

WHAT IS CYM?

CYM or UYA - the Ukrainian Youth Association is a voluntary youth organisation. Its primary objective is to instil a sense of Ukrainian heritage, culture and identity in the hearts of Ukrainian youth helping them to become honest, conscientious, hardworking and contributing members of Australian society as well as proud Ukrainians.

CYM's philosophy is based on Christian principles and the ideals of Ukrainian nationhood, which are simply stated in CYM's motto: "God and Ukraine".

The official language of the association is Ukrainian.

In summary, CYM attempts to afford its members:

- * a sense of Ukrainian identity
- * an opportunity to make long lasting friendships with other Ukrainians
- * organizational and leadership skills which will benefit them in both community work and in their personal lives.

Besides this parent handbook, to better acquaint yourselves with CYM's activities, please feel free to browse the following:

- * the CYM By-laws/Statute,
- * the CYM handbook of rules and regulations (Pravylnyk),
- * the junior and senior curriculum guides,
- * curriculum resource guides,
- * CYM periodicals,
- * our web page: www.cym.org/au

THE CYM PROGRAM

CYM groups its members in the following categories:

- * *Sumeniata* (4 - 5 years old)
- * *Molodshe Yunatstvo* (6-12)
- * *Starshe Yunatstvo* (13 -17)
- * *Druzhynnyky* (18 - 49)
- * *Senyory* (50 +)

CYM's programs are diverse. The program is manifested through group discussions, singing, arts and crafts, colour and flag guard, nature studies, field trips, athletics, camping, performances and so on. The format of activities varies slightly in different branches across Australia, however, the aforementioned goals and objectives remain the same.

Skhodyny (CYM meetings) generally take place on a weekly basis throughout the school year and children are divided into *royi* (groups according to age). Throughout the year *vykhovnyky* (senior counselors) and *vporyadnyky* (junior counselors) organise and lead *skhodyny*. In the summer children are expected to attend *tabory* (summer camps) where the yearly program is continued.

Sumeniata

Sumeniata make up the first grouping of children ages 4 - 5. Activities at this level can be compared to pre-school or kindergarten.



Molodshe Yunatstvo

Children between the ages of 7 - 12 comprise the second grouping. Activities at this level can be compared to extra-curricular activities of Ukrainian school. Over six years children work towards obtaining three levels of achievement: *Otrok*, *Zvidun* and *Vistovyi*. The activities at this level prepare children for a more advanced level of learning in *starshe yunatstvo*.

Starshe Yunatstvo

Youth ages 13-17 comprise the third organizational sector. Activities at this level are more self-directed focusing on leadership skills and more community involvement. Over five years youth work towards obtaining two levels of achievement: *Voyiin* and *Druzhynnyky*.



Druzhynnyk

At 18 years of age, youth complete the youth program and become full-voting members of the organization. As an adult, a member chooses to work in one or more facets of the organization or in the community at large, for which recognition is also achieved for significant contributions and years of service: *Vykhovnyk* (Youth Counselling), *Suspilnyk* (Social & Community Work), *Kulturnyk* (The Arts), *Ratnyk* (Athletics) and *Mizhnarodnyk* (International Relations).

Senyory

Senyory make up the last grouping of members who act as advisors. They also provide financial and moral support which to a large extent strengthens the continued existence of the association.



THE PARENTS' ROLE

The Family, the Church and the Organization, in this case CYM, are three vital ingredients in CYM's recipe for success. Thus, parents play a very important role in CYM. It is almost impossible to imagine activities taking place in CYM without the full support and cooperation of parents.

