



## Hello School Sponsors and SROs!

It's time for *"Tides, Vibes, and Safe Rides,"* the 2025 annual YOVASO Summer Leadership Retreat at James Madison University July 17-20, 2025! Student leaders and adult sponsors are encouraged to join us and other advocates from across the state to learn effective strategies for promoting young driver and passenger safety. The beach-themed Retreat will include interactive programming, workshops, motivational and personal story speakers, guided project planning sessions, nightly socials, and special sessions for school sponsors and SROs. The Retreat is only \$15 per student or \$75 for a team of 6 students. *Adult sponsors accompanying a team of students attend at no cost.*

Please encourage your club members and student leaders to attend. We are looking for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders to graduating seniors who are positive role models among their peers and believe in the importance of making smart choices when it comes to driver and passenger safety. The student(s) should be in good standing with their school, be comfortable working with a diverse team of students from other localities, and be able to actively participate in full days of indoor and outdoor hands-on activities, presentations, classroom workshops, and team building projects. A tentative Retreat agenda will be posted on the YOVASO website by March 15.

The 2025 Retreat promises four days of exciting, motivational, and educational activities. New activities for 2025 include [VCU Health Project Impact](#), a simulated crash and hospital trauma bay experience. This is a great opportunity to view Project Impact and get details on booking it for your school! Other new features include Motivational Speaker [Cara Filler](#) and a variety of workshops on student leadership and best practices for successful peer-to-peer clubs. *Due to the sensitive nature of the retreat's focus on highway safety, please note on the registration form if your school or community has experience a recent tragedy.*

The four-day, three-night retreat includes overnight accommodations, meals, educational/hands on sessions, and materials. The dorm rooms, meeting rooms, and activity areas are all located on the east side of JMU campus and provide a safe environment for all participants.

### Registration Information:

**Each school or youth group may register a team of up to 6 students\* and at least 1 adult advisor. An adult advisor/SRO must attend with student teams, participate in all retreat activities and club planning sessions, and serve as chaperones for the students. An adult advisor or SRO can represent multiple school teams from a school division, if needed.** Registered schools and youth groups will be allowed to sign up additional students if the retreat is not full by the deadline. We suggest you keep a waiting list of interested students and their completed registration forms in case space is available. Students and adults are required to stay overnight in the dorms. (*\* The 6 students do not include Retreat Youth Leaders if you have any from your school.*)

**Background Check Requirement: Per JMU and YOVASO/VSP requirements, background checks will be conducted on all Adult Sponsors and Retreat Staff 18 years or older. Information on completing the background checks is outlined on the attached Adult Registration Form.**

Registration forms are attached and can also be downloaded from the [website](#). Adult advisors and SROs who would like to register online should complete the [Adult Registration Form](#). Students may also register online by completing the [Student Registration Form](#). Registration forms not completed online should be mailed to YOVASO, C/O Virginia State Police Division 6, 3775 West Main St, Salem, VA 24153.

### Registration Fee:

YOVASO charges the small individual or team fee to help offset the cost of retreat materials that aren't funded by our grant and to help increase attendance accountability for those who register. The fee also helps fund the cost of retreat t-shirts, backpacks, and lanyards; and helps recover some of the dorm room and meal costs for any no shows. **Note: Payment refunds will only be given for cancellations made prior to the June 22 deadline.**

- **Cost of Registration: \$15 per student or \$75 for a team of 6 students. An adult sponsor must accompany a school team of students. The adult sponsor attends at no cost.**
- **FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 22.**

*\* Retreat Youth Leaders and Teachers/SROs who accompany a team of students will not be charged a Retreat fee.*

### Payment Details:

**Note - School sponsors should provide instructions to students and parents on how to submit the registration fee, with specific instructions on whether the student's fee is turned into you, or a check mailed directly to YOVASO.** Please refer to the adult and student registration forms for more specific information on payment and an address to mail your payment, if applicable.

### Registration Confirmation:

If registration is completed online, you will be notified via the email you provided that your registration was received. For payment, follow instructions above.

**All registered participants will receive final retreat packets in late June with maps, directions, packing list, and other retreat details.**

Please encourage your students to join us for this exciting Retreat and share the information with fellow teachers, churches and other youth groups in your community. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain leadership skills, train for peer-to-peer work, and learn key behaviors and skills for safer and more responsible driving.

If you have any questions about the retreat or registration, please call email me at [callie.clary@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:callie.clary@vsp.virginia.gov) or call Mary King, YOVASO Program Manager, at 804-461-0396.

YOVASO looks forward to seeing your school or youth club at the retreat this summer!

Sincerely,

*Callie Toler*

Callie Toler, Retreat Director

Enclosures:

- Retreat Flyer
- Student Registration Form (email [callie.clary@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:callie.clary@vsp.virginia.gov) to request print copies)  
*In an effort to save paper, we recommend registering online at [www.yovaso.org](http://www.yovaso.org) (click on Retreats tab)*
- Adult Registration Form

