching, and things are moving rather quickly. I’d like to remind everyone the Pin Design deadline is May 1st. You must submit them by then so we can get them off to the manufacture in time for sessions. In years past snail mail was the only way to send them, but in recent years I’ve been receiving them via email scans. Either way is acceptable. If you do email them, make sure I send you a confirmation email.

Thank you to all the jurisdictions who sent invites to their sessions. We look forward to being able to come visit everyone in their states this year. A representative will be present to answer any questions and concerns you may have this year. Is it summertime yet? Because I’m excited already to be able to attend! If you’d like a representative to attend your annual sessions, please submit in writing a request to the JYC Chairman. Please submit it early enough so travel arrangements can be made.

Congratulations to all past officers and newly installed ones. Your Facebook posts are a great way for everyone to see all the incredible work you all are achieving. Everyone should be commended for their hard work and dedication to the youth of our Order. The Youth are the hardest working and selfless members of our order and you all should be recognized for it. The SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee is proud to serve you.

Everyone stay warm and Be Kind.

Steve Adams
SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee Chairman
*Please have your report written as it will be turned in to the SGL-IARA Joint Youth Committee.
*Report information spans from the last SGL-IARA Youth Days to the present.

**SGL-IARA Jurisdictional Youth Reports need to include the following information:**
1. Names, titles and jurisdiction of the Youth giving the report.
2. Total number of Junior Odd Fellows, Theta Rho, United Youth Groups and Cadet Corps and total number of members.
3. Junior Odd Fellows, Theta Rho, United Youth Groups and Cadet Corps that are not meeting.
4. Comparison of membership with prior years.
5. Interesting fund raising projects.
6. Junior Lodge, Theta Rho Club, Unite Youth Group and Cadet Corps activities.
7. Significant membership drive recognition.
8. Visitation activities to other jurisdictions.
9. Recognition of completing Honors Program.
10. Future plans.
11. Grand Junior Lodge, Theta Rho Assembly and information such as numbers attending, when and where held, and significant activities.
12. What are you doing for your sponsoring Lodge? What are they doing for you?
13. Recognition of any and all other special events.

**SEND YOUR CONTEST ENTRIES TO:** Chairman, Steve Adams
Email: seawyo@yahoo.com by May 1!

**Pin Design for 2025:**
Submit your design for the Youth Pin. Please remember the finished size of the pin is approximately 1” diameter. Keep the design simple. The design must include: the year of the pin, Emblems of the 4 units; Junior Odd Fellow Lodge, Theta Rho Girls Club, United Youth Group & Cadet Corp, the colors to be used. Please take the time and color your designs and make sure your name and address are on the back of the design. **Due in by May 1!**

**CONTESTS FOR YOUTH!**

**Community Service Recognition Award**
Send us a list of your community service activities in which your lodge, club, or group participated in without compensation. Provide the description of the projects, amount of money collected/donated, the number of participants and the hours of service provided.

**Advisor Recognition Award**
Submit in writing why you feel your advisor should receive this award. Tell us the special things that he or she does to make your meetings more fun. Let us know what your advisor has taught you and how you have grown in knowledge of our order. Although we realize that Assistant Advisors are very special too, this particular award is for the Club/Lodge/Group Advisor only.
January 2024

To the Officers and Grand Representatives of The Sovereign Grand Lodge, and Officers and Members of all Units of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

The next communication of The Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, beginning Monday morning, 19th August 2024, and ending Thursday afternoon, 22nd August 2024.

