

## Bidding Suggestions

1. Create a roster of committee members: Chair, Co-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Site/Hotel Chair, Outreach Chair, Events Chair, etc.
2. Prepare a "Need Statement" describing the benefits of hosting PENNSCYPAA in the city or region.
3. Provide financial records from all committee activities and demonstrate financial autonomy and responsibility.
4. Obtain letters of support from the Area and the Intergroup and/or regional counterpart.
5. Detail committee's efforts to engage in service to AA.
6. Include list and/or flyers demonstrating committee's outreach efforts and events.
7. Propose date(s) for PENNSCYPAA that avoid other AA conferences held in the state, preferably within 30 days.
8. Obtain commitment for proposed date(s) from at least two facilities able to accommodate the entire conference, both in sleeping rooms and meeting space. Facility should accommodate:
  - a. Theater-style space with the capacity to seat 500-750 people
  - b. Hospitality Room (traditionally accessible around the clock)
  - c. Marathon Meeting Room (continuous around the clock meetings) with seating for approximately 50 people
  - d. Archives Room where artifacts from all previous PENNSCYPAA are displayed (must be either locked at night or artifacts secured some other way to prevent theft or damage)
  - e. Meeting space to seat 25-35 people conference-style for Advisory to conduct their closed business/voting meetings.
  - f. Space designated for outreach tables for other YPAA committees, Area committee displays, or other AA committees.

After hosting PENNSCYPAA, 60% of a committee's remaining monies is donated to PENNSCYPAA Advisory Council for operating expenses (in addition to the return of the \$1,000 seed money).

### "Bid Book" Submission:

- Bid committees are required to submit their final bid packets seven days prior to the conference via email to [paadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:paadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).
- Any changes made after the deadline can be submitted as an addendum.
- If bid books are submitted 60 days in advance of the conference, Advisory Council will review and provide feedback and recommendations.
- Physical copies of the bid book (at least 5) should be printed for Advisory Council to review at the conference.

## How do I bring PENNSCYPAA to my city?

**Future of PENNSCYPAA:** We are looking for your support to ensure the future of PENNSCYPAA as a statewide conference. It would be ideal to have cities and towns from all over Pennsylvania not only attending, but also bidding to host future conferences. We ask everyone to carry the message back to your home group, district, intergroup, sponsees, sponsors, and peers.

**To bring PENNSCYPAA to your city:** you must meet the bid suggestions. The PENNSCYPAA Advisory Council hosts a workshop providing information about how to make a bid. Bids are accepted each year at the conference for the following year and a determination is reached. Every year, the PENNSCYPAA Advisory Council—the custodian of the PENNSCYPAA experience, made up of members from previous host committees—decides "whose house is going to have the party" next time.



### Where PENNSCYPAA has been:

- Allentown
- Bethlehem
- Chester County
- Cumberland Valley
- Delaware County
- Erie
- Harrisburg
- Johnstown
- Lancaster
- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh
- Pocono Manor
- Reading
- Scranton
- State College
- Williamsport
- York

### How do I get in contact with the Advisory Council and the Host city?

You can contact the PENNSCYPAA Advisory Council through their web site or email. There are also links connecting you to the host city on the website. Visit: [PENNSCYPAA.org](http://PENNSCYPAA.org) or email: [paadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:paadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

# PENNSCYPAA

What is the Pennsylvania State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous?



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## What is PENNSCYPAA?

The Pennsylvania State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous meets annually. This annual conference provides an opportunity for AA's from all over the state and all over the world to come together and share their experience, strength, and hope as members of AA. PENNSCYPAA provides OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE that large numbers of people are achieving a lasting and comfortable sobriety in ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. Like any other conference, it is an OPPORTUNITY to learn about the program and SOBRIETY.

It is a function of AA members in accordance with GSO guidelines for Conferences and Conventions that allows for heavy participation in service aspects of the conference by newer and/or younger Pennsylvania members, providing exposure to the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts for World Service, service committees, and a convention of AA members—all vital components of the attraction that keeps people coming back.

PENNSCYPAA was first held in York, Pennsylvania in 1989. It continues to move back and forth across PA. At each conference, bids are accepted from cities wishing to host the next PENNSCYPAA conference. PENNSCYPAA (affectionately known as "*penn-see-pa*") brings the newcomer into the mainstream of AA Recovery, Service, and Unity through the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts for World Service—carrying AA's message to the suffering alcoholic.

Members of PENNSCYPAA and other Young People's Groups and conferences are in no way separate from Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Members are involved in and committed to all levels of AA service, from the group level to the General Service Conference, and at every level in between. Newcomers are shown, by people their own age, that using AA principles in their daily lives and getting involved in AA service can lead to a lasting and comfortable sobriety.

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More and more newcomers of all ages understand that 20-plus years of drinking coupled with loss of family, friends, and finances are not necessary for one to be ready for sobriety. PENNSCYPAA provides an opportunity for AA's from all over to come together and share their experience, strength, and hope. AA's who attend PENNSCYPAA return home better prepared to receive young people who come to AA looking for a better way of life.

## HISTORY OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS

Alcoholism recognizes no barriers—age included. The first Young People's Groups (YPG's) in Alcoholics Anonymous appeared in 1945 in Los Angeles, California and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1957, a meeting of young AA's from across the U.S. and Canada started what is now the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA)—affectionately known as "*icky-pa*".

At the 1960 AA Convention, Bill W. noted that the age of new members was much lower than when he and Dr. Bob founded AA 25 years earlier. A 1975 ICYPAA pamphlet described the people in YPG's as in their twenties and thirties, with some teenagers. The trend has continued. A 1989 AA survey reported that 30% of the respondents were less than 40 years of age and that 3% were less than 21 years of age. The number of young people suffering from alcoholism who turn to AA for help is growing and **the purpose of Young People's Groups is to carry AA's message of recovery to alcoholics, no matter what their age.** Through the ICYPAA experience, the Pennsylvania State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (PENNSCYPAA) was created. PENNSCYPAA provides the young newcomer with a conference where they can see and share the experience of sobriety with other young people.

## What happens at the Conference?

There are meetings, often around the clock, often a banquet on Saturday night, and a dance, and other educational and social activities. The conference is a chance to meet sober people throughout the area and to make friends and engage in fellowship. The conference is made up of one hundred percent enthusiasm surrounded by unconditional love.

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## What are the meetings like?

There are Step, Tradition, Topic, and Speaker meetings, as well as Open Discussion meetings. There are workshops in which more experienced members give their views on specific issues of sobriety. All meetings are open to any registrant who wants to attend.

## Are the meetings the main purpose of the conference?

Although the meetings are important, the fellowship is important too. The presiding spirit of the conference is found in these words from chapter nine of the Big Book "...we aren't a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy of fun in our existence, they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life."

Yet another reason for the conference is to promote unity in the host city. The conference itself lasts only three days, but planning takes a whole year and involves dozens of people. By hosting a conference in your city, you can create a sense of unity among individuals and among groups. This unity will also live on long after the conclusion of the conference. "There exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful." And that feeling doesn't go away "as we go our separate ways."

## Are there any age restrictions?

No! Everyone is welcome. This is an AA conference for sobriety, and an event that is for all AA members, regardless of age. We define "Young People" as **anyone who still has room to grow.** Although PENNSCYPAA is often said to be for "the young and the young at heart," the suggested age for serving PENNSCYPAA is "under forty." In the past, we've had attendees in their teens and in their seventies.