

MOTION 2026



YOUTH LEADER GUIDE + PREP KIT

JULY 23-25, 2026

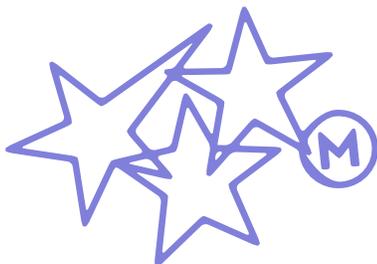
LEGACY ARENA AT THE BJCC
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE / YOUTH LEADERS

GODSPEED!

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MOTION CONFERENCE 2026 YOUTH LEADER GUIDE



WELCOME

Thank you for taking time to learn more about MOTION Student Conference. We are honored you are considering investing part of your summer with us!

MOTION is about a generation empowered by Jesus, equipped to make a difference, and living out their faith every day.

This conference is designed to serve as a catalyst for students to jump into small groups, leadership positions, and most importantly, God's vision for their lives! Throughout the weekend, we will take students on a journey of spiritual discovery built on the truth of Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." I know every student will leave with a God-given vision and focus for their lives – it will be incredible!

Over three days, July 23 - July 25, we will take over the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex for a weekend full of powerful worship, dynamic messages, and intentional discipleship through our community groups. This conference is designed specifically with the spiritual and practical needs of your middle school, high school, and college students - as well as your youth leaders - in mind. There is something powerful when students gather in an arena where they can see one another pursuing God that lets them know they are not alone and activates their faith to pursue Him too.

Our team provides a world-class event for your students that is not only powerful and life-changing, but also safe, secure, and economical. In this packet, we have included all the information you will need to plan for MOTION 2026, but please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions or if we can assist you in any way.

We are excited and expectant for all that God is going to do at MOTION 2026 and we hope you make plans to be a part! It is an honor to serve you and your students.

Together We Win,

Mark Pettus

GENERAL INFORMATION

THEME

GODSPEED

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

We believe the MOTION Generation is called, equipped, and set in motion by God. MOTION 2026 is rooted in Philippians 1:6. We know that the good work God began in us will be carried forward with purpose, boldness, and power. This generation isn't standing still—we're moving at God's pace, with God's purpose, and by God's Spirit. Not gathering to stay, but to be sent—carrying the good news of Jesus to the world.

Godspeed is more than a theme—it's a sending. A call to go with God, to move in faith, and to live out His mission with joy, confidence, and unstoppable hope. Godspeed: we were made to go with God.

WHO

Middle School (6th-8th Grade)
High School (9th-12th Grade)
College Students (Ages 18-22)
Youth Leaders

LOCATION

Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex
2100 North Arrington Blvd. North Birmingham, AL 35203



WHEN

Thursday, July 23 - Saturday, July 25, 2026
Current detailed schedule available at www.motiongen.com

CONTACT

General Info/Registration
info@motiongen.com

Jayne Barkdoll (Motion House)
house@motiongen.com

CONNECT

#MOTION26
#GODSPEED

IG: @motiongen
TikTok: @motionstudentconference

Facebook: @motionstudents
YouTube: @themotiongen

SECURITY

The MOTION Team views the safety of students as a high priority and has put into place measures to ensure care for your student. The BJCC will be enclosed with a perimeter that will include security checkpoints to access the conference. This perimeter will be staffed by our Church of the Highlands Safety Team and hired professional security. Students trying to leave the perimeter at any point (before Conference ends each day) will be asked questions to make sure they have adult approval to leave. During the duration of MOTION, hired officers will be on site, as well as trained Dream Team members, to help monitor the safety of our students.

FEATURING

CONFERENCE HOSTS

Chris Hodges | Mark Pettus | Jill Pettus
Motion Worship
+ MORE!!!

PRESENTING MOTION CONFERENCE TO YOUR LEADERSHIP



At Motion we understand the importance of your youth ministry's plans aligning with the overall vision of your church's leadership.

Below are a few important vision elements to help as you present MOTION Conference 2026 to your leadership for approval and support.

WHAT IS MOTION STUDENT CONFERENCE?

MOTION is more than a conference. It's more than bands and speakers. MOTION is about a generation empowered by Jesus, equipped to make a difference, and living out their faith every day! It is our prayer that students and youth leaders will leave the conference refreshed, equipped, and inspired to put their faith in MOTION at home, in the local church, in their cities, and around the world.

WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S MOTION STUDENT CONFERENCE FOCUS?

MOTION is a generation of young people, empowered by Jesus, putting their faith into MOTION every day, and making an eternal impact for generations still to come.

At MOTION 2026, we will rally behind Philippians 1:6 which says, "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus Returns."

We believe the MOTION Generation is called, equipped, and set in motion by God.

Godspeed is more than a theme—it's a sending. A call to go with God, to move in faith, and to live out His mission with joy, confidence, and unstoppable hope. Godspeed: we were made to go with God.

What happens at conference will not stay at conference. Our prayer is that MOTION will be a catalyst for students' faith that will propel them into the next school year with their eyes fixed on Jesus and their hearts filled with the confidence to eternally impact those around them - their friends, family, cities, and world.

WHAT WILL OUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCE AT MOTION STUDENT CONFERENCE?

Everyone will enjoy main sessions that are designed to engage students and leaders alike in worship and with the word of God through powerful messages.

Students will participate in community groups designed to connect and engage students in life-giving relationships. These age-specific groups will focus on strengthening and training students in discipleship, leadership, and evangelism.

WHAT WILL OUR LEADERS EXPERIENCE AT MOTION STUDENT CONFERENCE?

In addition to the powerful main sessions, adults will have the opportunity to attend youth leader sessions. While students are at Community Groups, we have curated student ministry focused sessions where youth leaders will have the opportunity to connect with the MOTION family while hearing from special guests. We want every leader to feel encouraged and equipped to make an eternal impact on their students.

In addition to those sessions, we will be giving away helpful resources to assist you and your leaders in your youth ministry when you return home! Youth leader sessions are an absolute must while you are with us at MOTION Conference.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HELPFUL TIPS FOR INTRODUCING MOTION TO CHURCH LEADERSHIP?

We believe in always leading with the why in everything we do. Likewise, we encourage you to pair the above vision elements with the specific needs of your students. Here are some helpful questions to consider when building out your proposal:

- Why would MOTION Conference 2026 appeal to our students and leaders specifically?
- How could MOTION Conference 2026 help us in engaging students who may not consistently come to our youth group?
- How could MOTION reinforce the vision of our youth group? (i.e. The community group sessions are focused on areas of spiritual growth that we are also focusing on within our church this year.)
- How could youth leader sessions at MOTION benefit our student team/leaders? (i.e. Presenting our leaders with practical resources and helpful guidance would rally our team as we head into the upcoming school year.)
- Our hope is that everything you, your students, and your leaders experience at MOTION Conference will serve as a catalyst for your youth ministry. Throughout the years we have heard countless stories of MOTION providing a spark for worship, Bible study, small groups, leader development and more in youth groups across the country!

PRESENTING MOTION CONFERENCE 2026 TO PARENTS



While it's always important to generate excitement within your students, registration, word-of-mouth promotion, and payments will take buy-in from parents as well. Presenting MOTION Conference to parents will require more than merely highlighting the guests and extending an invitation. To help you present MOTION and prepare for your first meeting with parents, here is a list of items you may want to consider:

LEAD WITH WHY!

It's important that parents know why you want to bring their students to MOTION - help them understand how a faith lived out in motion could change the lives of not only their students but others as well. There's no better setup for a new school year than a weekend focused on worship, prayer, and the word and presence of God.

EXPLAIN THE EXPERIENCE!

There's something so powerful about seeing thousands of students gathered in one arena to passionately pursue Jesus. From the worship to the messages to the community group experiences, MOTION is designed to lead students into a deeper relationship with both Jesus and other committed Christian students. This year's community groups will focus on three important areas of any student's spiritual journey: healthy spiritual disciplines, servant leadership, and personal evangelism.

SPEAK TO SAFETY!

Safety is always one of the most pressing questions on the mind of every parent. Be sure to explain everything you can regarding seating communities, group communication, and safety to provide peace and clarity.

Every attendee, together with either their youth group or family/ friends they completed registration with, will be allocated into a Seating Community. With their Seating Community, your students will rotate throughout the room each day for Conference Main Sessions. This allows a group to stay together throughout the arena experience while also ensuring that each youth group experiences MOTION from multiple viewpoints. In addition to that, Seating Communities make communication simpler and eliminates

the need to rush to save seats.

