

Please attend the free  
COA Informational  
Meeting on July 25,  
2010, 11:30 – 12:30!  
Childcare is available.

# The Coming of Age Program

The UUSS Coming of Age (COA) program is for youth in grades 8 through 10 and has been called the UU equivalent of the Christian Confirmation and the Jewish Bat or Bar Mitzvah. COA helps adolescents discern for themselves what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist (UU), individually and as part of the larger faith community. It involves individual activities, community retreats, family participation, and working with a mentor. COA is in addition to regular youth programs with its own schedule and registration.

COA is a way to encourage youth to help them move into the adult role of identifying and acting on personal beliefs and values, and to recognize and publicly honor the movement of a youth from childhood to adolescence within the UU tradition.

Throughout the COA program, youth in the program investigate their personal spirituality with the support of their mentor. Youth are encouraged to develop a greater sense of what they believe. They do this through discussion, listening to guest speakers and participating in mandatory retreats and workshops. With the help of their mentors each youth prepares a written statement of personal belief and perspectives (Credo) developed over the course of program. The process culminates with a special recognition service and celebration in the spring in which each youth presents their individual Credo. Services vary and can involve almost anything that the participants want it to.



Youth reap the benefits of being part of the larger Unitarian Universalist community of the UU Pacific Central District by attending the three exciting and well-supervised weekend retreats out of town. The District's cost of the program is \$350 per child. The commitment for attendance is a significant one. For families in financial hardship, support is available.

The Coming of Age program is not an end to spiritual searching; it is an official recognition that the youth involved have begun to search for personal truth. Coming of Age is truly a rite of passage.

## Important Dates for 2010 – 2011

*The retreats, UUSS group meetings and worship service are mandatory*

Event	Date	Time	Location
<b>Informational Meeting for Families</b>	<b>Sunday, July 25</b>	<b>11:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
Orientation for Parents, Youth and Mentors	Sunday, September 19	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Sacramento
Threshold Retreat with Ropes Course	October 8 - 10	Weekend	Santa Rosa
UUSS Youth & Mentor Group meeting	Sunday, November	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Sacramento
UUSS Youth & Mentor Group meeting	Sunday, December	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Sacramento
Social Justice Retreat	January 28 - 30	Weekend	San Francisco
UUSS Youth & Mentor Group meeting	Sunday, February	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Sacramento
UUSS Youth & Mentor Group meeting	Sunday, March	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Sacramento
Nature Vigil Retreat	April 8 - 10	Weekend	Campground TBA
UUSS Youth & Mentor Group meeting	Sunday, April	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Sacramento
COA Worship Service	Sunday, May 22	Regular service times	Sacramento
COA Celebration Dinner	Sunday, May 22	TBA	Host site TBA

For more information and for registration, please contact our Family Minister,  
Rev. Roger Jones, at 916-483-9283 X 203 or roger@uuss.org.