

# OUR VISION AND MISSION



## RELIGIOUS YOUTH SERVICE

UPE.ORG/RYS



RYS was founded in 1985 at the Assembly of the World's Religions by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and its first international project took place the following year in the Philippines. RYS has organized hundreds of interfaith service projects in more than 70 nations, with participants from diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds. Advisors have included Dr. Huston Smith, Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios, and other interfaith leaders.

As a service learning program, RYS brings together youth from different cultures and religions in order to promote mutual understanding and respect and to develop personal leadership and peacebuilding capacities. Participants serve a community in need, visit religious and historic sites, and learn communication and team-building skills.

### THE THREE PILLARS

INTERFAITH  
EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY  
SERVICE



**RYS is a project of the  
UNIVERSAL PEACE  
FEDERATION**





# INTERFAITH EDUCATION

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



## INTERFAITH AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

Interfaith understanding and cooperation is the foundation for peace. By gaining insight into the principles and values shared by people of many religions and cultures, we can learn to respect one another and lend a hand to build a better world. Mother Teresa said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."



## INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

To invest in young people, who are the future of our society, involves giving them the necessary tools — internal and external — to lead and influence others in the challenging years ahead. Our participants meet with leaders who are role models from all walks of life, to understand people of different cultures, races, and ethnic groups.

They practice communication skills, gain team-building experience, learn respect for the universal values taught by all religions, and promote community development.





# COMMUNITY SERVICE

# GLOBAL REACH



## SERVICE TO OTHERS

By serving people in the community, the ideal of compassion becomes a reality. Altruistic service and living for the sake of others is the foundation for a culture of peace.



## HUMANITARIAN AID

In response to natural disasters, UPF provides donations and volunteers to help with immediate relief and longer-term cleanup. After the tsunami in *Japan*, youth cleaned debris from homes. When *Thailand* was struck by floods, volunteers brought food and water to stranded survivors and cleaned an Islamic school. Other projects aided people in *Haiti, Pakistan, Russia and India*.



## SPORTS FOR PEACE

Young people from diverse backgrounds compete as teams in popular sports such as football. Coaches focus on respect and sportsmanship to promote personal development and community cohesion.



# ABOUT UPF



*UPF is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. UPF supports and promotes the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

## UN COMMEMORATIVE DAYS

- World Interfaith Harmony Week
- Women's Day
- International Day of Families
- Global Day of Parents
- International Day of Peace



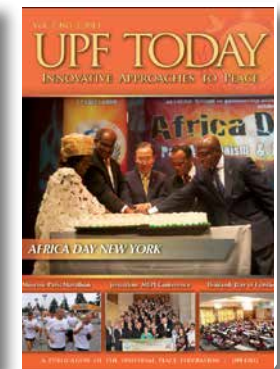
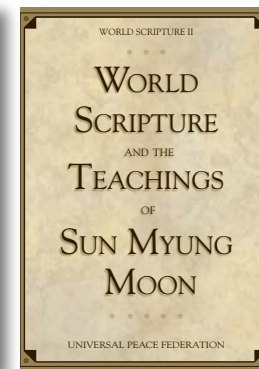
## PARTNERSHIPS

Together with the African Union, UPF organizes *Africa Day* celebrations in New York and around the world. In support of *World Interfaith Harmony Week*, UPF works with interfaith and faith-based NGO's to hold celebrations in 27 nations as well as at the UN General Assembly. UPF recommends the creation of an interreligious council at the United Nations.



Interfaith Week at the UN

# UPF PUBLICATIONS



For more information, please visit:  
[www.upf.org/books](http://www.upf.org/books)



# UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

[UPF.ORG/RYS](http://UPF.ORG/RYS)

## INTERNATIONAL HQ

200 White Plains Road, Floor 1  
Tarrytown, NY 10591 • USA

Phone: 1 914 631-1331

Fax: 1 914 332-1582

E-mail: [info@upf.org](mailto:info@upf.org)

## UN RELATIONS

866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 529  
New York, NY 10017 • USA

Phone: 1 212 588-1802

Fax: 1 212 826-2176

E-mail: [unoffice@upf.org](mailto:unoffice@upf.org)