The MOTION Team takes the safety of students as a high priority and has put into place measures to ensure care for your student. The BJCC will be enclosed with a perimeter that will include security checkpoints to access the conference. This perimeter will be staffed by our Church of the Highlands Safety Team and hired professional security. Students trying to leave the perimeter at any point, before Conference ends each day, will be asked questions to make sure they have adult approval to leave. During the duration of MOTION, hired officers will be on site as well as trained Dream Team members to help monitor the safety of our students.

BE CLEAR ON THE COSTS...

Before meeting with parents, be sure to calculate the cost of MOTION Conference for your students. Be sure to factor in the price of tickets, meals (don't forget that conference meals are included in registration for M26!), lodging, and transportation.

Estimated Cost Per Person

If you book lodging at a local hotel at an average of \$150 per room/per night, you can plan for the following expenses per individual:

Registration

Lodging (Two Nights)

Food - Friday Estimate

Food - Saturday Estimate

Total

*(*Does not include transportation)*

\$135 (Average Cost = Ticket + Meals)

\$75 (4 People Per Room)

\$0 (Free Breakfast at Hotel)

\$10 (Dinner on the Way Home)

\$220 Per Individual*

...AND BE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE RESULTS!

Quite possibly the most important part of parent buy-in is helping them to see how MOTION Conference would benefit their students specifically. Share with them what you are believing for and praying for in terms of the youth group as a whole. What are the specific needs that you are believing God will meet them in at MOTION this year? We've seen MOTION be a catalyst for youth group growth, for a more courageous culture of worship and prayer, for the development of spiritual disciplines, and for students to take bold and transformative next steps.

INVITE THEM TO BE A PART! (PRAYER, SCHOLARSHIPS, CHAPERONING)

Don't forget to invite parents to be a part of MOTION, too! The most immediate way for a parent to be involved is to join your group as leaders/chaperones for MOTION. There are countless stories of life change that happen every year on buses, in hotel rooms, and in lobbies when students share what God has stirred inside of them with their leaders. Having a strong set of adult leaders is vitally important for safety, communication, and spiritual guidance. Your leaders will have a front row seat for all that God is doing in the lives of your students at MOTION!

Every year we hear stories of parents covering MOTION in prayer leading up to and through the conference. Invite parents to be that important prayer covering for your youth group. They can make personal commitments to do that at home or you can even invite them to meet together throughout the weekend to pray for your students. In addition to that, invite parents who are sending their students to MOTION to help spread the word to other parents within your church and community!

Lastly, consider opening up the opportunity for generous adults in your church to sponsor the trip or to scholarship other students who may need financial assistance to go to MOTION. The stories of generosity that we hear every year are a testament to God's provision and the heart that His people carry for the next generation.

PRESENTING MOTION CONFERENCE 2026 TO YOUR STUDENTS



Once you've gotten approval from your church's leadership, it is important to introduce and promote Motion Conference well to your students.

Below are some helpful tips and tools to help you as you get the word out about your youth group's upcoming visit to MOTION 2026!

ROLL OUT MOTION CONFERENCE ON A YOUTH NIGHT

Everyone loves a big announcement! One of our favorite things to see on social media are videos and photos of youth groups throughout the country announcing MOTION Conference plans to their students. The energy and the buzz surrounding a major announcement like attending MOTION is so important when

engaging students. Sometimes it only takes a few of your key students saying they are going to ignite the rest of your youth group!

Helpful tip: Build anticipation! Let them know a couple weeks out that there's a major announcement coming! You can do this during your youth events, through social media, and through any other channels of communication you have with your students.

DON'T FORGET THE VISION

MOTION is so much more than bands and speakers. MOTION is about a generation empowered by Jesus, equipped to make a difference, and living out their faith every day! Helping your students see how their faith can be taken into their classrooms, hallways, field houses, cafeterias, homes and communities is the ultimate goal. MOTION is not about having a singular moment in the presence of God; it's about developing spiritual momentum to change the world they walk in everyday.

CREATE A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR MOTION CONFERENCE

To best reach your students, we want to encourage you to use your youth group's digital platforms (Facebook, Instagram, emails, etc.) to promote MOTION Conference!

You can find helpful graphics and videos [HERE](#) to help you promote Motion Conference on social media! We will update the folder as we create even more promotional and informational content.

Make sure to tag @motiongen in your posts and use the hashtag #MOTION26. Encourage your students to post alongside you to reach even more students in your community!