Headquarters and Sessions
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

The Sovereign Grand Lodge
197th Annual Communication

International Association of Rebekah Assemblies
106th Annual Session

General Military Council
120th Annual Session

Youth Days

"We seek to improve and elevate the character of man."
Sheraton Hotel Station Square
300 W Station Square Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: (412)261-2000

Group Rates—August 15-22, 2024
All Rates are $169.00—Single-Double-Triple-Quad
Tax Rate Currently 14%

Reference Independent Order of Odd Fellows Conference

Information to have available when calling to make a reservation:
Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City/State/Postal Code: ________________________________
Additional Guests: ________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________ Email: ________________________________
Card Number: ________________________________ Exp. Date: ________________________________
Arrival Date: ________________________________ Departure Date: ________________________________

Reservations must be made by: July 19, 2024
Pin Design for 2025
Submit your design for the Youth Pin. Please remember the finished size of the pin is approximately 1” diameter. Keep the design simple. The design must include: the year of the pin, Emblems of the 4 units; Junior Odd Fellow Lodge, Theta Rho Girls Club, United Youth Group & Cadet Corp, the colors to be used. Please take the time and color your designs and make sure your name and address are on the back of the design. **Due in by May 1!**

Advisor Recognition Award
Submit in writing why you feel your advisor should receive this award. Tell us the special things that he or she does to make your meetings more fun. Let us know what your advisor has taught you and how you have grown in knowledge of our order. Although we realize that Assistant Advisors are very special too, this particular award is for the Club/Lodge/Group Advisor only.

Community Service Recognition Award
Send us a list of your community service activities in which your lodge, club, or group participated in without compensation. Provide the description of the projects, amount of money collected/donated,
Proclamations

Schuyler Colfax Day Proclamation

To all Officers and Members of all Degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraterna...
Did you know??? 30 interesting facts about Pennsylvania

