

20-Something Ideas For Youth Ministry Field Trips

By Fathers David Subu and Benjamin Tucci

1. **Monastery Pilgrimage:** One of the most valuable experiences a youth can have is to spend a day or two in the monastic environment to see how deeply Christianity can be lived.
2. **Inter-Orthodox Outings / Visits to Other Parishes:** It is essential for teens to realize that they are not alone and that there are more Orthodox people their age than they think!
3. **Service Project:** Help at a homeless shelter, food co-op, or building project.
4. **Church Council, Assembly, or Convention:** Attend youth-related councils or congresses and make the youth presence known at Church councils such as the All-American Council.
5. **Nursing Home or Hospital:** Visiting the sick and infirm needs to be taught early.
6. **Youth Choir Trip to Other Parishes:** Some youth organizations are already recording and publishing their choir's performances.
7. **Camp-Out:** Spend an overnight or weekend stay in the woods and under the stars.
8. **Retreat at Camp / Retreat Center:** This is like a camp-out but with more of the comforts of home such as beds and bathrooms!
9. **Cemetery:** Remember the departed and learn about ancestors by tending graves at cemeteries where parishioners are buried.
10. **Amusement Park:** This is a classic youth outing. There is often a park within two to three hours of most communities.
11. **Museum:** Large exhibits of Orthodox art, Russian, Byzantine, and others, have become more popular and widespread.
12. **Sporting Event:** Go to watch or to play!
13. **Science or Nature Center:** With interactive exhibits, these are particularly good for younger groups. Exhibits ranging from high-tech to complete wilderness can entertain all ages.
14. **Youth March:** Youth have something to say about issues of justice, so "let your light shine."
15. **Movie:** You can choose either a current feature that is of interest to your youth ministry or arrange for a special showing of another film. Be sure to preview the movie before showing it to a group.
16. **Concert:** Whether secular or religious music, there are many free and open-air concerts in cities during the summer months.
17. **Fair or Festival:** The local town fair, a block party, or an ethnic festival, can be great opportunities for teens to go, have fun, volunteer, or run their own booth.
18. **Zoo, Aquarium, or Botanical Garden:** These trips are great for days with good weather by offering a variety of shows as well as wandering time to keep youth interested.
19. **Waterfront:** Beaches, lakes, and even pools and water parks are always great places for fun and fellowship. Be prepared for sunburn!

- 20. Dinner / Banquet:** It can be a dinner cruise, barbecue at family fun parks, or a formal affair.
- 21. Dance / Cotillion:** The American Romanian Orthodox Youth [AROY] has established a very successful yearly cotillion which gathers teens from throughout the country for an elegant formal dance and a planning meeting for its activities during the coming year.
- 22. Education / Career Planning at a University:** This type of outing is very good for high school teens looking to make decisions about the future.
- 23. Workshop with Local Artist, Educator, Activity Instructor:** This is a great way to gain new experiences, insights, and skills.
- 24. Ice Cream Social or Picnic:** This is very simple, traditional idea. It is something that doesn't require too much organization and a good place to start for any youth group.

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