COMPLETING REGISTRATION



We want to make the registration process for MOTION 2026 as easy as possible!

You can register your group [HERE!](#) At the beginning of registration, you will be prompted to “Create a Group.” Please fill out the group information to the best of your knowledge to help us better prepare for you. And don’t worry, you will be able to go back and edit it, as well as add more students to your group, at any time!

MOTION registration rates will rise as we get closer to conference. Be sure to check out the detailed price schedule below so you don’t miss out on our lower rates. Additionally, groups who register 10 or more students at a time will automatically receive \$5 off each ticket at checkout. Registration rates are the same for both youth leaders and students. We never want money to be a reason a student cannot come to MOTION Conference, so payment plans are available if needed!

PRICE SCHEDULE

\$125 Advanced Rate | September 1st – January 31st

\$135 Standard Rate | February 1st – April 30th

\$150 Spring Rate | May 1st – May 31st

\$165 Summer Rate | June 1st – June 30th

\$185 Last Call Rate | July 1st – July 23rd

We are excited to include Meal in all registrations this year at MOTION 2026. This will eliminate the stress of having to find food offsite and will provide additional time for intentional conversations between sessions. Gluten Free options are available!

Need to edit your group’s information? Locate your registration confirmation email and select “Manage Group”. This will allow you to edit information, make payments, and more. If students would like to join your existing group, simply tell them to choose “Join A Group Instead” during registration, and provide them with your group name and join passcode.

If you have any further questions regarding registration, please email our team at info@motiongen.com. We are happy to help!

BOOKING HOTELS

Our team has partnered with top local hotels to lock in exclusive rates just for you and your group. We know that where you stay plays a big role in making your conference experience smooth and unforgettable.

WHY BOOK THROUGH THE MOTION BOOKING TOOL?

- Exclusive rates for MOTION attendees
- Convenient locations near the conference venue
- A variety of hotel options to fit every group's needs

MOTION Hotel Booking Tool will be available early 2026!

CREATING A PACKING LIST & TRIP ITINERARY

TIPS FOR YOU!

You cannot over-communicate what your students need to bring! A detailed list of what is recommended will be helpful for both students and parents. Thorough preparation now will result in fewer trips to a convenience store or local Wal-Mart to pick something up later.

Don't assume! While it may seem obvious to you that a student would want a rain jacket in case of rain, if it's not raining when a student packs, they may not think about it; think through it all!

As the Youth Pastor, be prepared to be overprepared! Students will run out of something and/or need something unexpectedly; have a stash of hygiene and personal care products at the ready!

Make sure to communicate to your students what types of luggage you have room to transport. Limiting a student to a carry-on and a backpack may help conserve space.

Have a plan for medications. Knowing the needs of your students and having a designated person to assist with all medical needs is incredibly helpful while at MOTION Conference!



TIPS FOR PACKING LISTS

A PACKING GUIDE FOR YOUTH PASTORS AT CONFERENCE

Here is a suggested list of items to pack for conference to minimize confusion and help your students enjoy their weekend to the fullest.

- Registration Confirmation and Entry Details
- Spending money for students to buy merchandise, snacks, etc. (please note the BJCC is a cashless facility).
- Emergency Contact information for each student
- Activity Release Form for each student (provided by your church)
- Group T-shirt (Helps make your group easily identifiable)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bible, Notebook, & Pen
- Optional: Offering to contribute to the MOTION Cause

EXAMPLE PACKING LIST TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR STUDENTS

- Bible, Journal, Pen
- 3 Days of Clothes (Layers!! It's hot outside, but oftentimes cold in the arena. It's always a good idea to have a jacket or hoodie available.)
- Comfortable shoes
- Rain Jacket
- Pajamas
- Toiletries (Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Deodorant, Makeup, Razor, Other Hygiene Products)
- Phone charger
- Sunglasses
- Medications
- Snacks
- Refillable Water Bottle (please no Stanley or metal water bottles!)
- Additional money for merch & conference cause (please note the BJCC is a cashless facility, and all concessions will require a credit card/debit card).

MOTION 2026 does not have a dress code, however, we encourage you to give guidance to your students on what is appropriate for Conference.

What not to bring:

- Tobacco products or alcohol of any kind
- Gaming devices / laser pointers
- Knives or weapons of any kind
- Skateboards
- Drones
- Backpacks and bags are subject to be searched for admission, and may not be allowed.

