

# 2012 Youth Governors Conference: What's Next...

The Governor's Conference Planning Committee is looking forward to your attendance at the National Conference of YMCA Youth Governors. We are planning an exciting and hopefully motivational event for you.

Please review the information below very carefully. It deals with some preparation aids that will add to the quality conference experience. You will note that there are some sections in the schedule which are blank. This information is being held until you arrive on June 12th so that it can be as up-to-date as possible. You should bring this material with you to the orientation on the 12th.

1. Invite Member of the U.S. House and U.S. Senator. **(Per Packet #2 – SHOULD BE COMPLETE)**  
Make sure you have written your two U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative to invite them to meet you Hill Day. Refer to the sample email sent in packet #2.

If you do not invite them in advance in writing, please understand that you will not be allowed to invite them once you arrive in Washington. With their hectic schedules, this would not be fair to them.

If the legislator's staff invites you to attend at another time other than what is planned, please contact YGC Leadership.

2. Be able to recognize your Legislator. Visit [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) as well as the individual members' sites so that you will be able to recognize your U.S. Representative/U.S. Senator when you see them in D.C.
3. Understand that this conference will not just be a sight-seeing tour or an opportunity to visit friends, relatives or prospective colleges.

Keep in mind that we will be unable to release you to anyone other than your parents at the end of the conference unless you have a notarized note from your parents asking me to do so. The note must also state that parents/family will not hold the YMCA of the USA liable for your well-being during the time you are out of our care.

Additionally, the purpose of the conference is not to train you in how to serve as Youth Governor back home, but rather to build your skills as a leader. Though also not a main purpose, you will most likely enjoy informal discussions with fellow Youth Governors of the various ways state youth government programs are run.

4. Approx. \$175.00 - \$200.00. Study the Meal Deal sheet which details the items for which you will need to bring money. You will need to bring \$20 in cash with you to cover your lunches for 4 days. The cash will be turned into the YGC Leadership Team upon arrival. Money to cover meals before arrival and after departure from the conference. Your other needs will be round trip metro train from Reagan National Airport (\$5.00) and money for snacks and souvenirs.

REMEMBER: Your lodging from Saturday evening (June 9<sup>th</sup>) through Thursday morning (June 14<sup>th</sup>), all program fees, and transportation during the conference have been taken care of.

5. As we anticipate each of you will most likely enter a college or post-secondary ed. opportunity, we will enjoy a university dorm experience for our lodging. However, unlike a regular dorm stay, each person will be provided with a linen pack for use while at The George Washington University.

Each pack includes two sheets, a pillow case, a light bedspread, a large towel and a washcloth. Pillows are not included in the provided linen packs. Bathrooms will be stocked with hand soap and tissues but you must bring your own toiletries.

Please note that the university does not supply an ironing board or iron.

6. Review behavior guidelines, decorum and Youth Governor Evaluation. Study what "Outstanding Statesmen" behavior looks like at this conference and the evaluation that will be sent to your State Director.
7. Study the sheet which describes your daily needs for clothing. Last year's Governors begged us to stress upon you the importance of bringing comfortable shoes because there will be lots of walking!
8. Arrive rested. Even though your schedule is hectic with school ending, do what you can to get some rest before you arrive. Your efforts will pay off in the quality experience you will have.
9. In order to be admitted to the secure federal buildings, be sure to bring two forms of identification. An original Social Security card and photo identification (like a driver's license) would be ideal. If you do not have a photo identification license, bring your original Social Security card and another original form of identification. Some may have a school issued photo ID.

All foreign nationals must present their passport. All other forms of foreign identification will not be accepted. Individuals whose identification does not exactly match the data submitted for entry or have an improper form of ID may be denied admittance. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- Valid Government issued United States drivers license
- Valid Government issued United States identification card
- Valid United States or other official government issued passports
- Valid United States State Department ID
- For foreign nationals, only VALID passports are accepted

10. We are also asking each Youth Governor to be prepared to facilitate one ice breaker that you may have used back home in YIG or at school. During various periods, a name of a Youth Governor will be drawn and he/she will have the opportunity to facilitate an ice breaker with the group.

Ice breakers should not require props, but can involve supplies that we already have on the conference site, e.g. paper, tape, pens, magic marker, or something simple you may want to pack from home. If you think you'll need some of these basic supplies, please let us know ([info@ymcaygc.org](mailto:info@ymcaygc.org)) so we can make sure to have them on hand for you.

11. In beginning our day and at certain meals, Youth Governor's will be invited to share an Opening Thought or Inspiration. (i.e. an inspiring poem, a prayer or reflection) This will be voluntary and a sign-up sheet will be posted for everyone to easily select a session. Many of you will already have a

poem or message at your fingertips from previous YMCA events or camping experiences. Thanks in advance for volunteering to share with us.

12. After flying into Reagan National Airport, head to Baggage Claim and get your luggage. A YMCA volunteer will greet Youth Governors with a "Welcome YMCA Youth Governors" sign as each attendee will be checked in on site.

A volunteer will escort you and fellow Youth Governors to board the metro CVA train (or taxi) together. Please pay close attention to any instructions they may give you.

You will take the Blue Line to Foggy Bottom station where another committee member (with another sign) will meet you and direct you to the Potomac House on George Washington University's campus.

Conference Advisors will be in place to greet you at the Potomac House at 9:00 a.m. and our session will begin at 3:00pm. After checking in, you may enjoy meeting fellow Youth Governors, getting involved in the early conference happenings, and relaxing until our program session begins. Dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be part of the evening program presentation.

Your Washington DC address will be:

The George Washington University

2129 Eye Street NW

Washington, DC 20052

In case of emergency, parents may call the YMCA of the USA on-site staff...

YMCA Youth Governors Conference Hotline

660-988-9622 or email: [info@ymcaygc.org](mailto:info@ymcaygc.org)