In order for your child to get the most out of CYM's program, we kindly ask you to abide by the following parental requirements, that are outlined in the Parental Agreement.

a) **Basic Requirements**

- ▶ belong to a Christian Church
- ▶ enroll your child in a Ukrainian school program
- ▶ be an active member of the Batkivskiy Komitet or Zhinocha Lanka (Parents' Committee or Women's League)
- ▶ sign the Parental Agreement and review it on a yearly basis

b) **Skhodyny**

- ▶ bring your child to skhodyny at the designated time
- ▶ notify the vykhovnyk of your child's absence

c) **Fees & Uniform**

- ▶ remit the yearly membership fee
- ▶ purchase a uniform and appropriate badges for your child
- ▶ prepay family subscription of CYM magazine "Krylati"

d) **Camp**

- ▶ register your child for summer camp

e) **Special Events**

- ▶ ensure your attendance at special events with your child outside of weekly skhodyny

THE PARENTAL AGREEMENT

Parents are required to sign a Parental Agreement when first registering their children in CYM. Thereafter, the agreement is reviewed on a yearly basis to serve as an orientation to activities, goals and objectives, as well as a reminder of parental obligations. Also, the contract serves as a communication tool between *vykhovnyky* and parents to ensure that all obligations and your child's needs are being met and concerns are addressed.



BATKIVSKIV KOMITET

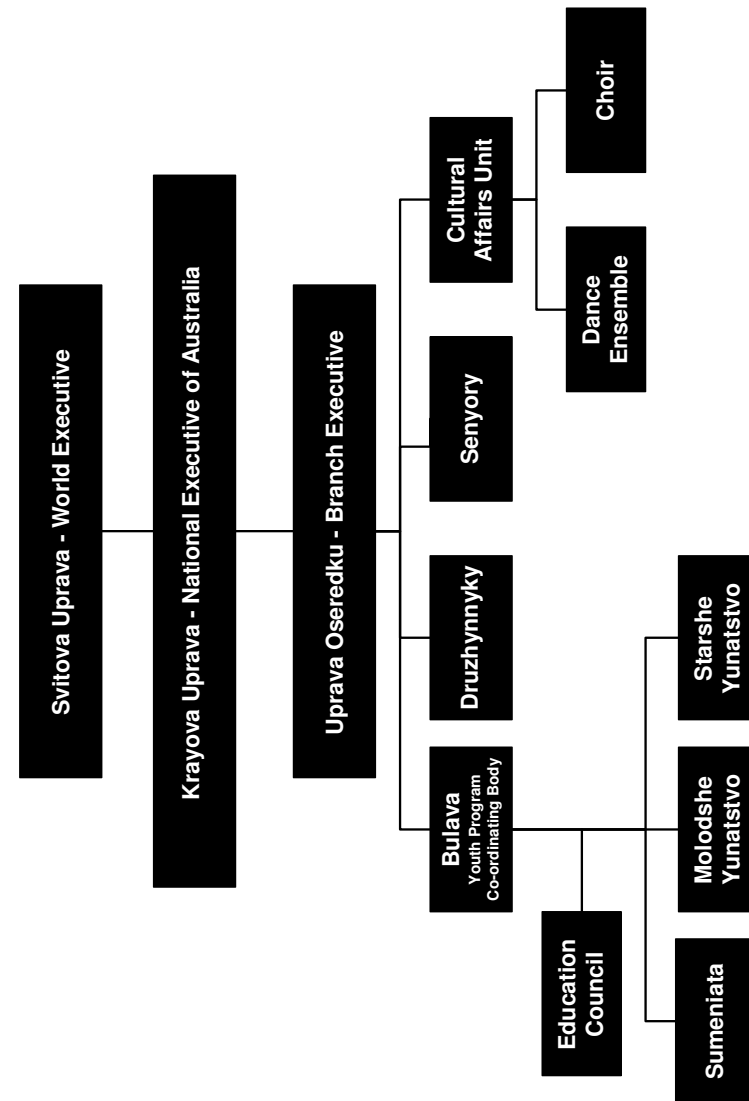
The *Batkivskiy Komitet* and *Zhinocha Lanka* (Parents' Committee or Women's League) is a supportive body of parents that comprises the backbone of CYM. Either a mother, father or legal guardian may be a member of the *Batkivskiy Komitet* and a mother or female guardian obviously may be a member of *Zhinocha Lanka*.