BAG POLICY

To provide a safer environment for the public and significantly expedite guest entry into the area, the BJCC has implemented a policy that limits the size and type of bags that may be brought into stadiums and will be scanning every person as they enter the building. We strongly encourage guests not to bring any type of bag, but we have outlined what is permissible. Guests are able to carry the following style and size bag, package or container on site at the BJCC complex:

- Bags that are clear plastic, mesh, vinyl or PVC that do not exceed 14" x 14" x 6"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag or similar)
- Refillable water bottles are accepted. (please no Stanley or metal water bottles!)
- Individuals are allowed to bring lunch into the Arena that is in a clear bag. Coolers will not be allowed into the building.

An exception will be made for declared medically necessary items, after proper inspection.

CREATING A ITINERARY FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

Below is a snapshot of what the MOTION Conference weekend will look like:

Thursday, July 23

Start of Day - 7:00 PM CST

End of Night - 10:00 PM CST

Friday, July 24

Start of Day - 10:00 AM CST

End of Night - 10:00 PM CST

Saturday, July 25

Start of Day - 10:00 AM CST

End of Day - 12:45 PM CST

A full schedule will be available closer to date.

We recommend adding drop off and pick up information to assist parents. They will need to know when to have their students at your church for departure and when to pick them up once you return from MOTION.

BEFORE CONFERENCE



CHECKLIST

- Register for conference admission (leaders and students).
- Begin promoting Motion Conference to your students, parents, and community.
- Edit your registration online using your login. Be sure to make any additions before July 1!
- Book lodging.
- Book transportation.
- Create Packing List/Trip Itinerary for parents/students.
- Plan a parent meeting to review the details of the trip.
- Finalize rooming list with lodging provider.
- Plan activities for your students if you anticipate arriving early or staying an extra day.
- Plan to stay for the duration of the conference. We have saved the best for last, plus we will also participate in the important “ME+MOTION” commitment moment together. You don’t want to miss it!

REGISTRATION

When you register for MOTION 2026, your registration fee includes:

- Access to all Conference Main Sessions
- Access to all Community Group or Youth Leader Sessions
- Meals for Friday lunch, and dinner and lunch on Saturday.

PRICING SCHEDULE

Prices below are listed for per individual. Registering a Group of 6 or more together saves \$5 per registration!

September 1 - January 31, 2026	\$125	July 2026	\$185
February 1 - April 30, 2026	\$135		
May 1 - May 31, 2026	\$150	<i>Three Conference meals are included in registration for M26!</i>	
June 1 - June 20, 2026	\$165		

Register your group at motiongen.com.

CHECKS

If you need to register by check, please make it out to “Church of the Highlands” with your group name and number of registrants in the memo. To make sure we take care of you best, please contact us prior to mailing your check at info@motiongen.com. You can mail your check to:

Church of the Highlands
ATTN: Registration Team
3660 Grandview Parkway, Suite 400
Birmingham, AL 35243

PAYMENT PLANS

We are so excited to offer MOTION 2026 payment plans this year! Payment plans for MOTION 2026 will be available until May 31 at 11:59 PM. Selecting a payment plan will allow you to pay for your group’s registration in two or three increments. Payments for MOTION 2026 are non-refundable and registrations with incomplete payments will not be considered complete or allowed for admission into MOTION 2026.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

ESTIMATED COST PER PERSON

If you book lodging at a local hotel at an average of \$150 per room/per night, you can plan for the following expenses per individual:

Registration	\$135 (Average Cost = Ticket + Meals)
Lodging (Two Nights)	\$75 (4 People Per Room)
Food - Friday Estimate	\$0 (Free Breakfast at Hotel)
Food - Saturday Estimate	\$10 (Free Breakfast at Hotel + Dinner on the Way Home)
Total:	\$220 Per Individual*

*Does not include transportation

MEALS

BOXED MEALS

For your convenience, boxed meals will be provided on-site for lunch and dinner on Friday, July 24 and Lunch on Saturday, July 26. Each boxed meal includes an entrée, side, dessert, and water.

Past vendors include: Chick-fil-A, Newk's Eatery, and Jim N' Nicks. Thank you for understanding that we are unable to accommodate food allergies or special requests in meal orders, except for gluten-friendly needs which can be selected when you purchase your ticket at registration.