1. Pennsylvania became a U.S. state on Wednesday, December 12th, 1787.
2. Pennsylvania was the 2nd state to join the United States.
3. The U.S. state of Pennsylvania covers 46,055 square miles.
4. Pennsylvania is the 33rd largest state by area in the United States.
5. In 2019, the population of Pennsylvania was estimated to be 12,800,000 residents by the U.S. Census Bureau.
6. In 2019, Pennsylvania was the 5th most populated state in the United States.
7. A person who is from or lives in Pennsylvania is called a Pennsylvanian.
8. The capital city of Pennsylvania is Harrisburg.
10. The largest city in by population in Pennsylvania is Philadelphia.
11. The largest metropolitan area in Pennsylvania is Delaware Valley.
12. The U.S. state of Pennsylvania has 67 counties.
13. The most populated county in Pennsylvania is Philadelphia County with 1,584,000 residents (2019, U.S. Census Bureau).
14. The largest county by area in Pennsylvania is Lycoming County with 1,244 square miles.
15. The highest elevation point in Pennsylvania is Mount Davis at 3,213 feet above sea level.
16. The lowest elevation point in Pennsylvania is the Delaware River at sea level.
17. The average precipitation (rain and snow) in Pennsylvania is 42.7 inches.
18. Pennsylvania is the 22nd wettest state by precipitation (rain and snow) in the United States.
19. The average temperature in Pennsylvania is 49.8 °F.
20. Pennsylvania is the 31st warmest state in the United States.
21. The warmest temperature ever recorded in Pennsylvania was 111 °F on July 10th, 1936.
22. The coldest temperature ever recorded in Pennsylvania was -42 °F on January 5th, 1904.
23. A few natural disasters that can affect Pennsylvania are heat waves, hurricanes, ice storms, lightning and nor’easters.
24. Pennsylvania is in one time zone, Eastern Time Zone (ET).
25. The USPS abbreviation for Pennsylvania is PA.
26. Pennsylvania is also known as the Keystone State and the Quaker State.
27. The motto for the U.S. state of Pennsylvania is “Virtue, Liberty and Independence”.
28. The official state flower of Pennsylvania is the mountain laurel.
29. The official state tree of Pennsylvania is the hemlock.
30. The official state bird of Pennsylvania is the ruffed goose.
1. The first Ferris Wheel was invented by native Pittsburgher George W. Ferris.
2. Sam Isaly invented the Klondike Bar in 1929. Pittsburghers know and love Isaly's Deli for its chipped ham and barbecue sauce, among other favorites.
4. When WQED first aired in 1954, it became the first public television station in the United States.
5. KDKA went on the air on the evening of November 2, 1920, becoming the United States’ first commercial radio station. Pittsburghers tuned in to KDKA for election results. Over 100 years ago on Election Day, November 2, 1920, was the first day KDKA went on the air.
7. Scott Fahlman, a computer scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, created the smiley face emoticon in 1980.
8. Jonas Salk, of the University of Pittsburgh, invented the world's first polio vaccine in 1952.
9. With six victories, the Pittsburgh Steelers have won the most Super Bowls in the NFL. (All Pittsburghers know that but it certainly is worth a mention)!
10. Fred Rogers, our beloved Mister Rogers, is from Latrobe.
11. Mister Rogers’ middle name is McFeely.
12. The Carnegie Museum of Art, which opened in 1895, holds the distinction of being the world's first modern art museum.
13. The Steel City boasts 446 bridges, more than any other city in the world.
14. Pittsburgh is named after William Pitt.
15. Pittsburgh is home to the world's fifth largest opera company. The Pittsburgh Opera debuted in 1939.
16. The Poison Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh created the first Mr. Yuk stickers in 1971.
17. BINGO! That's right. The very first Bingo game, invented by Hugh J. Ward, was called in Pittsburgh in the beginning of the 1920s and by 1924 it was a nationwide phenomenon.
18. The Pirates played in the first World Series, and lost to the Boston Americans, in October of 1903.
19. The Civic Arena made history, becoming the first stadium with a retractable roof, when it opened on September 18, 1961.
20. Presbyterian-University Hospital entered the history books on December 3, 1989 when doctors performed the world's first kidney, liver, and heart transplant.
21. Amelia Earhart crash-landed her plane at the former Rodgers Field – the current site of Fox Chapel High School - on August 31, 1928. She miscalculated her landing, coming in too quickly and ended up in a ditch at the end of the runway. She spent the next two days in Pittsburgh while her plane was repaired.
22. Next time, you pull open a cold pop, give a little nod of thanks to these hometown brewing companies Alcoa and Iron City Beer Company, Pittsburgh in 1962.
24. In 1905, Pittsburghers started the trend of going to the movies when the Nickelodeon, the world’s first movie theater, opened.
26. The world’s first T-rex skeleton is on display at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.
27. Another fact about Pittsburgh that few know is that from 1891 to 1911, Pittsburgh was officially spelled without its "h".
28. Roslyn Place in Pittsburgh’s Shadyside neighborhood is the last wooden street remaining in Pennsylvania. The road was constructed in 1914 of 26,000 wooden blocks.
29. Bicycle Heaven in Pittsburgh is the world’s largest bike museum (and even better, it’s free).
30. Want another fascinating Pittsburgh Fact? North Park is home to a Gravity Hill where cars appear to roll uphill.
The month of March is a busy month.

St Patrick’s Day is March 17th.

St. Patrick’s Day, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick’s Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick’s Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has colored its river green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was the color traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the “wearing of the green”—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists.

The 1st day of Spring is March 19.

In 2024, the March equinox happens on March 19 at 11:06 P.M. EDT. This falls on a Tuesday and is the astronomical beginning of the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere.

Happy Easter

Palm Sunday is March 24.

Palm Sunday is a Christian celebration that marks the start of Holy Week before Easter. Palm Sunday is seen as a day of joy and peace, as well as a fulfillment of prophecy.

Easter is March 31.

Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter typically falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox. It is celebrated as both a Christian holiday and a holiday with Peter Cottontail handing candy to children. However, many religious observers of Easter also include them in their celebrations.
St. Patrick's Day Maze

IT’S ALL FOR FUN!

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IT'S ALL FOR FUN!

Spring crossword puzzle

Across
5. A spectrum of color in the sky when it rains.
7. A colorful plant with leaves and petals.
8. A circular device that keeps the rain off your head.
11. The month in which we celebrate moms.
12. A winged insect that comes in many colors.

