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CYIA OMAHA

HANDBOOK 2026



HELLO

I am so glad you have chosen to be part of CYIA. You are stepping into a summer that is about more than learning ministry skills—it is an invitation to **pursue** Jesus wholeheartedly and to live on mission for Him.

CYIA is a ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®, designed to strengthen your relationship with Christ while equipping you to clearly share the Gospel with children. This year's theme, **PURSUE**, comes from 1 Timothy 6:11: *"But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness."*

This week-long training program offers more than practical tools. You will deepen your understanding of the Gospel, develop confidence in sharing your faith, and be surrounded by other students who desire to know Christ.

But the journey does not stop at training. After CYIA, you will have the opportunity to put what you have learned into action by leading Summer Good News Clubs. Many of the children you will meet have little to no understanding of who God is. As you step out in obedience, God can use your willingness to serve to change lives for eternity.

In the pages ahead, you will find guidelines designed to foster unity and prepare you for effective ministry. These expectations will help you navigate relationships with people and churches from a variety of denominations and backgrounds.

CYIA has been part of my world, since I first attended in 2007. God used it to deepen my relationship with Him and to clearly direct my life toward ministry. My prayer is that as you pursue Christ this summer, He will do a powerful work in your heart as well.

Welcome to the CYIA family. If you have questions or need clarification along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am honored to walk alongside you.

ESTHER BEASLEY
LOCAL DIRECTOR
CEF OMAHA



CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION

CYIA exists to develop leaders by challenging students in their relationship with Jesus, and to train and equip them to share the Gospel with children in their communities.

GUIDELINES

PRAYER PARTNERS

Students are asked to recruit at least three prayer partners. Recording the names of these individuals is part of the application process. Students should keep in touch with these partners and update them on special prayer requests.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

The six days of training are primarily filled with classroom instruction, study, coaching and assessments. Time is also given for fun and games. A typical day looks like this:

7:00	Wake Up
7:15-8:30	Devotions and breakfast
8:30	Chapel
9:15-12:30	Classes
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:00	Break/games
3:30-5:30	Study/coaching
5:30-6:30	Supper
6:30-9:00	Club demos, coaching
9:00-10:00	Break/games
11:00	Lights out

COACHING & PRACTICUMS

Young adults ages 18-30 serve as coaches for the students. These young adults have been through CYIA for many years, and come back to serve each summer. They will help students learn how to teach effectively and coach them to be better. Students will practice with their coach and be assessed on their presentation. Please know that study groups and teams are preassigned, and that you will be expected to respect the coach you have been given.



WHAT TO BRING:

STUDY AND MINISTRY MATERIALS

- ESV Bible (Provided for 1st years)
- Pens/pencils, highlighters // Sticky notes
- Summer GNC Club Kit

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS

- Clothing and shoes (tennis shoes needed for some games and activities.)
- Swimsuit (if desired)
- Towels and other toiletries

BEDDING

- Sleeping bag or bedding for twin size mattress and a pillow

FOOD

- Snacks (They are provided several times a day, but more is always better, right?)

Note: Weapons of any kind are not allowed.

WHAT TO WEAR?

To ensure that our appearance reflects Christ and promotes unity within the CYIA community, we ask all students to follow these dress code guidelines. The same guidelines apply throughout the summer:

MORNING (CLASSROOM ATTIRE):

- Wear clothing that is neat and appropriate for a classroom setting. Jeans, capris, khakis, dresses, skirts, t-shirts, polos, and dressy tops are acceptable. Sweatpants and shorts are not allowed during morning classes.

AFTERNOON:

- If desired, more casual attire is permitted. Sleeveless shirts may be worn, but straps must be at least four fingers wide. Shorts must have a 6-inch inseam or reach mid-thigh (no rolling up). Leggings (no biker shorts) may be worn with a shirt that extends past the bottom; shirts cannot cover shorts. For swimming, no bikinis or speedos.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

- Clothing should be clean, neat, and free of excessive rips. Avoid clothing with offensive or inappropriate messages, including t-shirts that are not Christian or that promote secular artists.

Dress codes are tricky! It is our goal to uphold standards that unify a variety of backgrounds. Reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

OTHER THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

AGE

All students at CYIA must be 13 years old unless they have attended CYIA Support Track.

ATTENDANCE

Students must attend all classes and be on time, using the bathroom during breaks.

CABINS

Students who wish to room together can make a request on the application. (We will honor, if possible.) Students cannot request a specific cabin leader. Students must respect lights out time and all members of the cabin.

TECHNOLOGY

We encourage parents to have a discussion with their students about leaving all phones at home during CYIA. However, if phones are brought, they should only be used during designated breaks. Prior to heading to cabins at night, all phones will be left in a designated location. All other electronics (tablets, Kindles, etc.) should be left at home.

★ **Personal listening devices such as AirPods, headphones, or earbuds are not permitted during CYIA activities.** Exceptions may be made for students with special learning needs, but must be approved in advance by the Local Director.

VISITORS

Visitors are not allowed at CYIA. If someone wishes to visit, it must be approved by the CYIA Lead Team.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

For your safety, all students and staff must sign a ministry compliance agreement, and be screened through our Child Protection Policy.

GUY/GIRL RELATIONSHIPS

Students should understand that the purpose of CYIA is to challenge you in your relationship with God and train you to share the Gospel. Ask God to help you keep the right perspective during this program. Personal displays of affection or coupling off with a member of the opposite sex is not allowed. If we notice inappropriate behavior starting to form, it will be addressed.

MEDIA POLICY

In the spirit of forming a Christ-centered environment at CYIA and SGNCs, we ask that no secular music nor non-ministry-purposed media/videos be watched during CYIA and during times of CEF-related ministry in trips to SGNC locations or during a SGNC.

AFTER CYIA:

★ Teaching in **Summer Good News Clubs (GNCS)** is a required and essential part of the training and leadership development process at CYIA. Every student who attends CYIA is expected to participate in **four Summer Good News Clubs**. Students will be able to sign up online for clubs that work with their schedule. While we do our best to accommodate availability, all final teaching and club assignments are determined by CEF staff. Dress code expectations for all Summer Good News Clubs are the same as those required during CYIA training. Failure to complete the required Summer Good News Clubs may jeopardize a student's eligibility to advance to the next track or participate in future CYIA Omaha programs.

SUMMARY:

Participation in SGNCs is required

Four Summer Good News Clubs

Club signups are done online

Final assignments are set by CEF staff

CYIA dress code applies at all clubs

Completion is required for advancement



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GROUP FOR INFO AND UPDATES.