Activities of the *Batkivskiy Komitet* focus on fund raising for the development and assistance in the implementation of CYM programs. Fund-raising is coordinated with the Branch Executive or may be the initiative of the parents.

Parental involvement in the CYM program is strongly encouraged. Helping out at *skhodyny*, organizing special events, supervising field trips or volunteering at camp are a few examples of how parents can contribute towards the success of the CYM program.



ORGANISATIONAL CHART



CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Every year the World Executive gives program directives captured in a yearly motto and dates commemorating historic dates, events and people. In addition, program activities integrate historic events, historical figures and traditional religious holidays. Listed below are several examples of monthly commemorations and celebrations:

- January - Christmas, New Years, Epiphany, Independence Acts of January 22 and January 29
- February - Ukrainian Heroines' Day, Lesia Ukrainka, Ivan Franko, Registration – beginning of vychovnyj season
- March - Taras Shevchenko, Roman Shukhevych
- April - Easter, Chornobyl Disaster
- May - Ukrainian Youth Association Month, Mother's Day, Evhen Konovalts
- June - Pentacost, Independence Act of June 30, 1941, Ukrainian Heros' Day
- July - Ivana Kupala, John the Baptist, Yaroslav Stetsko,
- August - Ukrainian Independence Day
- September - Father's Day
- October - UPA Remembrance Day, Stepan Bandera, Virgin Mary
- November - St. Archangel Michael, Unification Act of November 1st
- December - St. Nicholas, St. Andrew, Summer camps

YOUTH MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

A parent plays an active role in a child's understanding of his/her responsibilities in CYM. Parents should be aware of what is expected of both *molodshe* and *starshe yunatstvo*.

A member of *molodshe* or *starshe yunatstvo* is required to:



- ▶ speak, read and write in Ukrainian
- ▶ attend Church
- ▶ attend skhodny, camp and special events regularly
- ▶ abide by the rules of molodshe and starshe yunatstvo
- ▶ carry out vikhovnyks' instructions to the best of his/her ability
- ▶ work diligently towards obtaining prescribed badges
- ▶ wear the proper uniform
- ▶ read "Krylati"
- ▶ sign the Youth Agreement and review it on a yearly basis

YOUTH AGREEMENT

The Youth Agreement was created to give a child a more concrete way of understanding his/her responsibilities in CYM. Just as the Parental Agreement, the Youth Agreement is signed upon first registering to CYM and is reviewed on a yearly basis in the presence of the child's *vykhovnyk* and the parents



YOUTH REGULATIONS

***Molodshe Yunatstvo* Regulations**

(Values and Principles)

Molodshe yunatstvo is obligated to:

1. be true to God and fulfil his commandments
2. learn about and cherish Ukraine
3. love and respect his/her parents
4. respect elders
5. be diligent in school studies and listen to his/her counselor
6. be punctual, responsible and conscientious
7. be nice and friendly
8. do good deeds
9. tell the truth
10. respect nature
11. maintain order and cleanliness
12. take care of his/her health

***Starshe Yunatstvo* Regulations**

(Values and Principles)

1. Be true to God and fulfill his commandments.
2. Learn about and cherish Ukraine, defend Ukraine's honour and be proud to be Ukrainian.
3. Believe in the Ukrainian nation and right to statehood and be prepared to contribute to its realization.
4. Love and respect your parents.
5. Honour CYM and respect your superiors.
6. Be good, fair and help thy neighbour.
7. Respect your dignity and the dignity of others, maintain order, friendliness and national solidarity.
8. Achieve and expand your knowledge, set goals and objectives and expand your worldly horizons.
9. Respect yourself, maintain your spiritual being, enrich your personality with the following traits: be honest, conscientious, punctual, responsible and polite.
10. Believe in your strengths, be happy and love life.
11. Maintain a healthy well-being.
12. Respect nature.