

CONFERENCE POLICIES & BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Please review the Conference Policies and Behavior Guidelines (from Packet #1) that you and your parents read, signed, and submitted. As a reminder...

1. Be aware that the intent of this conference is **not** to enable the participants to see the sites of the nation's capital. Nor is it to provide them the opportunity to visit with their friends in the area or to look over possible colleges. The intent is to provide them with an inside, up close and personal education in how policies are made at the federal level. Participants will be provided an experience of a lifetime.
2. It is the expectation of the conference leadership that a Youth Governor make the commitment to fully participate in all sessions by contributing your insights and thoughtful questions.
3. During the conference, **youth governors will not be released to anyone other than their parents unless parents have made advanced arrangements with the conference director and provide a notarized note** instructing the conference director to release their teen. The note must also state that the parents of the participant will not hold the conference director or the YMCA of the USA liable for the well-being of the participant during the time he/she is away. Participants will not be permitted to miss scheduled activities.

Youth Governors represent the best of thousands of young people in YMCA Youth In Government. To ensure our group of youth governors consistently represents the program and to ensure future programs, the following behavior guidelines will be observed by each youth governor:

1. The possession of alcohol, firearms or illegal drugs is grounds for the offender to be sent home immediately, at his or her parent's expense.
2. Smoking is discouraged at all times, and will not be permitted at any conference activity, including activities in the University. **This is a smoke-free conference**
3. Adequate rest during the conference is a must. For this reason, Youth Governors are required to be in their own dorm room between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. and quiet at 11:00pm. Dozing off or slumping in seats during speaker presentations is not acceptable.
4. To guarantee privacy, visitation to the rooms of Youth Governors of the opposite sex at any time during the conference is not allowed.
5. During the week, Youth Governors are not permitted to wander from the main group. For their safety, youth governors will not be allowed to roam the city at night on their own.
6. Youth Governors are expected to arrive **early (10 minutes)** for all scheduled activities.
7. Youth Governors are expected to model the best of behavior and demonstrate a supportive and positive attitude at all times. Recognize that event schedule may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

The conference director and leadership are authorized and will send home at their own expense any youth governor who, in their judgment, is unwilling or unable to respect these behavior guidelines.