

THE YOUTH GOVERNOR AS A SERVANT LEADER

During our conference in Washington, D.C., you will have the opportunity to observe a number of public policy makers. They will represent our federal government, the national press, and those who influence policy from the outside. The one thing each speaker has in common is that they use their leadership skills to influence those around them.

We will spend many blocks of time discussing the concept of leadership and exploring Servant Leadership. For those of you who will serve as Governor next year, this discussion may open your eyes to additional ways to use your office to influence the people you serve in your state program. For those of you who have already served, our discussions may open your eyes to additional ways you can use future leadership positions to influence those you serve.

In preparation for these discussions, review in advance and bring with you the issues platform on which you ran for Youth Governor in your state. If you did not run on a platform in your state, please take some time to identify and review one or two issues of importance to you (i.e. childhood obesity, education reform, etc.)

This assignment is to help you reflect on your concepts of leadership. It is important that you bring with you a copy of your platform or information regarding issues of importance you have chosen for our small group discussions.

OUTSTANDING STATESMEN BEHAVIOR

This conference has earned an excellent reputation in Washington because most former participants have exhibited outstanding behavior during the week. Instead of simply looking at the outside of the buildings where important national decisions are made as would a typical youth group in D.C., we will have the opportunity to meet some of the people who work in those buildings and who make those decisions.

Because of the caliber of the speakers we will hear and because we represent the best of the 50,000+ youth who participate in YMCA Youth & Government programs throughout the USA, we have a responsibility to demonstrate “**Outstanding Statesmen**” behavior during the conference.

The conference staff advisors and your state directors also believe that this conference should be used to strengthen Youth Governors’ skills in how to conduct themselves in prestigious meetings such as the ones you will experience at the conference and to accept the responsibility for choosing the proper behavior. We see this as an investment in your future potential as a leader.

Former Youth Governors brainstormed what “**Outstanding Statesmen**” behavior would look like at this conference. Please study the information below and use it as a guide to your own behavior choices.

Listed below are guidelines for Outstanding Statesman behavior

- Metro Commuter Rail
- George Washington University
- Speaker Etiquette
- In General

Outstanding Statesmen Behavior On the Metro Commuter Rail

- While riding the escalators, remember to stand to the right and walk to the left.
- While on the boarding platforms, keep in mind that the Metro police have no sense of humor when

someone plays practical jokes near the edge of the platform.

- Allow exiting commuters to exit before you attempt to enter the car.
- Out of courtesy to the other commuters, speak softly while in the metro car.
- For purposes of logistics, we will attempt to keep our delegation together, so be alert as we board and exit the Metro.
- Move as far as you can to the interior of the car away from the doors

Outstanding Statesmen Behavior at The George Washington University

Keep in mind that we are the guests of an excellent Washington DC University. Leadership is accustomed to and expects guests to be courteous and in all ways to show respect for other guests.

Some tips for your consideration:

- Speak softly in common areas (lobby), especially when we are in informal groups entering the halls or waiting to depart.
- On those few evenings when we will return to the University after some of the guests have gone to bed:
 - As you enter and exit your dorm room, do not allow the heavy door to slam shut.
 - As you walk through our dorm hall in groups of two or more, keep your voice to a whisper.
- When making room to room calls to other Youth Governors, **take your time to guarantee** that you punch in the correct phone number, especially early mornings and at bed time.
- You will need to maintain neatness of your room as there is not a cleaning staff for dorm rooms. Out of respect for your room-mate, please ensure that your floor and room are relatively free of clutter.
- Governors should respect each other relative to need for sleep. This conference will be a memorable experience and you do not want to enjoy it (or remember it) halfway because of lack of sleep. You have been assigned to sleeping rooms with Youth Governors who have requested similar characteristics in a roommate (example: need for sleep, enjoys talking, etc.)

Outstanding Statesmen Behavior as it Relates to Etiquette with Speakers

Always keep in mind that our speakers are very busy people who have volunteered to give us some of their valuable time and as such, deserve our respect.

Acceptable and appropriate manner in which to ask a speaker a question:

- Stand and give your name and your state.
- Ask a concise, direct question of a single focus. Multifaceted questions are neither effective nor fair to the speaker or the other Youth Governors waiting to ask questions.
- If you tend to ramble, jot down your question in advance for quick reference.
- Questions should not be of a personal nature or a nature that will embarrass or put the speaker on the spot.
- Questions should not be self-serving. This includes giving the speaker a lecture, history lesson or an advanced monologue whose purpose is to impress the speaker or to bring attention to the questioner.
- You may choose to remain standing and keep eye contact with the speaker as he/she responds to your question or you may sit and keep eye contact.
- You should take care to make sure that your fellow Youth Governors have equal opportunity to ask a question. If you asked the previous speaker a question, hold back until others have had that opportunity during subsequent speakers.

Things you should do during a briefing by a speaker:

Keep good eye contact with the speaker and look as though you are interested whether you are or not.

Behavior which is considered rude during a speaker's briefing:

- Nodding off or sleeping. **This will have serious consequences.**
- Not keeping good eye contact (example: drawing on your note pad).
- Yawning
- Stretching
- Continuously looking at your watch.
- Talking to your neighbor, even in whispers.
- Nonverbal communication with a fellow Youth Governor which could be misinterpreted by the speaker as ridiculing him/her
- Chewing gum

General Behavior

You are an intelligent and responsible young adult and a recognized leader in your state. Because you are a leader, you understand the need for behavior boundaries. As such, we have the following “**Outstanding Statesmen**” expectations of you relative to the behavior you will choose during the conference:

- You understand what our behavior guidelines/boundaries mean and the reasons for them. Our expectation is that you will choose to follow these simple guidelines and that if you do choose to step outside the boundaries, you will be willing to accept the natural consequences.
- Our approach is that since we are all in this together, there is no such thing as an “innocent bystander” relative to inappropriate behavior.
- Profanity, jokes (practical or otherwise) which use someone else as their “butts” are beneath us and are unacceptable.
- The adults who will staff this conference are of Outstanding Statesmen caliber and you can be assured that you will be in good, safe hands, because they are the kind of adults who have high standards and who mean what they say.
- Punctuality. We not only expect that you will be on time for scheduled activities, we anticipate that you will demonstrate the caliber of leader that you are by being early.
- We expect that you will choose a **PACE (*Proper Attitude Changes Everything*)** attitude and that your positive attitude will allow you to be **flexible** as we may need to adjust our plans due to unforeseen circumstances during the conference.
- Of course, you will want to show the proper respect for your fellow Youth Governors that you would want to receive.
- The staff advisors will develop a trust relationship with you. We know that you will do nothing to destroy that relationship. But, if by the actions, you choose to demonstrate that your trustworthiness is questionable, you will be treated in an appropriate manner.