Down
1. One of the earliest birds to appear in spring.
2. _______ showers bring May flowers.
3. A sport played with a bat and ball.
4. The early bird gets the _______.
6. The month in which spring starts.
9. When snow and ice turn into water.
10. The color of grass once it comes back to life.
IT’S ALL FOR FUN!

**EASTER WORD SEARCH**

S R Y Q I I S Y M J D N Y S U C Q K B N
B W J H L D Y I H F O U O P N B K P J C
N L Q N G S J Y H I T B X R U Q F Y O F
X F A D V U Z E T Z M I B I F A T C J P
N L A M L V O A L A I C W N K Y A J Z U
S O A P B N R F D L Y C V G A N K D I K
A W T M S B M D M A Y P L F D G X Z P N
T E A D E W T Z I U M B U Y C E H Q C P
C R G L M E Y R O L B H E E T L B C I C
Z S E Y Y W O F I L D N H A Y H U X C A
O C J I A L M R I M Q X R T N N G C R H
P Z F C H R I V U A G O P X I S P X F T
I O Z F Z A I L G F C H L T H Q Q P K R
S O E L S N O Z N E L H W E C I H M C Q
N K X X N T L O D U H V K A T U D H I I
A R E T S A E S W J K F S D N F O E H Q
H O T E G G S K G R I W U T N C H B C R
Y C U C Y A N O S C U X N T O F T S T U
F B N N L V P Q B A R X D L I B Y X R Y
S L B T P M E X F T B U A V W E X M V Y
O V H W X P B R T L X T Y K A Q U O M C
H P A R A D E K R D E B L B K X V W R Y
M X B T I I Z W J Y X Y M I Z G W T X E
X Q G B L C P J A L B U N N Y S C Q A F
X M T E N N O B W K Y Y N Z N Y Q S Y B

Easter  Jellybeans  Spring  Bonnet
Basket  Celebration  Candy  Fun
Bunny  Decorate  Hunt  Sunday
Hide  Chocolate  Lily  Parade
Eggs  Flowers  Chick  Lamb
Anyone graduate from your lodge, club or group?

Is your jurisdiction working on the Youth Honors Program?

We would like to add any of this information to our Newsletter for mailing and recognition purposes:

Graduate Members: Jurisdiction: ____________________________ Graduate Name:__________________________________

Youth Honors Program: Level____________ Name ___________________________________________

Please send this form to the SGL-IARA JYC Committee Secretary:
Linda Goetsch

We, the Committee would love to attend your sessions in your jurisdictions.

All you have to do is send an invitation (email or letter via snail-mail) and someone will be there. Please do this asap as travel plans need to be made. Attending your sessions will allow us to answer questions and take your ideas to others.

FACEBOOK PAGE: SGL-IARA Youth
*Use Facebook to share your activities with others.
*Use Facebook as a question and answer page.
*Keep in touch with everyone that attended Youth Days in the past or just this year.
*Share your organization’s website with others.

We want to include you in 
The Youth Informer!

The Youth Informer would like to publish your article in our next publishing. Please submit your articles to: Gwen Wixom, Editor. E-mail to gwen.century21@aol.com Remember, this is your paper. Take an interest in being a writer for your community and let us know what your club has been up to. Send me your pictures and articles and we will try our best to get all entries in your Youth Informer.

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Did you know: you can find us at these places?
Website: www.ioof.org (Click on YOUTH)

FACEBOOK PAGE: SGL-IARA Youth
*Use Facebook to share your activities with others.
*Use Facebook as a question and answer page.
*Keep in touch with everyone that attended Youth Days in the past or just this year.
*Share your organization’s website with others.

We’re here for you!
Do you need us? Do you need help? Advice? Or just an ear to listen? Request a visit by contacting Youth Committee Chairman Steve Adams directly by phone, email or letter and we will be there. We only ask that you contact us as soon as possible to enable us time to make arrangements to get to you as quick as we can.