CONCESSIONS

There are a variety of food options available for additional purchase at concession stands throughout the BJCC property. You are welcome to send your student with additional money to purchase snacks from available concessions. Prices vary. ***Please note - Concession stands do NOT accept cash.**

LODGING

The MOTION Conference Hotel Booking Tool will be available early 2026.

Our team has partnered with top local hotels to lock in exclusive rates just for you and your group. We know that where you stay plays a big role in making your conference experience smooth and unforgettable.

PACKING LIST

Here is a suggested list of items to pack for conference to minimize confusion and help your students enjoy their weekend to the fullest:

- Registration Confirmation and Entry Details (emailed to you after July 1)
- Spending money for students to buy merchandise & cashless payment options for snacks, concessions, etc.
- Emergency Contact info for each student
- Activity Release Form for each student (provided by your church)
- Group T-shirt (Helps make your group easily identifiable)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Notebook
- Pen
- Bible
- Optional: Offering to contribute to the MOTION Cause, see page 25 for details.

What not to bring:

- Tobacco products or alcohol of any kind
- Gaming devices / laser pointers
- Knives or weapons of any kind
- Skateboards
- Drones
- Backpacks and bags are subject to be searched for admission, and may not be allowed.

BAG POLICY

To provide a safer environment for the public and significantly expedite guest entry into the area, the BJCC has implemented a policy that limits the size and type of bags that may be brought into stadiums and will be scanning every person as they enter the building. We strongly encourage guests not to bring any type of bag, but we have outlined what is permissible. Guests are able to carry the following style and size bag, package or container on site at the BJCC complex:

- Bags that are clear plastic, mesh, vinyl or PVC that do not exceed 14" x 14" x 6"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag or similar)
- Plastic Refillable water bottles are accepted (Empty upon entry; water stations are available on-site.)
*Please no Stanley or metal water bottles
- Individuals are allowed to bring lunch into the Arena that is in a clear bag. Coolers will not be allowed into the building.

An exception will be made for declared medically necessary items, after proper inspection.



DURING CONFERENCE



CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Visit motiongen.com for updated arrival information for the conference.
- Confirm you have received your Seating Community details via email.
- Get clear directions to the BJCC and communicate to all drivers. Make plans for drop-off, pick-up, and parking. Please use a GPS system for the best routes.
- Confirm your rooms and rooming list with the lodging provider.
- Plan for any meals needed on the way to the conference, including dinner Thursday evening.
- Establish a list of “ground rules” for your students to follow and your leaders to encourage.
- Some things we might suggest based on our experience traveling with students:
- Stay with a friend at all times
- No girls in guys rooms, no guys in girls rooms
- No leaving the sessions without telling a leader and taking a friend
- Encourage no TV in hotel rooms
- Encourage students not to call home or use their cell phones, unless there’s an emergency. Disconnecting from their everyday lives will help them focus on what God is doing in them at MOTION.

FOR CONFERENCE ARRIVAL

- Follow directions for Group Drop-Off. Exact location will be provided closer to the conference.
- Ensure your drivers know where to park buses/vans.
- If you are a group and a conference host has contacted you, send them a text or give them a call letting them know you’ve arrived.
- Visit registration first to pick up Seating Community lanyards and wristbands (you must wear these at all times in order to gain access to MOTION).
- Check into the hotel and check rooming assignments.
- Ensure you know your Seating Community section/location for Thursday night’s session- contact your host.
- Be ready to enter the building no later than one hour until the session begins.

BASIC SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:00 PM Start of Day

10:00 PM End of Day

FRIDA, JULY 24

10:00 AM Start of Day

10:00 PM End of Day

SATURDAY, JULY 25

10:00 AM Start of Day

12:45 PM Conference Ends

CHECK-IN

Registration and check-in will be open on Thursday, July 23 from 2pm-7pm. More details about pick up will be updated closer to the conference. Also, look for your Conference Host to text/call you before July 23 to assist you with arrival and check-in information.

Credentials will be required for admission to MOTION 2026, so you should plan to wear them at all times!

MAIN SESSIONS

Main Sessions are hosted in the arena by the Highlands team and feature our special guest artists and speakers. During each session, you will sit together as a group and students will learn how to connect with God in worship and apply the truth of His Word.

