



# Planting Peace *Gathering 2019*

Encouraging young adults to promote peace in their communities

## *WHO?*

Any young adult (aged 18-30) interested in meeting great people and learning more about peacebuilding!

## *WHAT?*

Spend a week participating in sessions run by experienced peacebuilders and dialoguing with a diverse group of young adults. Think part conference, part summer camp for adults!

## *WHERE?*

You will stay at Camp Valaqua near Water Valley (1 hr drive from Calgary). All food and accommodation is provided so you can get a retreat from everyday life and spend time getting to know fellow participants.

## *WHEN?*

Sunday April 28 – Saturday May 4, 2019.

Transportation to camp from Calgary will be provided. You will be responsible for transportation between your home and a meeting point in Calgary, but if you need help or ideas, please contact Carol at MCC Alberta ([carolmcnaughton@mccab.ca](mailto:carolmcnaughton@mccab.ca)). If you would rather provide your own transportation to/from Camp Valaqua, you can meet us there.

## *WHY?*

- Learn from experienced peacebuilders and gain new perspectives
- Connect with a community of likeminded young adults passionate about creating a better world
- Learn about social issues here and around the globe and what you can do about them
- Leave equipped and inspired to promote peace in your home communities

## *COST?*

\$50 for the week (all meals, accommodation, and sessions included). If cost is a barrier to participate, please contact Carol at MCC Alberta ([carolmcnaughton@mccab.ca](mailto:carolmcnaughton@mccab.ca)).

## *HOW DO I SIGN UP?*

Register online at [mccab.ca/planting-peace](http://mccab.ca/planting-peace) (registration will be available in 2019).

## **Really, ANY young adult?**

You should meet these criteria and be willing to agree to the following statement:

### *Participant Criteria*

Participants should:

- Be open to cross-cultural, inter-faith learning and interactions. Be respectful of different perspectives
- Be committed to peaceful resolution of conflict as a way of life
- Have an understanding of issues standing in the way of peace on a global and local scale
- Have a general interest in international issues
- Be willing to share personal experiences and to learn from others
- Be committed to taking their experiences from Planting Peace home and work for peace in their local contexts
- Be willing to connect with the MCC Alberta office after Planting Peace to share learning, reflections, and new experiences in their work

### *Planting Peace Gathering Community Agreement*

To get the most out of Planting Peace, I understand the following conditions and will follow them:

1. I will try my best to be friendly, patient, and open to the beliefs and culture of other participants. I will also try to help co-participants understand my own beliefs and culture.
2. I will follow the guidelines and schedules of places/organizations I visit or stay at.
3. I will cooperate with Mennonite Central Committee Alberta, putting the goals of Planting Peace Gathering above my interests and wants.
4. I will use what I have learned when I go home to promote peace in my own community. I will do my best to represent MCC and MCC peace partners accurately and fairly. I will allow MCC Alberta to contact me after Planting Peace Gathering to follow up.
5. I will not use drugs or alcohol while I am a participant of Planting Peace Gathering. I will respect the beliefs of other participants regarding these topics.

## **I want more detail! What will the week look like?**

### Schedule Overview:

April 28 (Sunday) Participants arrive at Camp Valaqua near Water Valley in the afternoon (participants may meet us there or transportation will be provided from Calgary)

April 29 – May 3 @ Camp Valaqua near Water Valley

- Sessions, camp activities, story sharing between participants, and group debriefing
- Sessions *may* include: Mediation skills, peacebuilding through the arts, interfaith dialogue, peace and advocacy, and more
- Our final session at will finish around 9pm on May 3 (participants providing own transportation may leave after the final session if they want)

May 4 – Participants depart camp by 8:30am (optional: stay and volunteer at Camp Valaqua's Work Day).

## **Have you hosted Planting Peace Gathering before?**

We have hosted Planting Peace four times before (2010, 2013, 2015, 2017). Past participants have gone on to contribute to peace in their communities in a variety of ways, and many still talk about the great learning and community they gained from being a part of Planting Peace. If you are familiar with Planting Peace, Planting Peace Gathering is a little different because it is only a week long and is focused on the diversity of community already here in Alberta/Canada, but the philosophy and goals remain the same.