

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States

Connecticut • Maine • Massachusetts • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York

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June 16, 2020

A Special Call To All Youth Ages 15 to 30 **Register for the Summer of Service by June 27th**

To our dearly loved youth:

The Regional Bahá'í Council and Regional Training Institute Board send you our warmest greetings! As is already apparent, we are still in the midst of a global crisis that has profoundly disrupted the state of human affairs. But as our beloved Universal House of Justice notes in its May 9th letter:

“We have been impressed by how many communities have taken great strides in adapting to this new reality. Far from viewing the present period as simply a hiatus to be endured with patience, they have recognized that the state of the world has made the need to render meaningful service to humanity more urgent. Naturally, the activities undertaken must suit the prevailing conditions, but there should be no doubt that this is a time for noble aims, high resolve, and intense endeavour... In short, the promotion of the Plan implies building capacity to walk the path of service in every time and season—which must surely include moments of acute peril in the life of humanity, such as now. It is essential, then, that the steps being taken to learn how to apply the Plan’s framework for action to the current circumstances of the world continue in earnest; in all likelihood, the global health crisis will have a direct impact on Bahá'í activities, to a greater or lesser degree, for months or even years, and the task of adapting to the situation cannot be postponed.”

One question before us is how we will adapt to this situation in regards to the summer of service initiative, which so many youth look forward to year after year. In being faithful to the House of Justice, we are going to have a summer of service! However, our efforts will be different this year, as your safety and the safety of others during this time is our highest priority. Our aim remains the same, which is to support goal clusters of this five year plan across our region to ensure that a flow of participants, youth in particular, enter the institute process, so that they can serve their communities, especially the younger generations (children and junior youth). Although we will not be sending teams into these clusters physically, we will still be accompanying those who have registered for the Summer of Service and completed Book 7 to participate in a virtual teaching and institute campaign. These youth will use social media platforms and other creative means that preclude physical contact to engage youth in goal clusters about their role in society and the contribution they can make to its betterment, followed by an invitation to walk the path of service as laid out in the courses of the Ruhi Institute. This virtual approach will be a new frontier for our region, and we are excited to learn about this effort together! There is no doubt that online

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avenues that tap into receptivity will become an additional strategy for growth well beyond the current physical limitations.

For those youth registered for Summer of Service but have not yet completed Book 7, there will be opportunities to continue through the sequence of courses and gain practical experience teaching children's classes or animating junior youth groups within their home cluster. In short, we will need everyone's help this summer.

With the above in mind, we want to encourage you to register without fear but with joy, and if you have not already done so, kindly fill out the online registration form **by June 27th**: [Northeast Summer of Service Registration Form](#).

Because of the new nature of summer efforts this year, we may have to adjust their start and end dates, and we appreciate your patience as we adapt to this new plan. For further questions, you can email or call the project coordinators, Riway Thapaliya or Jessa Karlberg, or the Regional Training Institute Board, whose contact information is included below:

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Please help spread the word! Share this email at your youth gatherings and community Feasts; and **text your friends to register as well!** More information at www.NortheastYouthInitiative.org

Dear friends: We are not exaggerating when we say that **without your help, our region would not be where it is today.** You are the "spearhead" and leading edge of every endeavor. Your energy, humility, creativity, flexibility, sacrifice, and courage have helped communities in our region to grow in leaps and bounds! The qualities that are uniquely yours--directed towards service--have given us all a closer glimpse at the movement of populations towards Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation. We cannot emphasize enough *how much you are loved -- and how much you are needed, each and all, at the forefront of service.* As 'Abdu'l-Bahá says:

"Exert yourselves; your mission is unspeakably glorious. Should success crown your enterprise, America will assuredly evolve into a center from which waves of spiritual power will emanate, and the throne of the Kingdom of God will, in the plenitude of its majesty and glory, be firmly established."

With our love and hope,

REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL of the NORTHEAST STATES
REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS