

YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Handbook

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I. The Background of the Conference

In 1967, a group of young people, having enjoyed their experience in the State Youth in Government Programs, determined that the experience could be broadened to a more meaningful level by participation in a conference dealing with matters of national and international concern. As a result of their idea and the work that followed, the first YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs had its small beginning in 1968 at Stone Mountain, Georgia. There were eight states in attendance and the Sears Foundation was generous enough to underwrite the program expenses of the conference. The conference direction was established by the tremendous attitudes of the youth involved the first year and made it possible for subsequent conferences to be improved and strengthened. Since the first conference in the summer of 1968, the number of states participating has grown to 33 and 500 participants last summer. The program took an international turn with the involvement of students from France participating in 1988 and a Soviet delegation in 1989. It is anticipated that the program will continue to grow until youth from all states with Youth in Government programs are involved.

A. Purpose of the Conference

This program offers unusual opportunities for a young person to do research in the area of national and international concerns; to organize this information into a document proposal; to engage in intensive discussion; and to debate these proposals with outstanding young people from other states. Advisors and young people who have participated in the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs are unanimous in their belief that this experience makes a vital contribution to helping citizens learn more about the democratic form of government. In addition to the above, the specific objectives of the conference include:

1. Increased awareness of national concerns and issues.
2. Increased understanding of the Federal Government and its relation to state, national and international matters.
3. Enhanced communications to appropriate persons and groups at the Federal government level.
4. Increased understanding of needs, responsibilities, and opportunities of youth in government.
5. To work creatively together with youth and adults.
6. Strengthen commitment and better understanding of the Christian values of the YMCA.

B. It is important to keep in mind that this is a CONFERENCE and not a legislative session. The major working objective is to prepare and consider in depth proposals relating to crucial national and international concerns, then to determine the priorities for these concerns in order that youth representatives may present those of highest priority to responsible government officials. The use of technical motions and restrictive parliamentary procedure will be discouraged.

C. The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) is composed of advisors selected by the Director of the conference.

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II. Delegation Selection

The delegates are selected from individual state Youth in Government Programs. Each year, the CPC will determine the maximum number of delegates that any one state may send to the conference. States not having a Youth in Government program but desiring to take part may apply directly to the Conference Director. Delegations of five or more must have one advisor. States are required to bring one adult for every 10 youth attending.

A. Qualifications

Each young person desiring to participate in the YMCA Youth conference on National Affairs must have participated in his/her state YMCA Youth in Government program (if one exists) and must prepare a written proposal on a matter of national or international concern. (Young people participating as members of the Conference newspaper need not prepare proposals, as described in Section X). The proposal must not exceed one page (front and back, typed, single-spaced) and must be submitted to conference director by the appropriated deadline.

B. Pledge of Responsibility

Each person who attends the Conference (delegates and adults) pledges to devote his/her time and energies toward the goal of the conference, to read the rules carefully and to abide by them in all aspects.

III. Proposals

Each delegate participating in the Conference is required to write a proposal on a matter of importance to our nation. It may be national or international in scope. Each delegate within a State must clear his/her proposal topic with the State Director. It is mandatory that each delegate within each State write on a different topic. This will mean that a state with 12 delegates will have 12 different topics. However, some or all of these topics may be duplicated by delegates from other states. Proposals heard in the previous year's General Assembly and Plenary Session are not allowed the following year. The list of banned topics will be provided to the trip leaders each year.

IV. Proposal Sharing Groups

During the first day of the conference, all participants will take part in a Proposal Sharing group. The proposal sharing groups could be called support or study groups. The purpose of the proposal sharing groups is to allow delegates to relax and work into the flow of the Conference. The atmosphere should be supportive and helpful.

A. Proposal Sharing Groups will consist of 10-15 delegates from different states who have written proposals on dissimilar topics.

