

Why is AYF Important?

> Growing up Quaker, I rarely had other Quakers my age nearby. Going to youth gatherings was the only way that I could get the kind of community I craved. When I left high school, I still wanted to stick with my friends that I'd grown up with, and make more. AYF was an opportunity to continue to share our spirituality, struggles, and hopes in a community that we now slowly built ourselves. Even though I'm no longer living in ILYM, I still consider the AYF community my home.

> I got into Quakerism in my early 20s. While attending AYF events, I have made life long friends, as well as created a network of people I can connect with world-wide. It's now part of my base that I can turn to when I need it.

Curious about AYF? Contact us!



E-mail: AYF@ilym.org

Twitter: [@ilymAYF](https://twitter.com/ilymAYF)

Facebook group: [ILYM AYF](https://www.facebook.com/ILYMAYF)

Website: ilym.org/drupal/AYF

At DuBois Center during
Blue River Quarterly



Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)

Adult Young Friends (AYF)

Overview

The AYF community belonging to ILYM is a changing and transient body of Quakers united by their desire to build community with other young Quakers within the larger body of the meeting.

The AYF community are members between the ages of 18 and 35 and live all over Illinois and beyond.

(All pictures and quotes are used with permission) Published in March 2017

What is Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)?

ILYM is a spiritual community of Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends. Though the individuals in this community attend some 21 affiliated local Meetings across four states.

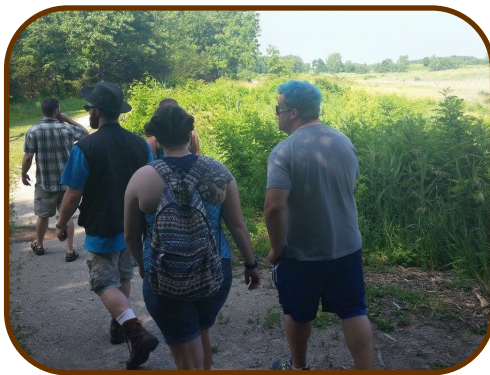


Ready for a potluck!

Who are Adult Young Friends (AYF)?

Our AYF community is a welcoming group who is comprised of folks in many different stages of life and communities. The AYF community strives to reach out and greet anyone interested in learning more with open arms and hearts.

Taking a hike together



Events

Because our demographic is one that frequently involves moving, the community can be a difficult meeting to gather. Despite this, the AYF community has committed to holding events and potlucks every month or as often as possible to provide a space to build community and nurture each other spiritually and in friendship.

AYFs plan and attend ILYM Annual Sessions in McNabb, IL with an AYF tent and tent area

AYFs host out-trips and potlucks at homes and local meetings. Check out the contact info on the back to find different ways of finding out about events!

AYFs share when they have felt welcome:

- > It was actually when I missed an AYF event. The group went to Starved Rock A week later I found a beautiful postcard in the mail ... with everyone's signature on it. I felt so incredibly loved.*
- > I've shown up to a couple of potlucks and not known anyone, and yet, I always felt welcome.*