



**Senior High Youth Connection (SHYC) 2026**

**Austin College**

**Sherman, TX**

**January 30-February 1, 2026**

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

[Register Here](#)

**Registration Deadline – January 14, 2026**

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## When is SHYC?

The conference begins at 8 pm on Friday, January 30. We will end around 12 pm following worship on Sunday, February 1.

## What is SHYC?

Senior High Youth Connection (SHYC) is a weekend conference for youth in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. SHYC is hosted by [Grace Presbytery](#) at [Austin College](#) in Sherman, TX. During the weekend, there will be worship and Bible study, small group fun, a talent show, and a mission project. You can also take a tour of Austin College and learn more about their [Westminster Scholarship](#) that provides full tuition scholarships to members of Presbyterian churches.

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## Who will be leading the weekend?



Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart will be our keynote speaker for the weekend. Josh is a longtime Associate Pastor for Youth at First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth, where he has the joy of walking alongside young people (of all ages) as they explore faith in Jesus, ask big questions, grow in community, serve neighbors, travel together, and play lots of games. He studied English and Art at Southwestern University, earned his Master of Divinity from Princeton Seminary, and completed his doctorate at Austin Seminary. He's a big fan of strong coffee, good books, college basketball, and the music of Bob Dylan. When he's not at church or chasing down Youth Group snacks, he's spending time with his wonderful wife and their energetic 10-year-old twins, who enjoy playing games, going on adventures, and "in tents" camping trips. Josh is honored to be keynoting this year's conference and is excited for what God has in store!

## Who are the Youth and Young Adult Leaders?



Our **SHYC Planning Team** of youth and adults are planning a fun weekend full of activities and time to relax.

Look for these youth to lead you in energizers, games, and singing.



Director David Slyter and Co-Assistant Directors Lilly Pappas and Emma Rigler can't wait to welcome you to SHYC 2026!



### **ACTivators**

Members of Austin College's college ministry will lead small groups. Other college ministry leaders will also be joining us as small group leaders!

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## What does SHYC cost?

Registration is **\$75** for each youth and adult sponsor for all activities and lunch on Saturday. This fee is due to the presbytery.

Lodging and other meals are additional costs that you will need to pay directly to the vendor.

## Where will we stay?

Each group is responsible for their own housing arrangements. Some choose to stay in a hotel and others stay in short-term rentals like a VRBO.

A special SHYC rate of \$109/night + tax for rooms with two queen beds has been arranged with the Hampton Inn in Denison, which is 15 minutes from Austin College. A limited number of rooms are available at this rate.

Book this special rate through this link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/pnxdshx-syh-888991cc-ed24-48b9-991a-6547796c38a6/>

Hampton Inn & Suites  
3415 Ansley Blvd.  
Denison, TX, 75020  
(903) 464-9010

Additional hotels and vacation rental properties in the Sherman/Denison area can be found.

### **ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?**

Yes! Youth may apply for a Prairie Valley Legacy Fund (PVLf) scholarship up to 50% of the \$75 registration cost. [Online fillable PVLf scholarship application](#)

Deadline to apply for scholarship is January 10. Upon approval of scholarships, you will receive a coupon code to use at registration to pay the lower rate.

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### **DO WE NEED ADULT SPONSORS?**

Yes! Each church is asked to send 1 sponsor for each 10 youth attending. If your church is sending both female and male youth, please send at least 1 male and 1 female sponsor, even if you are bringing fewer than 10 youth.

### **I AM HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING SPONSORS. CAN OUR YOUTH STILL ATTEND?**

We want all youth to participate! We prefer youth to attend with adults from their home church to foster relationships that will endure past SHYC, but it is not always possible. If your church cannot send the requested sponsors, please contact Jen Bluestein ([jen@gracepresbytery.org](mailto:jen@gracepresbytery.org)) to discuss partnering with another church to sponsor your youth.

## REGISTRATION – FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

1. Collect registration information (name, grade, t-shirt size, special needs and dietary restrictions) and payments from youth and adult sponsors.
2. Register your youth and adult sponsors at this registration link **by January 14!**  
<https://gracepresbytery.regfox.com/shyc-2026>
3. Pay fees with a credit card at registration. Or if paying by check, please indicate on check that payment is for SHYC and mail a check for the amount due to:

Grace Presbytery  
Attn: Kat Studley  
6100 Colwell Blvd., Suite 100  
Irving, TX 75039

4. Email parents and adult sponsors these links to fill out Grace Presbytery forms. Youth parents and adult sponsors who completed this form to attend Waves of Grace are not required to complete a second form.

Grace Presbytery Children and Youth Parent Consent Form and Emergency Form  
<https://form.jotform.com/252737066670159>

Grace Presbytery will receive electronic copies of the completed forms. **Tell parents to put in your email as church leader so you will receive an emailed copy of the Consent and Emergency Form for your records!**

5. If you have not submitted a copy of your church's Approved Adult List this year or you are adding a newly background-checked adult sponsor, please submit the Approved Adult List form at the end of this document to Kat Studley () by January 15.

**The registration deadline is January 14.** Set your registration deadline for parents several days earlier so you will have time to follow up with parents who have not yet completed your sign-up process. No cancellations will be refunded after January 15, but you may substitute participants up to the event day.

# SHYC 2026

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### ***Friday, Nov 1***

7:30-8:00 Registration  
8:00-8:30 Mixer  
8:30-9:30 Welcome & Keynote  
9:30-10:30 Small Group  
10:30-11:00 Closing & Depart for Hotels

### ***Saturday, Nov 2***

9:00-10:30 Morning Keynote  
10:30-11:45 Morning Small Group  
11:45-1:00 Lunch on Campus  
1:15-3:00 Community Activities & Choir Rehearsal  
3:00-4:15 Small Group Mission Project  
4:15-7:00 Dinner on Your Own  
7:00-8:30 Evening Keynote  
8:30-9:20 Evening Small Group  
9:30-10:00 Vespers  
10:00-11:00 Connection Unplugged Talent Show  
11:00 Depart for Hotels

### ***Sunday, Nov 3***

9:00-10:15 Small Group  
10:15-12:00 Worship  
12:00 Depart

### **HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?**

Contact Jen Bluestein at [jen@gracepresbytery.org](mailto:jen@gracepresbytery.org) or 214-393-5616.

# GRACE PRESBYTERY

## Acknowledgment of Child Abuse Prevention and Leadership Screening Program 2026

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned representatives of the above-named church hereby acknowledge that this church maintains its own written child protection policy.

All individuals listed on this form are currently members of this congregation and have been screened including a security background check conducted in accordance with church and/or presbytery guidelines. These individuals have been authorized to work with the children and youth of this church.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity with Church \_\_\_\_\_ Capacity with Church \_\_\_\_\_

Background Checks have been conducted through (Name of Organization):

\_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_