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- B. Total amount of time will be shared equally by the authors of the proposals assigned to the sharing group.
 - C. Delegates may offer the author helpful suggestions intended to strengthen the proposal. The author is not obligated to incorporate the suggestions into the proposal.
 - D. No voting, debating, or scoring of proposals will take place in the Proposal Sharing Group.
 - E. The Proposal Sharing Group shall be lead by a facilitator selected by the CPC, based on recommendations from State Directors prior to the start of the conference. The facilitator must have been a participant in at least one previous Conference on National Affairs. The facilitator will determine the total amount of time to be spent on each proposal by dividing the total number of participants by the total number of minutes available to the sharing group. The facilitator shall act as timekeeper.
- V. Recognition
- A. Starting with First Committee all delegates must state their name and delegation along with any actions they plan on taking before speaking.
 - B. The use of any prop while speaking will be called out of order during all committees, General Assembly, and Plenary.
- VI. Committee Hearing Groups

Each committee hearing group shall consist of delegates who have written proposals on similar topics.

A strict agenda must be adopted and followed at the outset of the 1st Committee. 5-3/4 hours (345 minutes) are allotted for the 1st Committee. Thirty minutes at the beginning of the session will be reserved for the chair to explain the rules, arrange the agenda and answer questions. The remaining time 5-1/4 hours (315 minutes) will be divided equally among the proposals for debate and scoring. (i.e., minutes divided by the number of proposals=amount of time for each proposal). The above time allotments must include an adequate amount of time for scoring proposals at the conclusion of the proposal presentation. Time allotments may be adjusted by the chair to fit the committee needs. The motion to hear an amendment may be made by any delegate, not just the amendment author, during all committees.

TIME FRAME FOR EACH PROPOSAL

1. Opening remarks by the proposal author (2 minutes).
2. Non-debatable, technical questions (2 minutes).
3. Chairperson opens debate (Con and pro speakers will alternate; speaking 1-1/2 minutes each). Yielding to another speaker is out of order during 1st Committee.
4. Author's summation (2 minutes).
5. Proposal scoring ballot distributed to each person or combined author group.
6. Scoring ballots returned to chair.

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Note: Previous question is acceptable after the first round of debate, if approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

A. First Committee Hearing Group

1. The purpose of the First Committee Hearing Group is to study and discuss each proposal assigned to the committee, to make any amendments deemed necessary by the majority and to rank the proposal in order of priority. First Committee shall be comprised of delegates with similar proposals.
2. Combination of similar concerns occurs prior to and in First Committee Hearing Group. It is recommended, but optional, that authors dealing with identical topics combine their proposals. An author intending to combine with another in the same First Committee must do so during the preparation time, before the regular order of business, at the beginning of First Committee. These delegates must notify the First Committee Chairperson as soon as possible to facilitate the agenda. Combination of proposals from different First Committee Hearing Groups must be cleared by the Conference Director prior to the start of Proposal Sharing Groups. Combination of proposals after First Committee preparation time is not permitted.
3. When the vote is taken to determine priority, there will be one score for each proposal topic, (e.g., If six authors have combined their proposals, they each receive 1/6 of 1 score).
4. The author must present the proposal in the form in which the author wishes it to be debated. All amendments proposed in 1st Committee must be approved by a majority vote; author consent is not required for amendment passage.
5. It is suggested that each delegate casting a vote consider the following criteria:
 - a. National/International Importance
 - b. Evidence of Research
 - c. Feasibility
 - d. Preparation and Presentation
 - e. Debatability
 - f. Originality
6. A score order will be done by each member of the First Committee Hearing Group on all proposals immediately after each individual presentation. After the results are tabulated, the proposal with the lowest raw score total will be scored one in the First Committee Hearing Group by the Conference Advisor Tabulators; the proposal with the second lowest raw score total will be ranked second and so on. The top nine proposals will be sent to the Second Committee Hearing Group.

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7. Proposals assigned to a Committee Hearing group may be withdrawn only by a majority vote of the Committee. If the author wishes to withdraw his/her sponsorship of a proposal and it is not the desire of a majority of the committee, the committee is responsible for finding a new sponsor of the proposal. Upon withdrawal of a delegate's proposal during first committee, the author of the proposal shall consequently forfeit his/her voting privileges during said committee. If no author is present at the conference for a proposal that is assigned to a committee, it shall be withdrawn.
8. Chairperson shall be appointed prior to the Conference by the Conference Director based upon recommendations of State Directors and submission of delegates names prior to the Conference.
9. The chairpersons shall meet with the Presiding Officers at the beginning of the second day of the conference and as frequently as necessary and proper.

