

California YMCA Youth & Government
presents

How to Act in the Outside World

Believe it or not, the rest of the country isn't like California. I know, right? Here are a few Do's and Don'ts that will help you navigate the outside world:

- Always address adults as ma'am (ladies) or sir (dudes). Particularly the adults from the South, who will consider it rude for you not to do so.
- If you address adults, please use their last names and call them Mr./Ms. (Ms. Wickstrom, Mr. Glasman). Many times in a professional setting it's considered rude to call a woman Mrs., so stick with Ms., just to make sure.
- Please and Thank You aren't just the magic words, they are compulsory responses.
- People from the South (and even a few from the North) tend to have accents that are adorable, [like a cute little puppy or tiny kitten](#). However, do NOT try to pet the Southerners, as some might bite.
- Do NOT make the egregious mistake of assuming that people from other states are rednecks, gun nuts, against gay marriage, or in some way less evolved or open-minded than your awesome California selves. BEING OPEN-MINDED MEANS RESPECTING DIFFERENT OPINIONS, not just being more liberal than someone else.
- Be comfortable with silence, listen more than you speak, and ask questions about other people. These are general life tips that will make people like you more.
- Call your parents/grandparents/guardians every day, even if you need to borrow Allyssa's phone to do so. They are fond of you and will appreciate knowing you are alive.
- Be nice and smile. [Click here to prove you read this](#).
- Do NOT cuss. If you need to pause and think about a more precise noun, verb or adjective, that's OK.
- Do NOT become cliquey; you will miss out on a lot by not making the most of your time with our entire delegation. You aren't going to become BFFs with everyone, but you will come out of this a more interesting and well-rounded person for the time you spend together.
- Do try and make new friends.
- Do have fun.
- Do take lots of pictures.
- Do stay hydrated (drink more water than soda) and get enough sleep.

We sincerely hope that these tips help you out and will help you avoid most awkward social incidents.