STRENGTH TO STAND

2027



JANUARY 16–18

EVERYTHING DUE 12/20

INFORMATION PACKET

WHAT IT IS

Strength to Stand is a collection of student conferences, camps, and more pioneered by the Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association. For nearly 40 years, STS has worked to provide the next generation of the local church an atmosphere where they can experience salvation, participate in worship, and grow deeper in their faith. The primary audience served are ages 12-18 with hundreds of churches from across the Southeast.

SAFETY

At Strength to Stand, we know that your child's safety is your top priority—and it's ours too. That's why we go above and beyond to create a secure, supervised environment throughout the entire STS Conference weekend. Our dedicated safety team is made up of trained volunteers who monitor both the perimeter and interior of the LeConte Center to always ensure a safe and welcoming atmosphere. In addition, we partner with local law enforcement, with uniformed police officers present on-site, providing an added layer of security and peace of mind. We're also fully prepared for any medical emergencies with certified EMTs stationed at the venue and ready to respond immediately to any health-related concerns. You can rest easy knowing that while your student is experiencing life-changing worship,
biblical teaching, and community, their safety is in expert hands.

BEING INVOLVED

At Strength to Stand, parents are an important part of the conference experience. Here are some simple and meaningful ways you can stay involved:

• **Pray intentionally** – Cover your student, their leaders, and the weekend in prayer. Ask God to prepare their hearts and move powerfully in their lives.

• **Stay connected** – Follow along on our app and social media for daily updates, speaker highlights, and worship moments. It's a great way to experience the weekend alongside your student.

• **Chaperone** – We welcome parent chaperones! Whether you're helping with transportation or just being a positive presence, your involvement matters. See Brad for information!

• **Encourage before they go** – Write a short note, send a prayer, or pack something meaningful to remind them you're thinking of them while they're away. Follow up afterward – When your student returns, ask about their favorite moments and what God taught them. Your support can help them hold onto what they experienced.

STS CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

The Strength to Stand Conferences are designed to offer a well-balanced, intense conference that will challenge our students to go beyond the surface of casual Christianity and foster them into a lifetime commitment to Jesus Christ. Born of a vision to see thousands of students congregating in the Great Smoky Mountains, these conferences are designed for students yearning for a deeper, more effective relationship with Christ. In addition to discipleship, students will be given the opportunity to respond to the Gospel. In these moments, our team along will follow up on any decisions made and encourage our students to share with you, how God is moving in their life!

STS CONFERENCE LINEUP : Speakers

SCOTT DAWSON, Evangelist - Scott Dawson has been preaching the Gospel since he was a teenager. The ministry that began with simple testimonials and youth rallies has grown into an evangelistic association that reaches across age and denomination lines in evangelistic efforts to offer a unifying message of hope: the Good News of Jesus Christ. Scott makes it a priority to keep his presentations real, innovative, and contemporary. Scott is the author of *Dear Lord Why? The Complete Evangelism Guidebook, Evangelism Today, Tug, Emerge N Engage, and Nothing to Lose*. Scott lives in his hometown of Birmingham, Alabama, with his wife, Tarra. They have two children, Hunter (Shannon), and Hope and two grandsons, Jett and Duke.

PRESTON PERRY, Speaker - Preston Perry is a poet, performance artist, teacher, and apologist from Chicago. By the grace of God, Preston has become a formidable communicator of the Gospel. His love for people inspires him to pair transparency and vulnerability with his creativity in a way that promotes freedom. Preston pursues engagement with people from various faith backgrounds. He has a palpable passion for God's word and stands on Biblical truth amidst his study of other religions. Preston's writing and teaching has been featured on ministry platforms like The Gospel Coalition, Desiring God, the Poets in Autumn Tour, and Legacy Disciple. Though Preston shares God's desires for humanity publicly - he considers his family his primary ministry. Preston resides in Atlanta with his wife Jackie and their three beautiful daughters and son.

ED NEWTON

Dr. Ed Newton seeks to inspire people to become and make disciples of Jesus

wherever they go. He is the lead pastor of Community Bible Church in San Antonio, TX, and holds his Doctorate of Ministry in addition to authoring several books. He and his wife, Stephanie, and their four children live in San Antonio, where he's most likely shooting hoops with his son when he's not preaching or writing.

TOM RICHTER
Tom pastors Cullman First Baptist Church in North Alabama and travels to speak about Jesus. He previously served 14 years at New Hope Christian Church in Queens, NY. Raised in Murray, Kentucky, Tom holds degrees from Murray State University, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Beeson Divinity School. He's married to Jackie with three children: Katie, Carson, and Anna.

STS CONFERENCE LINEUP: Artists
CHARITY GAYLE
Charity Gayle houses a powerful voice that has a fresh yet reminiscent sound. She loves the Lord with a fierce faith and was raised in a home full of worship. Charity lives in Houston and leads worship with her husband, Ryan Kennedy. They are cultivating a movement for 24-hour prayer and worship called GatherHouse, and are continuing to write songs and spread the gospel in the US and globally.

STS WORSHIP
Worship Leaders – Born out of Birmingham, AL, STS Worship is a collective of pastors, musicians, and songwriters passionate about leading people to Jesus. Since launching in 2020 as a ministry partner of Strength to Stand, the team has become known for creating dynamic, Gospel-centered worship experiences at events across the country – from student camps and conferences to local churches. Blending original songs and fresh takes on anthems like *Who Else* (Live at Conference), STS Worship crafts moments of worship that connect with a rising generation. Their heart is simple but bold: to call people to Christ and share the hope of the Gospel – knowing that songs can go where they physically cannot.