B. Second Committee Hearing Group

1. The Second Committee Hearing Group consists of the combination of two (2) committee groups from the First Committee Group process.
2. The 2nd Committee guidelines are the same as those used for the 1st Committee with the following exceptions:
 - a. Only five hours and thirty minutes are available for rules, debate, and scoring. Explanation of rules will be five minutes, leaving five hours and twenty-five minutes or 325 minutes for proposal debate and scoring. Divide 325 minutes equally by the number of proposals assigned to the 2nd Committee.
 - b. Motions to suspend the rules to extend debate time on any proposal will not be accepted.
 - c. If a delegate's combination proposal does not make it to the 2nd Committee agenda, he/she will have a full vote in second committee. Hearing Group Delegates whose combination proposals appears on the agenda must continue to share a vote.
3. Each proposal in all second committees shall be given the same amount of time for debate and other procedures. The amount of time per proposal shall be set by the Presiding Officers with consultation by the Conference Director and Planning Committee.
4. All proposals will be voted upon by using the suggested criteria listed under the First Committee Hearing Group Process (Item 5) and ranked in the same manner. The seven (7) top proposals from each of the Second Committee Hearing groups will then be sent to the Third Committee Group.

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5. The Co-Chairpersons of the Second Committee Hearing group will consist of two chairs of the combined first Hearing Groups. The co-chairs will each preside 50% of the time. The rotation schedule shall be determined by the individual co-chair teams prior to the first meeting of the Second Committee Hearing Group.
6. If a delegate's combined proposal does not make it to the Second Committee Hearing Group agenda, he/she will have a full vote in the Second Committee Hearing Group. Delegates whose combined proposal appears in the agenda must continue to share a vote.

C. Third Committee Hearing Group

1. Each Third Committee Hearing Group is comprised partially of the delegates whose proposals did not pass out of the four (4) groups from the Second Committee Hearing Group process. Those delegates whose proposals pass out of the Second Committee will be assigned to a third committee that is composed of delegates who have not yet reviewed these proposals.
2. All proposals will be voted upon by using the suggested criteria listed Under the First Committee Hearing Group Process, and scored in the same manner.
3. The Presiding Officers of the Conference, shall serve as the Third Committee Hearing Group Chairpersons.
4. No points of order (only privately with presiding officer).
5. Points of information will be dealt with as presiding officer sees fit (Privately).
6. Two (2) minutes for opening and two (2) minutes for closing remarks for the author of the proposal.
7. Two (2) minutes for non-debatable, technical questions. (Only factual in nature).
8. An amendment period will begin after the first round of debate. Amendments will be in order for five (5) minutes. Presiding Officers will notify the delegates when amendments are in order and when the five minutes have elapsed. Amendments will only be accepted during this period.
 - a. Amendments must be submitted in writing, using the amendment form.
 - b. Presiding Officer determines whether or not the amendment is germane.
 - c. Amendments will be considered once the proper motion is made by any recognized delegate. This action will not be counted as pro or con time but will count against allotted proposal time.
 - d. One (1) minute opening statement by the delegate who is amending. One (1) minute con speech – against amendment.
One (1) minute pro speech – for amendment.

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Author's stand on amendment – 30 seconds.

Vote on amendment. Passage requires majority vote.

9. One (1) scoring ballot per proposal. If two (2) or more delegates combine their proposals, they have only one (1) vote between them when scoring proposals. If a combined proposal does not reach third committee, each delegate has a full vote. Each delegate has a full vote in all procedural questions.
10. Voice vote on all issues unless there is division of the house.
11. Previous question is in order after 7 minutes. 2/3 majority vote is required.
12. Each con/pro speech lasts a maximum of 90 seconds.
13. Chairperson remains neutral.
14. 15 minutes limitation for debate. No suspension of the rules is allowed for extension of debate.
15. Authors may not speak during debate as a pro speaker.
16. If a delegate's combined proposal does not make it to the Third Committee Hearing Group agenda, he/she will have a full vote on the Third Committee Hearing Group. Delegates whose combined proposal appears on the agenda must continue to share a vote. The top 9 proposals from each of the 3rd Committee Hearing Groups will be sent to the General Assembly/Plenary Session.
17. All placards must be made in stencil with the materials provided by the conference.

