

**SUMMER
PARTIES**



2024 SUMMER PARTIES

MORE Leaders, MORE Ministries and MORE Young People



INTRODUCTION

Summer Parties are the collective name given to launch events happening early each year for youth and young adults across Australia.

Summer Parties exist to build excitement and momentum for the upcoming year. These events aim to benefit youth ministries across Australia, allowing young people and youth leaders to grow in their connections with one another. The purpose is to create **Summer Parties** that youth and young adults want to attend and invite their friends to, perhaps for the first time.

Summer Parties lead by example. They model best practices and are high-quality and first-class in their application. During these events, young people can hear the Good News about Jesus and experience family and faith in a fun atmosphere. **Summer Parties** help build momentum for youth ministries and upcoming events later in the year.

There are two models for how we outwork **Summer Parties** across the Territory:

1. **Events that the Y&YA Team leads.** These events are led by the Y&YA Secretary based in each Division and work with Regional Teams to deliver a large, divisional event.
2. **Local Events Connected Nationally.** A framework and grant are available for rural and regional communities unable to attend a state event. The outcome is to support them in facilitating an exciting Summer Party in their region.

These events are about young people of The Salvation Army standing together, united across our nation to see the Good News message reach their friends, high schools, and communities.

STATE SUMMER PARTIES

A Summer Party has two components - a day event that is generally attractational, such as attending a local water park or activity centre. The second component is a combined youth night rally aligned with the year's spiritual framework. Summer Parties aims to be consistent across the Territory, ensuring all young people experience a high-quality event, no matter where they're from.

WHAT MAKES IT A SUMMER PARTY?

Purpose

These gatherings are targeted religious services focused on young people. The primary purpose is to bring young people into an atmosphere of fun, family and faith in which they hear, see and feel the Good News communicated.

Naming Convention and Branding

Summer Parties are held under a consistent name to create connections across the nation.

Exposure to Social Networks

Appropriate sharing on social platforms brings attention to gatherings happening in regions all across Australia. It creates a sense of belonging and being a part of something bigger for young people to feel connected across the Territory.

Collaboration

Summer Parties collaborate on a national, divisional and regional level to bring the strengths of all involved. Collaboration also occurs with young people who are the beneficiaries of the events to achieve co-design and ownership.

CONSISTENCY - THE FOUR MS

Consistency across all Summer Parties is achievable by delivering first-class resources.

Media

Media collateral includes promotional material, onscreen media and post-event social media updates through templates and downloadable assets. The goal is for a young person to attend any Summer Party event nationwide and feel familiarity and a shared experience of events in other regions.

Music

The Mission Support Department has produced a music collective, Revolution Worship, written for and by young people of The Salvation Army. The music links lyrically to the annual messaging and theme of the Youth & Young Adults Ministry Team and becomes vital to achieving consistency.

Message

Sharing the Good News of Jesus with young people is an essential aspect of every Summer Party. There is an opportunity for young people across the Territory to hear a message that supports the annual framework and theme. The goal is for young people to build on their understanding of this message through weekly Life Labs occurring in their local youth ministry and other events happening throughout the year.

Merchandise

Merchandise becomes the visual and tangible connection that exists between gatherings. Summer Parties create an opportunity to distribute merchandise that carries the message of the annual theme.



WHAT IS THE MESSAGE?

The theme for 2024 is No Longer Lost, a vision and a declaration of the Good News of Jesus. The Good News is that we can find our place with Jesus.

When we feel alone, anxious, invisible, or insignificant, we know that God sees us. Even if we feel lost, something is only lost if another person misses it. We know that God loves us, cares about us, and values us for who we are. We are no longer lost because we are significant to God.

As we find our place with Jesus, we have a place to belong and feel connected, secure and empowered. Jesus can help us connect with people who love us and find places where we are accepted. Jesus is always there with us and supports us. Jesus gives us the confidence to ask questions and brings supportive people into our lives who listen to and value what we bring to the world.

We find our purpose when we take our place with Jesus. He listens to us and brings meaning to our lives.

**Find out more about the message
and the research behind it:**



LOCAL SUMMER PARTIES

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR LOCAL SUMMER PARTY EVENTS

- A grant of up to \$500 upon approval of an application.
- Access to Canva templates for promoting the event.
- A speaker brief for the message "No Longer Lost".
- Media for the evening event. For example, a countdown, a welcome video and a pre-recorded message.

