

# What's Rite of Passage?

## The Basics

The Rite of Passage helps our high school youth better appreciate Unitarian Universalism and their own beliefs and values. The program creates small groups to meet with adult mentors in the congregation. The small groups meet monthly before the monthly meetings with Rev. Sam and me. At the end of the year, the youth present a Sunday morning service to share their current beliefs with the congregation. During the year they also fundraise, have an overnight at FUUSA, in the spring we take a 3-day trip to Boston. We can also consider an overnight wilderness experience at Hawk Circle in Sept and an overnight visit to a local congregation and staying with families sometime during the year.

## What is expected?

- Attend a meeting once a month. Meetings with all the youth and mentors are led by Rev Sam and Leah, usually the first Sunday of the month from 12:00 to 2:00 pm, from Oct through May.
- Meet with your small group before the whole group monthly meetings. You'll get to know each other, follow up on what was presented at the previous meeting and prepare for the meeting. Most months there is a specific assignment from a journal with guided entries. The youth receive this journal before the program starts. Last time small groups met from 11:30 - 12:30 (brown bag lunch) right before the whole group meeting.
- Come to an overnight at Albany UU a Friday evening, Nov 8 to Sat am. We start with dinner on Fri night and run until Sat at 10:00 am. It's fun! What people usually like best is the scavenger hunt.
- Help with fundraisers. Here are some we have done in the past
  - Poinsettia Sales - Take pre-orders and then staff the table for pick up during Coffee Hour. We'll need 2 youth each week.
  - Elegant Pasta Dinner – Sell tickets in advance. Some youth and mentors will shop the week before. Set up, serve and clean up the night of the dinner.
  - Parents Night Out – babysitting at Albany UU for Albany UU families
- Perform some type of service (volunteer) work with your group. You can choose what you'd like to do. Plan on spending about 4 hours for your service work sometime during the year.
- Meet with Rev Sam individually for an hour sometime between January and March. He'll help you with your belief statement and help answer your questions about Unitarian Universalism.
- Come on the trip to Boston – 3 days sometime in the spring. Last time we went after the last day of school in June. This trip is not like Disney World, but it may be your only chance to go with a group of UU's and do things like ring church bells from the church tower.
- Prepare your belief statement. This is not something that will be written in stone. Everyone's ideas change as they learn and grow. You'll write a paragraph or two to share with the congregation about what your religious beliefs are or how you see yourself in the world as a UU. Or you can express your belief statement through visual art, music or poetry.
- Prepare and participate in the Rite of Passage service – May 10, 2020
- Tentative: an overnight wilderness experience for the group at Hawk Circle in Cherry Valley sometime in Sept.
- Tentative: an overnight with a local congregation – like Oneonta or Kingston to visit with their youth and attend their Sunday service.
- There is a cost associated with the two trips – Hawk Circle and Boston. Each is about \$60, depending on how much money we raise.