D. Yielding

Yielding will not be recognized during the First and Second Committees unless it is a proponent speaker yielding the remainder of his/her time to the proposal author's summation. In the Third Committee Hearing Group, yielding will be recognized after 45 seconds either to another delegate or the author's summation.

E. Committee Chairpersons

1. State delegates with five (5) or more delegates will be requested to submit the names of two (2) delegates to the Conference Director for possible selection as Proposal Sharing Group facilitators or Committee Hearing Group Chairpersons.

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2. State delegations with fewer than five (5) delegates will be requested to submit the name of one (1) delegate for possible selection as a Committee Hearing Group Chairperson. The Multi-State delegation is comprised of all delegations with fewer than five (5) delegates each.
3. The Conference Director will appoint committee chairs and alternates as needed on the basis of delegate names submitted by each State Director.
4. Committee Chairpersons cannot be first year delegates. Each committee hearing group chairperson will be required to study his/her responsibilities in advance and to review the procedures of this committee as outlined above and in subsequent handouts for each of the committee hearing groups. The Committee Chair nominees must have previous presiding experience.
5. The Committee Hearing Group Chairpersons will be trained in advanced as to the procedures of their committees as outlined above, and in subsequent handouts for each of the three (3) committee hearing groups. Chairs not attending training will be replaced by an alternate. Alternates will be submitted by state directors and be selected by the conference director.
6. If a Chairperson is called out of a committee hearing group, he/she must designate a temporary chairperson.

F. Committee Hearing Group Advisors

One adult in attendance will serve as an advisor to each hearing group. The role of the advisor is to assist the youth chairperson in seeing that proper time is allotted to each proposal and that all members of the committee are given an opportunity to adequately express their thoughts. Advisors will work with subcommittees to gain additional information on a proposal and will help in combining proposals or preparing substitute proposals or as needed by Chair.

VII. General Assembly/Plenary Session

Sessions in the General Assembly/Plenary Session will be held to enable all conference delegates to consider and discuss proposals, their relevancy, importance and need in accordance with final priorities recommended by the Hearing Groups and adopted by the delegates. All seating will be staggered when the situation permits so that the presiding officers can easily identify those wishing to speak. It is required that delegates occupy the seat designated by Presiding officers. Delegates will be assigned to General Assembly in the Proposal Book. If a delegate's proposal passes 3rd committee, he or she will be a permanent member of the General Assembly that their Proposal is assigned to. All other delegates are members of the General Assembly that they are assigned to in the Proposal Book and are not allowed admission to the other General Assembly.

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A. Presiding Officers

The Six Presiding Officers will be selected by the Conference the preceding year. Those six young adults will receive special training so that they will be qualified to preside over the session the entire conference. They will also serve as Reading Clerks, Timers, Parliamentarians and Rovers. Presiding Officers will alternate General Assemblies to allow exposure to all delegates prior to the Plenary Session.

B. Procedure for Proposals in General Assembly/Plenary Session

1. Proposals will be presented by authors in the priority order adopted by the CLC as determined in the Third Committee Hearing Group.
2. The total amount of time to be spent on each proposal will be limited to 30 minutes (unless a 2/3 majority of those present and voting decides to suspend the rules).
3. Procedures for Authors and Speakers
 - a. Four minutes for opening statement by author. Unused time may be yielded to technical questions, the author's summation or to the chair.
 - b. Four minutes for non-debatable technical questions.
 - c. Three minutes for a con speaker of intent.
 - d. Two minutes for a pro speaker of intent.
 - e. Upon completion of the debate period, the author will have 2 minutes for summation.
 - f. Debate Period
 - i) Pro and Con speakers will be recognized for 2 minutes alternately beginning and ending with a con speaker. Pro and Con speakers may ask questions of the author during debate.
 - ii) After 1 hour of debate, presiding officers will recognize speakers in the following order.
 - a) Those delegates who have not spoken that day.
 - iii) The floor is not relinquished by a delegate unless the delegate yields his/her time to some other specific delegate. Yielding time by a speaker must be made to a speaker of the same opinion. Pro speakers may yield to the author. Yielding time is allowed after the recognized speaker's first minute has elapsed. The chair will inform the speaker when one minute has elapsed. The name and state of the delegate receiving yielded time must be used in making the request. Only one delegate may approach the front to accept the yield. Delegates planning on yielding time should both approach the front when the speaker is first recognized. Accepting two yields will count as one recognition.
 - iv) Periodically in the General Assembly/Plenary Session, after the doors of the chambers are sealed and after a vote is taken, Presiding Officers may call for a caucus time. Each CLC Representative shall take attendance of his/her delegation and report the names of missing delegates to the Parliamentarian.

