

## FFWPU USA YAYAM Organizes 10 Winter Camps Across America

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"This was my first workshop that I've ever done," said Ujin U. "I honestly had no idea what to expect but it was the best experience ever."

For Ujin, a Unificationist teen from Florida, attending a [YAYAM](#) camp over winter break was the perfect opportunity to grow and connect with more young people, as well as recharge for the new year.

"Not only did I make lots of friends, but I learned self-confidence and how to get out of my comfort zone," said Ujin. "I was really shy with my team in the beginning, but when I started to learn and understand everyone, I started to have so much fun... One of my favorite talks was from Andrew Love. He really went into detail on the purity of our hearts and I was able to learn and really focus on the importance of this subject."

YAYAM regional coordinators organized [10 different camps](#) across the country in December and January for middle school, high school, and young adults. Amid the pandemic, many participants were excited to participate in person while following Covid-19 guidelines.

"This was my first workshop after not being very active for a while," said Anju Crawford. "I didn't have many expectations, but I would say that the camp exceeded all of them... The topics covered were really relatable, especially as a senior in high school, having to reach higher maturity levels. I feel like I can now grow as a person a lot better, both spiritually and mentally, due to the wisdom of the speakers and the content they shared."

Though the winter camps featured a range of themes and topics, as well as various guest speakers, a number of campers said they were able to explore their faith in a much deeper way and felt discussions about love were particularly insightful and helpful.

"One talk focused on the [Marriage Blessing](#) process," said Ujin. "I never truly understood it, but now I recognize what an amazing opportunity it is as you closely connect with another person."

"Discussing lasting love helped me see that actual love is built off of the Four Great Realms of Heart," added Anju. "Even if we weren't able to receive love in one of those realms, we should still give it to others and have that love within ourselves. We have to love and value ourselves like God does before we can pass that love onto others. Practicing this kind of unconditional love can change the world."

The workshops also included outdoor activities, group discussions, and reflection time. While some camps were held on familiar grounds, like Camp KOHOE in Michigan, others were held at retreat centers like Mar-Lu-Ridge in Maryland.

"I really enjoyed all the talks, games, and the food was amazing," said one 8th grade participant. "I was very sad when the workshop ended and tried not to cry. I felt a lot of God's love from everyone there."

"It was a lot of fun interacting with people and doing activities based around the themes of the workshop," said Anju, "but it was also nice to know that we could always sit down and have heart-to-heart talks as well. The workshop environment was just really welcoming and heavenly, and I hope I can participate again next winter."



National • youth

## Experience the Magic



“It’s so nice to see so many workshops happening in person this year!” said YAYAM National Coordinator Katherine Anglin. “Some of these workshops are in person and region specific, others are for anyone who would like to attend, and some are online.”

This winter, young Unificationists across North America can experience the magic of 10 different camps happening this holiday season. Anglin and her team of regional coordinators have organized winter workshops for middle and high schoolers, as well as young adults. Logistics and program details are still being developed for some camps, but general information is available to *save the date and your spot!*

The **Los Angeles** winter workshop is available for high schoolers from December 26 to 29. The early registration deadline is Sunday, Dec. 19. In the **Bay Area**, the workshop “My God is a Living God” will run from Dec. 28 to 30 for high school students.

A workshop in **Washington** will run from Dec. 28 to 31 for middle and high schoolers under the theme, “God is With Me, and Working With Me.” Meanwhile, participants of the **Utah and Colorado** workshop, running from Dec. 27 to 30, will enjoy a program theme that focuses on True Parents’ life course.

In **Hawaii**, the workshop “Let Us Grow Our Roots” will be available for elementary, middle and high school

students from Dec. 29 to 31. The workshop will explore what it means to be a child of God, as well as building healthy relationships and self confidence.

The **Georgia** True Family Center will host its winter workshop from Dec. 27 to 31 for middle and high school students. The theme “God’s Love is My Love” will explore the different elements of love through lectures, discussions and activities. “We have some fun outings planned for our youth including hiking, bowling, and other outdoor sports and activities,” said an organizer for the Georgia community.

In the Midwest, **Camp KOHOE** and **Camp KOGAPE** have partnered to host a special Harry Potter-inspired “TriDistrict Tournament.” From Dec. 28 to Jan. 1, the workshop is available to middle, high school and young adults from all regions of the U.S.

“It’s an in-person *Divine Principle* workshop for growth, learning and fun,” said Camp KOGAPE coordinator Christelle Carlson. “Participants can share a talk, present a slide, perform a skit, create a song or a dance to discover the *Divine Principle* and feel it come to life in their own unique way.”

Carlson said campers, who will stay at the recently renovated KOHOE grounds in Michigan, will also enjoy activities such as snow tubing, a boba tea “potions class,” Quidditch, House Cups, and compete for prizes totaling \$2000. [Registration](#) is almost full and closes Friday, Dec. 17 at 11:59 p.m.

In the **DC-Maryland-Virginia** (DMV) area, the winter workshop from Dec. 28 to Jan. 1 is open to high school students from all regions as well. Held at Camp Mar Lu Ridge in Maryland, the workshop’s theme is “God, Here I Am.”

“Our hope is that through this workshop, youth will be able to have a lot of fun, connect with each other, and learn more about God’s heart and how to develop a deep bond with God,” said a local organizer. Participants traveling by air must arrive by Dec. 27, and a negative COVID test administered within 72 hours must be submitted to staff before arrival.

Likewise, a negative COVID test is needed for all participants of the young adult workshop “Beyond [Found]ations,” which will be held at the Concord Retreat Center in **West Virginia** from Jan 4 to 9. The six-day *Divine Principle* workshop is an opportunity for those who are 18+ to “renew personal direction and clarity, build a sense of hope and purpose, and experience deep reflection and connection with other brothers and sisters,” said an organizer. “The theme provides a focus on not just unpacking our spiritual foundations but concretely building upon what we have found to be valuable in our lives.”

Participants will engage in lectures, reflection, discussions, and other activities, as well as receive guidance from workshop staff and guest speakers who will share life experiences and insight on application of the *Divine Principle*.

“We hope to see each of our young people at one of these fun and educational workshops this winter,” said Anglin.

A workshop in Canada is scheduled for Dec. 27 to Jan 1. You can find more details on the winter camps [here](#), including registration, deadlines and pricing. For all other information, please contact your local youth and young adult pastor or regional coordinator.

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