

Philadelphia Temple Youth Cultural Celebration

East Brunswick Stake Preparation Schedule

May 12, 2016

Dear Young Women, Young Men, Leaders, and Parents:

We are excited to begin preparations for the **Youth Cultural Celebration**, which will take place the night before the Philadelphia Temple dedication. Our youth will have the opportunity to join with the other ten stakes of the temple district to celebrate the coming of the temple. The youth will perform a spectacular program on **Saturday, September 17th at the Liacouras Center at Temple University, 7:00 p.m.**

The theme of the Cultural Celebration is **“We the People.”** The event will demonstrate through song, portrayals, and dance that the Founding Fathers and Joseph Smith were sent to earth at appointed times. The program will also connect our youth to the temple and to the Celebration theme.

As you can imagine, preparing for such a monumental event will take considerable effort. We have asked your local leaders to distribute the schedule of rehearsals to all youth and parents. The schedule has been prepared with an eye towards simplifying the process wherever possible:

- We have scheduled **stake-wide** rehearsals in conjunction with other stake youth events in order to minimize the number of youth obligations and reduce the amount of travel for families.
- The Celebration coordinators have requested that we hold two rehearsals a month. The committee chair has approved holding one of these rehearsals each month at the **ward/branch level**. Because we will not receive the script until mid-May, the one stake-wide rehearsal is sufficient for this month.
- We urge you to plan the ward/branch rehearsals as regular weeknight activities rather than add an additional layer of commitments for families. We suggest that units meeting in the same chapel consider combining the youth for these rehearsals.
- The Celebration committee will provide video footage demonstrating the dance steps, as well as written instructions. We have been assured that leaders do not need a background in music or dance in order to supervise these rehearsals. We will distribute the instructional materials once we receive them.
- Please note that there are three **regional** rehearsals scheduled. The final regional rehearsal (September 10th) will be eliminated, if the participating youth are adequately prepared by that point in time.

We do not yet have information regarding costumes, nor do we have specifics about how many spectators may attend the Celebration. We will share additional information as it becomes available.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for supporting the youth as they prepare to take part in this inspirational event!

With love,

The East Brunswick Stake YM and YW Presidencies