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| C:\Users\rotz\Desktop\Webinar Power Point trainings\signatureLogo.png | **Midyear Orientation Summary** |

Thank you for joining the E&T team and volunteering to work with us to carry out orientations across the country! E&T is here to support you and provide you with tools and information to organize and host a meaningful orientation. As we strive to support orientation leaders and standardize YFU’s orientations, we have two goals in mind: **ensure that all students and families participate in high quality orientations; and to build volunteer capacity so that volunteers can take full ownership of orientations and carry these out at the local level.**

We have developed the following guidelines for orientations:

* Facilitators are encouraged to be creative and can amend activities to suit their groups’ needs while also ensuring that the learning objectives are being achieved
* Each orientation meets a minimum length of time and certain sessions (as noted) must be included in the orientation
* **All sign in-sheets, agendas and the Orientation reporting form (found here: http://online.yfuusa.org/media/vol\_lounge/Orientations/MidYear/2016\_Midyear\_Student\_Sessions/Orientation\_Reporting\_Form2015.pdf)** be submitted to E&T at orientations@yfu.org, (preferably within one week of the orientation)
* Coordinators, facilitators, and FDs are encouraged to participate in webinars and collaborative meetings with E&T staff to discuss the content of the orientation and share best practices.

**Midyear Overview**

The Midyear Orientation is for students and families, and it occurs at the midpoint of the exchange experience. Students and families attend most sessions independently of each other with a session at the end of the day to wrap up to share the highlights of their exchange so far.

The **Midyear Orientation** focuses on four objectives:

To **energize** students’ commitment to a positive exchange experience.

To **encourage** students to discuss the challenges of their exchange and **develop solutions**

To **look forward** to the remainder of their experience and **develop plans and strategies** to continue personal growth

To **encourage** students to **apply new skills and knowledge** as a global citizen

**Why is the Midyear orientation important for families and students?** The purpose of the Midyear Orientation is to provide additional support to students at the midpoint of their exchange experience. It also serves as a "maintenance check" for any issues that may need to be addressed by YFU. The Midyear Orientation also gives all students an opportunity to reflect on their experience thus far, identify concerns, and set realistic goals for the time remaining.

Orientation should be fun! Be sure to include time for students to connect with their peers and be social. Use icebreaker and physical activities to get students moving and interacting with one another.

**Time Suggestions & Class Size** This orientation has a total of seven sessions. If you have a group of ten or more students, we suggest that you plan for a full day (at least 4 hours, not including lunch or breaks). Smaller groups will require less time. If you have a large orientation of 25 or more students and can have two learning spaces at the venue, it is best to break the group in half and run two smaller “classes” simultaneously. For those carrying out home-based orientations with groups of three or fewer students, you will be provided with a PowerPoint and activities; this approach will take just a few hours.

Also note that there are several optional sessions including **3-2-1 Problem Solving** (a problem solving strategy that can be introduced and practiced with students and families together); **Hotel Vs. Home** (a legacy activity that helps students understand that their host family home is NOT a hotel), and the entire **Colored Glasses Manual.** This YFU resource is a great for building Global Citizenship skills. Take a look at this manual if your team wants to work with students on sophisticated topics such as xenophobia, human rights, and other global issues.

**The Importance of Preparation for a Successful Orientation**

The Midyear orientation requires careful preparation. In addition to the host family and student sessions running simultaneously, both sessions have specific preparation tasks, such as creating flipcharts and organizing games and activities. **Facilitators need to read the curriculum, be familiar with the activities they are leading (and the activities’ instructions), and understand how graphics and other tools support the sessions.** The key to successful facilitation is knowing what you are going to do and knowing *how* you are going to do it. Also, be sure to **enter your orientation dates on my.yfu** under the Events tab on the home page, so all the volunteers in your local area will be aware of when volunteer help is needed.

The ***sample*** agenda below represents a 5 hour orientation, including registration, lunch, the short option of the AR session and the short option for Stereotyping, and two 10 minute breaks. Take a look at the specific sessions using this link: [click here](http://www.yfuusa.org/mid-year-orientation) and create an agenda that will work best for your group.

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| Time of Day | Length in minutes | Session Title |
| 9:00-9:10 | :10 | Registration: Sign-in sheets and nametags |
| 9:10-9:40 | :30 | Welcome Session/Ice breakers |
| 9:40-10:25 | :45 | Adjustment Process |
| 10:25-10:35 | :10 | Break |
| 10:35- 11:10 | :35/50 | Dear Area Rep Problem Solving |
| 11:10-11:45 | :35 | LUNCH  |
| 11:45- 12:30 | :45/75 | Stereotyping  |
| 12:30-1:00 | :30 | Communication  |
| 1:00-1:10 | :10 | Break |
| 1:10-1:35 | :25 | Goal Setting |
| 1:35-2:00 | :25 | Wrap Up |

**Parent Session:** Note that there is a survey for parents they may begin as families arrive. The survey will give Session # 2 of the Parent session some discussion points. You can find this survey on the Mid- Year Orientation page of my.yfu.

*Thank you so much for your commitment to organize and lead orientations. Please email the E&T team if you have additional questions about orientations –* *Orientations@yfu.org*