

## 2023 Teen Prom FAQ

### ***What is a Church Prom?***

Years ago, one of the teens said she wished we had a Prom that could be a place to dance and party but not have the pressure of the worldly influences that are prominent at school Proms. This opened the door to have a Prom for all the kids that have grown up in our churches and their friends who were looking for the same things. So our goal is to have all the dancing, celebrating, friends and fun that a prom should be, but in a way that glorifies God and avoids all the drama and trouble.

### ***Who is invited?***

This year we are happy to extend the invitation not only to our NC sister churches, but also those in South Carolina and East GA, making this the first Prom for the whole region. Teens from these churches can also invite their friends, but should explain to them the uniqueness of church prom so they know what to expect and what not to expect. We suggest that teens get advice from their parents or teen leaders if they need help knowing what to say when inviting friends.

### ***What grade do you have to be in to attend Prom?***

Prom is open to all 9th-12th graders and their date. For example, a freshman in college can attend if their date is a senior or an 8th grader who has a 9th grade date could attend.

### ***How is Church Prom different than School Prom?***

At a Church Prom, our ultimate goal is to please God and conduct ourselves in a way that will glorify God. Two obvious differences for this event would be having an outward focus on building others up and being modest in our dress, dance, and speech. For instance:

- Some of the Charlotte teens are helping to plan the Prom and host the activities
- A teen could plan where a group can take pictures before Prom, ensuring that everyone gets an invite so no one is left out
- Instead of going stag (less responsibility and planning), a teen may decide to take a date.

### ***How is Church Prom similar to School Prom?***

We have a beautiful venue, formal dining, DJ, dance party, and an after party, lots of fun, and festivities! And like schools, it probably goes without saying that we will also have a zero tolerance policy for the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol before, during, and after prom.

### ***How should I dress?***

This is a formal event. Guys typically wear a tux or suit with a jacket (no jeans or t-shirts). Girls typically wear an evening gown or the like. Teens will typically bring a change of clothes and shoes for the afterparty.

### ***Is dinner included at Prom?***

Yes, there will be an Italian buffet and individual desserts at the Prom venue. We will also have drinks and snacks at the after-party. Gluten Free and Dairy Free options are available. Please note dietary restrictions on your registration.

### ***What meals are included during Prom weekend?***

At this time, the teens are responsible for their lunch on Saturday. We will serve diner and individual desserts at the Prom venue. We will also have drinks and snacks at the after-party. Breakfast on Sunday morning will be provided.

### ***Are pictures being taken?***

Yes, there will be a photo area set up outside of the Prom venue and will be open at 5:30pm with a photographer. It is the responsibility of the attendee to ensure they attend the session in order to have pictures. These will be sent out digitally after Prom.

### ***Does my teen have to attend the lock in?***

No, you and your teen can decide the portion of the event you want them to attend. When you register, you can choose for them to attend Prom ONLY, Prom and the Lock in, or Prom, Afterparty and Lock in, or the Lock on ONLY. If you choose the first two options, you will be responsible for their transportation, picking them up from the venue or the church building.

### ***Why are we having a lock in?***

We chose to have a lock in this year to accommodate those who will be traveling from out of town and would not be able to return home after Prom. All out of town attendees have the option to book their own hotel, stay with family or friends, or attend the lock in. The Charlotte attendees are also welcome to stay at the lock in, but it is not required. Our church building has 3 large rooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor where everyone can have room to sleep and be separated. We will also have a number of chaperones spending the night as well.

### ***Will there be chaperones in attendance?***

Yes! Legally we are required to have one chaperone per ten teens, however we have many more than that. Each church in our region that has more than 5 teens attending will also provide a chaperone from their home church. We encourage parents from out of town to connect with their church's chaperone. At each of the activities. We also have a number of parents involved supporting the event as well.

### ***As parents, how can I prepare my teen to attend?***

Events are more fun with friends. Encourage them to come in groups or with a date. Prepare ahead of time. Consider what scriptures to share with them that will help them. They can even memorize one they want to be intentional to implement.

### ***Can I talk to someone planning the event?***

Yes! There will be a virtual Q&A Session to learn more about Prom and ask specific questions. We will host one for parents and one for teens on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and 8:00pm (respectively).

### ***Are there any hotels close by?***

Yes! There are 3 hotels below that are within 10 minutes of the Prom venue that we would recommend. Feel free to call them directly to make a reservation. They are all close to restaurants as well.

- Courtyard by Marriot Charlotte Matthews (704) 846-4466
- Sleep Inn Matthews (704) 841-1660
- Hampton Inn Charlotte/Matthews (704) 841-1155

### ***More Questions?***

Contact [teenevents@thecharlottechurch.org](mailto:teenevents@thecharlottechurch.org) if you have more questions and we will be happy to assist you.

