UUSS Coming of Age - Overview

Coming of Age is a 9-month-long program (September 2015 to May 2016) for youth which seeks to promote, honor and affirm our teenagers’ passage toward the greater freedoms and responsibilities of adulthood and to impart a deeper comprehension and appreciation of Unitarian Universalism.

The weekend-long double overnights each involve a challenge event that takes up most of Saturday. The fall retreat centers on a Ropes course, to practice teamwork and trust through physical challenges such as climbing obstacles. The winter retreat centers on a Street Retreat with the Faithful Fools, to deepen social and emotional awareness. The spring retreat centers on a four-hour silent vigil, in which each youth spends some time alone with a journal and pen, a bottle of water, and some reflection questions, without company, food, electronics, or other distractions. These are all supervised by experienced adults, and involve appropriate safety precautions. The opportunity to meet youth from other UU churches helps participants understand Unitarian Universalism as a religion and gives them a much larger community of peer support than they get from their friends at their congregation.

Orientation, monthly meetings, and the COA Credo Service take place at UUSS. Topics at meetings consist of discussing the retreats and sharing information on important topics such as the history of UUSS and Unitarian Universalism, spiritual growth and exploration, and involvement in a service activity. Youth will also receive guidance with their Credo Statement to be presented during the Credo Service.

COA participation fee is $425 (subject to change from PCD) payable to Pacific Central District. Some financial assistance is available for those in need of it; please see Roger. Each family & other volunteers are asked to take responsibility for providing a light lunch for at least two on-site UUSS Sunday sessions (for 12 to 14 youth and mentors).