SEATING

We are excited to continue "Seating Communities" at MOTION 2026! Every attendee, together with either their group or family / friends they completed registration with, will be allocated into a Seating Community. With your Seating Community, you will rotate throughout the room each day for Conference Main Sessions.

ADVANTAGES OF SEATING COMMUNITIES

1. **Allocated Seating Sections:** You will be able to sit with the group that you completed registration with for the duration of the conference, and you will know in advance what section you will be seated in. Together, with other people in your Seating Community, you will have a great opportunity to make new friends, as you will be experiencing the conference together from start to finish.
2. **No Need To Rush To Save Seats:** Although seats are first- come, first-serve in your Seating Community, you will always have guaranteed seats waiting for you in your assigned section. This will alleviate the need for you to fight the crowd in order to find seats.
3. **A Variety of Viewpoints:** Each seating community will move around the Arena on a rotation basis, giving you the opportunity to experience MOTION from different angles. Each Seating Community will be assigned a new seating section for each day.

Plan to arrive early for each session and be in your seats at least 15 minutes before the session begins.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Groups are designed to connect and engage students in life-giving relationships and lead them to dig deeper into the truths shared during main sessions. They are the perfect environment to meet new friends and develop tools to start the school year strong for Jesus. Groups are divided by age (middle school, high school, and college). Each age group is hosted in the BJCC exhibition halls and is led by a Highlands staff member while being facilitated by trained MOTION Dream Teams.

YOUTH LEADER SESSIONS

While your students are in Community Groups, you will get the opportunity to attend our Youth Leader Sessions. During these times (sessions), you will be able to hear valuable teachings and strategies to equip you as a leader in your church and city. These sessions will be hosted by our Church of the Highlands pastors and feature special guests from our Conference.



A QUICK TIMELINE TO PREPARE FOR MOTION CONFERENCE 2026

DECEMBER & JANUARY

Register for MOTION Conference

Any trip to MOTION Conference begins here! We recommend making the decision that you'll be bringing students to MOTION as soon as possible so that you can purchase your group's tickets at the lowest rate available! **Advanced Rate Pricing ends January 31, 2026, so don't miss your chance to lock in your tickets for only \$125 per Ticket (Conference Meals Included!).** You can purchase your tickets by going to www.motiongen.com!

FEBRUARY

Lock in Hotels & Transportation

The two major logistical needs once you've registered are hotel reservations and transportation! Below you can find a few helpful tips and resources to make this easier!

Hotels: In order to help with planning your visit to MOTION, a third-party travel agency has arranged room blocks with local hotels that have offered special rates for MOTION Student Conference attendees. The M26 hotel booking tool will be available early 2026!

Transportation: When booking transportation, doing your research pays off! Youth pastors from across the country have told us that it's best to get as many quotes as possible to ensure you're locking in at the best rate! Make calls to both national and local transportation companies, and ask for a digital quote! The earlier you book transportation, the better, too; many companies will offer better rates and greater availability if you book several months out!

MARCH

Launch Sign-Ups for Your Students & Begin Promotion

We recommend promoting MOTION in a variety of ways to ensure that everyone within your church has an opportunity to learn about the life-change coming for your students this summer! Below are a couple of helpful resources to assist you as you promote MOTION Conference.

Motion Conference 2026 Promotional Resources

From social media materials to teaser videos to website graphics packages, our team has put together a number of different promotional options for you to use as you spread the word about your upcoming trip to MOTION Conference! [You can find those promotional resources at this link!](#)

If you are looking for more information about MOTION Conference, be sure to visit the [MOTION Conference website](#) and take time to check out the [Frequently Asked Questions section](#).

APRIL

Host an Initial Parent Interest Meeting

While it's incredibly important to build excitement and enthusiasm amongst your students, it's just as important to communicate compelling vision and clear details to their parents. Below are a couple of helpful tips, and there's much more information on communicating with parents later in this preparation kit!

- **Inspire and Inform:** When communicating with parents about MOTION Conference, make all logistical and financial details clear from the start, but wrap it all in your unique vision for how MOTION is going to make an impact in their child's life.
- **Host the Meeting at Their Convenience:** Schedule your parent meeting at a time when parents are already at the church! This will increase attendance at the meeting while communicating how much you value their time. Consider Sunday after service or following a youth night when they are picking up their children.

MAY

Continue MOTION Promotion & Communicate Upcoming Deadlines

May is a great time to continue promoting MOTION Conference to your students while also highlighting your upcoming deadlines for registration, payment plans, and anything else that applies to your group!

Also, if you're going to be doing any sort of fundraising to help with the expenses of the trip, May is a great month to launch those fundraising efforts! With families preparing for summer break, making sure they get all fundraising opportunities on their calendar is very important.

JUNE

Team Meetings & Final Preparations (Rosters, Room Assignments, & Final Itinerary)

With summer in full swing, June is an awesome time to begin meeting with your team to discuss all things MOTION Conference 2026. As we draw closer to MOTION, look for a resource from our team to help you develop your Conference leader guide and your team meeting agendas. Clarity and preparation communicates how much you appreciate and value your leaders!

In addition to meeting with your leaders, late June is perfect for beginning your final Conference preparations like bus rosters, room assignments, travel itineraries, packing lists, food plans and more. You can find some helpful tips on creating a packing list later on in this preparation kit!

JULY

Set the Stage & Enjoy MOTION Conference 2026

MOTION month is finally here! July is so much fun, as the recruitment, the promotion, the planning, and all of the logistics should be coming to a close, and you can begin setting the stage for students, leaders, and parents regarding what they can expect to experience at MOTION. And we want to help you get your youth group ready for the life-change that's ahead!

We believe the MOTION Generation is called, equipped, and set in motion by God. MOTION 2026 is rooted in Philippians 1:6, “And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus Returns”.

We know that the good work God began in us will be carried forward with purpose, boldness, and power. This generation isn’t standing still—we’re moving at God’s pace, with God’s purpose, and by God’s Spirit. Not gathering to stay, but to be sent—carrying the good news of Jesus to the world.

We ask that you consider joining us in the weeks leading up to Conference as we spiritually prepare our students to receive all that God has in store for them July 23-25! Look for upcoming information, resources, and content from the MOTION team to help you lead your students in the weeks ahead of MOTION Conference. We cannot wait to see you in Birmingham!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HIGHLANDS COLLEGE

Highlands College is a biblical higher education institution that exists to supply the Church with leaders of competence, character, and spiritual maturity, holistically trained to lead lives of eternal impact by fulfilling the Great Commission.

Now offering seven ministry-focused bachelor’s degrees, Highlands College, America’s Ministry Leadership University, is committed to providing exceptional and accessible education in a world-class facility where a community of experts dedicate themselves to training and equipping students in academic instruction, ministry training, character formation, and spiritual development.

As a youth leader, you play a pivotal role in students’ lives, supporting and guiding them as they discover God’s call on their lives. Highlands College wants to resource you to help your students pursue biblical higher education if they feel God calling them into full-time ministry. The Highlands College Team would love to connect with you during your time at MOTION. Visit the HC booth in on the concourse or text HCINFO to 74000 to learn more.

Visit <http://www.highlandscollege.edu/> for more details.

MOTION CAUSE

This year at MOTION we will have the opportunity to unite as a generation and give towards a singular cause that will make an eternal difference in the world through the local church.

We are passionate about life-giving churches and Bible translation and the conference team has carefully

selected the MOTION Cause as a project that we know will have lasting kingdom impact for generations to come.

At the conference, we will reveal the MOTION Cause and provide you with details about how you can participate. During Friday night's session, we will worship, give together, and see God move.

We ask that each registrant pray and prepare in advance to give towards the MOTION Cause. It has been said, "no one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Together, we believe that we can change the world!

A LOOK INTO BIRMINGHAM

We would love for you to make the most of your time in our hometown, so check out some of our favorite places to visit in Birmingham, AL!

ACTIVITIES

- Church of the Highlands
- Sunday Services – we invite you and your students to stay for Sunday Service at our home church! Check out churchofthehighlands.com for locations and service times.
- TopGolf – super close to the BJCC/surrounding hotels
- The Summit – lots of shops & food!
- Oak Mountain State Park
- Birmingham Zoo
- McWane Science Center
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- Vulcan Statue and Overlook – Best view of the city!
- Birmingham Barons Minor League Baseball Game
- Coyote Drive-In Theater

COFFEE SHOPS

- Santos Coffee
- Seeds Coffee Company
- Church Street Coffee and Books
- Caveat
- The Red Cat
- Cala Coffee
- O'Henry's

SWEET TREATS

- Churro Station
- Big Spoon Creamery