KB
KB is a Dove Award-winning rapper, speaker, author, and podcaster known for his chart-topping albums and cultural impact. He cohosts the *Southside Rabbi* podcast, leads the global HGA movement, and released his debut book,

Dangerous Jesus, in 2023 alongside *His Glory Alone II*. Above all, he values being a husband and father.

...OTHER ARTISTS ARE BEING ADDED TOO!



LODGING
Best Western Toni Inn
Address: 3810 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
Phone: (865) 453-9058 or 800-422-3232

The Best Western Toni Inn offers:

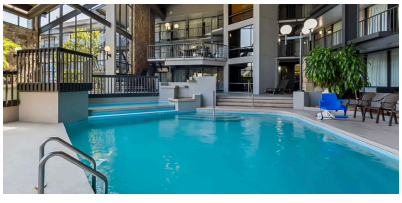
Whirlpool Rooms

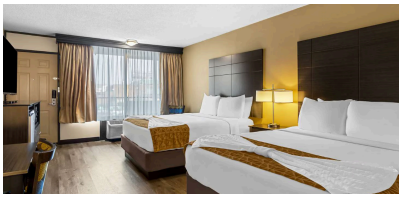
In-room Coffee Makers and Small Refrigerators

Free Continental Breakfast

Heated indoor and outdoor Swimming Pools







SUMMARY, BREAKDOWN, ITINERARY:

- Dates: **Jan 16-18**
- Deposit: **$75 Due on Sign-Up** *(This is non-refundable, and will count towards the total cost.)* ***Rest of payment ($85) is due by December 20th****!*
- Cost for Conference & Lodging: **$160 per student**
- Meals: Meals are on our own - everyone will need money for meals. Breakfast is free at our hotel. Participants will need money for **lunch & dinner on the 16th, 17th, and lunch on the 18th**.
- How much money do I need to plan for?
  - Our meals will be about $12-$15 each. We will be creative and hit mostly fast food places for lunch and maybe a pizza place for dinner one night. We plan to eat at Big Daddy's Pizzeria for the first night before the conference.
  - Suggested amount of spending money for **meals is $75**.
  - There will be artists and other promotional items available at the conference. $40+/- would be sufficient funds for that - *if desired*.
  - We will make a Go-Cart/PuttPutt run during one of the days. $10-$12
  - Snacks - PACK THEM AND BRING THEM WITH YOU.
  - ***Suggested total: $100*** (this is just suggested, you know what you can afford.)
  - PLEASE NOTE: If money is an issue of deterring your student from attending this trip, please notify Brad. We do not want money to keep them from this great opportunity to grow in Christ and with other Christian friends. **We will make a way for them**.

Itinerary:

January 16th: Meet at Unity @ 8:00am. We will load the trailer, put things on the vans, gather and pray then leave!

January 18th: We will be leaving the LeConte Conference Center around 11am. We will stop for lunch on the way home. We are aiming to return by 7pm - Depending on the Schedule for the Conference, this time might change. We will send notifications via REMIND, Realm, and Facebook about our ETA.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Do Not bring *anything* illegal. No weapons, tobacco products, vapes or any other smoking device/paraphernalia, drugs, alcohol, video games or gaming equipment; I feel you are getting the point here.

WHAT NOT TO BRING: (from STS)
o TVs or gaming systems
o Tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs
o Fireworks of any nature
o Weapons of any kind (guns, knives, etc.)
o Any paraphernalia for pranks
o Clothing with questionable or inappropriate slogans, images, etc.
o Clothing that promotes alcohol, tobacco, or inappropriate items
o Anything else that would be a distraction for your group or other churches

WHAT TO BRING
BIBLE, Note book/Journal, pen/pencil, money for food/snacks/gifts/swag, a good attitude, respect, deodorant, clean clothing that is appropriate to wear in front of yo gramma and appropriate for weather, all your shower stuff, tooth brush and tooth paste...you are picking up on it well now! (Bedding and Towels are supplied)

WHAT TO BRING: (from STS)
o Bible
o Notebook and pen
o Enough modest casual clothes for the entire conference (3 days, 2 nights)
o Money for meals
o Spending money for snacks or STS/artist merchandise

Parents, please help our ministry team and prepare your student for this time. Without a doubt, your student will experience Christ in a big way with us at STS. Let's work together to prepare the way for the Him to move!

Daily Schedule (Tentative)
Alpha Session
Saturday, **January 16, 2026**
5:00 PM – Session I
7:30 PM – *Free Time*
11:00 PM – Church Time
12:00 AM – Lights Out!
Sunday, **January 17, 2026**
7:00 AM – Personal Devotion
8:00 AM – Session II
10:00 AM – *Free Time**
5:00 PM – Session III
7:30 PM – *Free Time*
11:00 PM – Church Time
12:00 AM – Lights Out!
Monday, **January 18, 2026**
7:00 AM – Personal Devotion
8:00 AM – Session IV
10:00 AM – Head for home – See you next year!

***NOTE**:
During the day we will have ***free time***. Depending on weather, we may go for a hike, walk around Gatlinburg, Bass Pro, SMKW, Tanger Outlets, Go-Carting, Putt-Putt, Mountain Coaster Ride, etc. Always dress appropriate! Who knows what we will get into?!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
We need 2 female and 2 male chaperones who are 21 or older to help us on this trip. If you are 21 or older, consider spending an amazing weekend with our student ministry! You will not regret it. Contact Bro. Brad for details, info, and training.

Parents, if you have any other concerns, questions, etc. use the info below to connect with Brad.

Bro Brad's Info:
Cell: 606-571-6192
Email: ubcyouth.ashland@gmail.com
Office: 606-324-7157

PS. As more information comes in to me, I will be passing it on to everyone. We will have special forms that will need to be signed, leader safety training our leaders will have to go through along with any changes they make on their end.

Get Signed up here!