ymca ireland

28-29TH NOVEMBER

AG25





INFORMATION PACK

We are excited to have you joining us for this year's YMCA Annual Gathering 2025 taking place on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November in Newcastle, Co. Down. Our theme this year is **Opportunity.**

We hope that you will enjoy the event, make some new friends and experience the incredible impact of the YMCA across the island of Ireland and beyond!

On Saturday morning we will be hosting our National AGM and we are delighted to have **Chris Quinn,** the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People as our guest speaker - highlighting the role of Youth Voice in enhancing opportunities for young people to flourish.

Thank you to the amazing Greenhill staff for hosting us!

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

ARRIVALS CHECK IN & WELCOME

FRIDAY
19:00-20:30
THE HUB

BIG YMCA TABLE QUIZ

FRIDAY
20:30-22:00
THE HUB

NATIONAL AGM MEETING

SATURDAY
10:00-11:30
THE HUB

INTERACTIVE MARKET PLACE

SATURDAY
12:00-13:00
THE HUB

DIGITAL CREAVITIY HUB

SATURDAY
14:45-15:30
THE HUB

YOUTH LAUNCHPAD WORKSHOP

SATURDAY
14:45-15:30
DONARD ROOM

Every YMCA is a place of Welcome, Opportunity, Wellbeing, Peace & Justice



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FRIDAY
19:00-20:30
THE HUB

ARRIVALS, CHECK IN & WELCOME

Venue & Directions
Greenhill Outdoor Centre is set in a beautiful 17 acre site on the slopes of Slieve Donard Mountain - you can find directions to Greenhill here.

Car Parking
Onsite parking will be limited. If you are arriving by car, please consider car sharing where possible.

Friday Dinner
If you are arriving early on Friday and have booked dinner at Greenhill - Dinner will be served at **5:30pm** in the Canteen.

Check In
If you have booked accommodation for the event, your group leader will assign your room prior to arrival and direct you when onsite.

Welcome
Please register at the welcome desk in the Hub Foyer & collect your lanyard - Registration will be open from **7:00pm**

EVENT PROGRAMME

FRIDAY

7:00pm
Arrivals, Room Check In and say hello

8:30pm
Join us in The Hub for the Big YMCA Quiz along with lots of fun and highlights from across the YMCA family.

SATURDAY

8:00am
Breakfast served in the canteen until 9:30am

10:00am
National AGM in the Hub with guest speaker Chris Quinn - Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

11:30am
Group Photograph (outside the Hub)
& Coffee Break served in the canteen

12:00pm
Explore the Market Place, share ideas and connect with the opportunities the YMCA provides across Ireland & beyond

1:00pm
Lunch served in the canteen

2:15pm
Check out the Digital Creativity Hub, set off on the Outdoor Wellbeing Walk or join the Youth LaunchPad workshop to learn more about opportunities for Youth Participation & Representation. (check your name badge for options)

3:45pm
Don't miss our closing & goodbyes in the Hub



BIG YMCA TABLE QUIZ

Get ready to kick off this year's Annual Gathering with a bang!

Once you have arrived and said hello - check into your room and come join us in The Hub for the official welcome start of our *AG25.*

We're beginning the evening with a **BIG YMCA TABLE QUIZ** - more than just a quiz; it's your opportunity to connect and get to know everyone better. Expect lots of fun and plenty of laughs - along with some highlights and insights from across the YMCA movement.



NATIONAL AGM

On Saturday morning we will be hosting our National AGM from **10:00am** in the Hub, celebrating a **Year of Opportunity**. We are delighted to have **Chris Quinn**, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People as our guest speaker.

We will be presenting our **Annual Report** for 2025 as part of our AGM. This will be available to download via our website at ymca-ireland.net/reports



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SATURDAY
12:00-13:00
THE HUB

EXPLORE MORE IN THE YMCA MARKET PLACE

DIVE INTO THE INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AND LASTING IMPACT OF THE YMCA ACROSS IRELAND.

The Market Place is a vibrant hub where you can connect directly with staff and young people to learn about the tangible difference we're making together, and to explore more ways to get involved.

- **Digital Creativity:** Innovating skills for the modern world
- **Youth Vocation:** Supporting further education & employment
- **Peacebuilding:** Fostering understanding & reconciliation
- **Youth Advocacy:** Amplifying the voice of young people
- **Youth Spaces:** Creating inclusive spaces where everyone is welcomed

Explore the opportunities, find out how you can get involved, and be inspired by the energy and vision driving our movement forward!



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SATURDAY
14:15-15:30
THE DONARD ROOM

YOUTH LAUNCHPAD WORKSHOP

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION.

This workshop focuses on the opportunities that lead to real-world change, locally, nationally and internationally and how you can get involved.

Discover more about:

- **Local to Global:** Practical participation, both nationally and internationally.
- **Meaningful Participation:** Hear about the experiences that are empowering young leaders and driving change.
- **Representation:** The essential tools of Youth Voice, Advocacy, Lobbying, and Stakeholder Engagement.
- **Impact Measurement:** Techniques for quantifying the success of your advocacy efforts.

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SATURDAY
14:15-15:30
THE HUB

DIGITAL CREATIVITY HUB

SPARK YOUR IMAGINATION & GET INSPIRED WITH TECH!

Step into a world where creative technology fuels new opportunities! The Digital Creativity Hub is designed to inspire the next generation of innovators and learners. More than just tech - it's about empowering Digital Creators with 21st century skills, supporting families, and strengthening communities.

- **STEAM Activities:** Experiment with new ideas and see how STEAM encourages creativity and learning
- **Stop Motion Film Making:** Learn the basics of stop-motion animation by creating your own short, unique film.
- **Digital Scavenger Hunt:** Use the ActionBound app to navigate challenges and solve puzzles in an outdoor, time-based digital scavenger hunt.



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SATURDAY
14:15-15:30
MEET AT MAIN RECEPTION

OUTDOOR WELLBEING WALK

SWITCH OFF & BOOST YOUR WELLBEING.

We know that events like this can be full of energy and sometimes difficult to find that wellbeing balance. So why not get outside and explore the Greenhill Site with a guided nature trail walk. The perfect oppor to connect with nature and boost your wellbeing.

Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing, including sturdy footwear and a jacket.

Meeting at the Main Reception, the guided trail walk will take around 60 minutes of steady walking to the view point and back down - but the view is definitely worth it!