CRITERIA TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Approval of the grant must meet the following criteria:

- 1.Applications should clarify how the event or activity you are planning will engage young community members not already connected to the corps/centre.
- 2.Young people should be actively consulted or involved in the planning and implementation of your event/activity/grant application.
- 3.The grant is not for use with staff or capital costs. Any variance to this guideline will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 4.The form must be fully completed for consideration.
- 5.Applicants are responsible for covering all required child safety policies relevant to their area.
- 6.The amount of money requested should be proportional to the size of the group you are connecting with.
- 7.One (1) application can be approved per corps/centre.
- 8.Should a grant not meet these criteria, feedback and support will be given to propose an event or activity that does.

We will require media (e.g. phone footage) from the event and a 100-word report on completion of the activity. More information will be provided upon notification of successful application.

EXAMPLES OF LOCAL EVENTS

Excursions that young people can invite their friends to, like:

- Trampoline centres
- Laser tag
- Mini Golf
- Amusement park
- Bowling
- Pool
- Ice skating
- Go Karts
- Skate park
- Camping
- Indoor sports centre
- Arcade Center

Activities at your centre:

- Car park carnival
- Silent (or loud!) dance party
- Inflatables
- Arcade games
- Sports competitions
- Host other youth groups in your area

FAQS

CAN THE GRANT BE USED FOR TRANSPORT COSTS TO ATTEND A SUMMER PARTY?

Yes, it certainly can be. If there is another event, this grant can assist with travel costs for your youth ministry.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY OUTREACH?

By outreach, we mean finding ways to connect with young people in your community in ways that make sense to them and bring meaning to their lives. These young people could be on the fringes of your community, young people you have connected with or friends of those who attend programs. Outreach could look like events that young people want to participate in.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Grants are open to any Salvation Army centre, including youth ministries, congregations, social services, or other centres. People working with young people in these centres are welcome to apply with the endorsement of their Corps Officer or Centre Manager.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

Grants can range from \$100 - \$500, and the amount requested should be proportional to the size of the group you are connecting with. Grants can be for individual ministries or multiple groups to organise an event.

WHEN DO WE HAVE TO RUN OUR EVENT OR ACTIVITY?

The grant is to run an event connected to the National Summer Party. Generally, these style events are run early in the year, during January and February.

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO TO GET THE GRANT?

To get the grant, first work with young people to develop an idea that meets the criteria. Second, complete the application form on the Youth & Young Adults Ministry Team website. Applications are assessed once they're received. If your application is successful, money will be transferred to your centre's cost code. In return, we ask that after the event, you provide us with a 100-word report about what happened and some media (like phone footage) we can use (more information will be provided upon notification of successful application).

WHAT DOES "CONSULTING YOUNG PEOPLE" MEAN?

To plan an event that engages young people, we need to understand their lived experiences better and listen to their ideas. Applications should show how you've listened to young people from your centre and community to ensure that this is an idea they're interested in. Even better, this process is an opportunity to engage young people in creating, planning, and executing an activity to build their confidence and develop their leadership.

WHEN DO WE HAVE TO HAVE OUR APPLICATION IN?

Applications should be received no later than 1 December 2023. However, applications will be assessed once they're received, so as soon as your application is finalised, send it in so that if it is successful, you'll have plenty of time to plan.

WE HAVE AN IDEA, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE IF IT FITS. WHAT CAN WE DO?

These grants help Salvation Army youth ministries engage in local communities. It's not a competitive process; it's an opportunity to make money available for youth ministry at the local level. If you have any questions about the grants or an idea that might sit outside the criteria, please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss it further so we can find ways to make resources available.



JOIN A STATE SUMMER PARTY:

NORTH QUEENSLAND

Townsville - Saturday 27th January

SOUTH QUEENSLAND

Gold Coast - Saturday 27th January

NEW SOUTH WALES / ACT

Wollongong - Saturday 3rd February

VICTORIA

Geelong - Saturday 17th February

TASMANIA

Hobart - Saturday 10th February

SOUTH AUSTRALIA / NORTHERN TERRITORY

Gawler - Saturday 24th February

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth - Friday 9th February

MAKE IT LOCAL:

Submit an application to host your own **Summer Party**:

