



FAQs for New YFC Credentialing

Get answers to the most-asked questions about YFC Credentialing here.

New YFC Credentialing - Why now? The current credentialing system has been in place for almost 15 years. In light of changes in our training, as well as the addition of cohort learning, we need to adapt to the changes.

Who is credentialing for? Full Time leaders are expected to complete credentialing within the first two years of YFC service. This has been the requirement for quite some time in the organization but has also been clunky for leaders who are not in direct ministry to kids. In the new credentialing, we have made changes that allow those people to choose a couple of options that will better equip them in their roles.

Is the ministry certification going away? Yes, it is. Since travel and costs are greatly reduced, we are encouraging part-time and volunteers who wish to be credentialed to pursue the same as full-time leaders.

What happened to Institute? Believe it or not, we are phasing out *Institute* as we have known it for 50 years! It is a beloved event and many of us will miss gathering in this way. However, we know due to travel uncertainty, contract restrictions, and expenses, we must pivot to a new way of delivering the training we used to deliver over 8 days at the Inverness hotel. It is a proven fact that we learn at a deeper level in cohorts. Most of the content from *Institute* will now be delivered through online training in the New Leader Cohorts. Our new online learning system, myTrailhead, delivers excellent learning experiences. We will gather for the content that is best delivered in person via the *One Heart* and two other gatherings.

What if someone is in the Blueprint (credentialing) System - do they have to start over? We asked everyone in the Blueprint system to complete their work by December 15, 2022. We offered a couple of *One Heart* retreats in the fall for those people who were in the Blueprint system and missed their regional one. After

December 15, those who were not finished will need to start in the new system and will be added to a cohort to begin the journey.

What should new staff do right now to get ready? The new cohorts won't kick off until July 2023. Soon there will be a form to fill out online to register new leaders to begin their credentialing journey. After that, they can expect information emailed directly to them about next steps. The "YFC New Leader Orientation" is available on our [myTrailhead](#) platform (Knowledge Base > click More > select Training). The trail offers three courses, "Welcome to Youth For Christ," "YFC's Cultural Attributes," and "Creating Safe Environments" (risk management) which they can start any time. The other online classes will be assigned and discussed as part of the zoom calls.

Is there a way to track progress? Yes! When staff complete any online training modules in myTrailhead, they will receive a badge for the class. Supervisors can view their staff's training progress and event attendance right in the Leader Journey System.

What will credentialing cost now? It will actually be less expensive than it currently has been. Two retreats are the only events costs and travel will be less as they are regionally provided. All other pieces are online or zoom and are free. More info to come on exact costs, but plan on spending less than before.

Why get credentialed? Credentialing ensures that our leaders have achieved at least a certain level of training in areas that are important for their own growth, the safety of teenagers we work with, and the effectiveness of the ministry model. The organization can be certain that those who lead are prepared. While there is much more to learn, the first two years are prescribed and result in a YFC credential. Upon completion of credentialing, leaders can then start the work to become licensed through YFC if they so choose.

What if I have a new hire now or later this year, do they have to wait until July to start the credentialing process? We recommend that your new leaders start the classes on trailhead that are required for credentialing and maybe even work on the paper to support the statement of faith. This will insure they are receiving excellent training now and then in July 2023, they can attend One Heart and meet the cohort they will be journeying with for the next 18 months.