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- v) Amendments
 - a) Each amendment must be in writing and must include the names of its author. The proposal author cannot add a friendly amendment in General Assembly or Plenary.
 - b) Each amendment must be submitted to the Parliamentarian for approval. Amendments must be germane and should not be contrary to the intent of the proposal. The intent of the amendment will be determined by the justification, purpose and proposal for action as stated in the proposal paper.
 - c) Once the delegate's amendments have received the approval of the Parliamentarian, the delegate has been recognized, and the motion to adopt the amendment has been made, the amendment is submitted to the chair.
 - d) Upon submission to the chair, the amendment shall be read before the assembly. The motion to entertain the amendment must be seconded and approved by a majority of the assembly. If the motion fails the delegate shall not be charged with recognition.
 - e) The author has one (1) minute to explain the amendment.
 - f) Debate will include one (1) con and one (1) pro, each being allotted one (1) minute to speak. (These recognitions shall be counted as one-half [1/2] of a full recognition).
 - g) The author of the original proposal paper will then have one (1) minute to respond.
 - h) No amendment will be considered on yielded time.
 - i) Amendments will be recognized after the first round of con-pro debate on the proposal has been concluded. Amendments will be out of order after fifteen minutes of the proposal's time has elapsed.
- vi) Points of order will not be recognized by the Presiding Officer in the General Assembly and Plenary. Any questions regarding procedures or general information and not directly relating to debate are to be directed to other officers.
- vii) Motions for tabling are not allowed because their purpose is often to defeat the main motion.
- viii) Approval of a proposal in General Assembly and Plenary shall be recorded by delegates standing in conjunction with a voice vote unless division of the house is called. In such a case, the vote shall be recorded by a standing vote. The presiding officers may call for a division if there is any doubt about the voice vote.
- ix) General Assembly/Plenary Session Rules- The rules to govern the consideration of proposals in the Assemblies are intended to expedite debate with a free flow of information and the ultimate approval of the proposals which are deemed most important, urgent and representative of the delegates national concerns.
 - a) Points of order are not allowed.
 - b) Suspension of rules requires 2/3 majority vote for the first suspension and unanimous consent for a second suspension during the same proposal.

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- c) The previous questions may be called after 20 minutes has elapsed on the proposals and requires a 2/3 majority. For the previous question to be moved before the time limit, all six presiding officers must agree.
- d) Rules may be changed by submitting the change in writing to the CLC, which will decide whether or not to bring it to the General Assembly/Plenary Session. To be adopted in the General Assembly/Plenary Session a 2/3 majority vote is required.
- e) When there are no special YMCA National Affairs rules, Roberts Rules of Order will be used.
- f) Delegates wishing to be recognized should remain seated and raise their placard. They should not call out.
- g) If two proposals with conflicting views on the same topic reach the General Assembly/Plenary Session, they will be presented back to back and then voted upon.
- h) Absolutely no clapping after the defeat of either an amendment or a proposal or after a speaker is permitted. Controlled applause will be allowed following the passage of a proposal, but delegates will not be allowed to leave their seats to congratulate the author except outside of the chamber.
- i) Do not raise your placard or hand while the speaker is still addressing the chamber.
- j) Refer to the other speaker as "the previous delegate", not by proper name.
- k) Do not make reference to other proposals or amendments.
- l) Face and hand gestures during another delegate's speech are not permitted.
- m) Remain seated and quiet during an author's opening and summary statement.

4. Delegates will not be charged with a recognition when presenting their proposal.

C. Plenary Session

On the final day of the conference, all delegates will gather to discuss the highest rated proposal from each 3rd committee and the two highest rated of the 2nd highest rated in each 3rd committee (total of 6) in a Plenary Session. The rules will be the same for the Plenary Session as for General Assembly.

1. Consent Calendar

In order to assure consideration of meritorious proposals that do not reach the Plenary Session, the CLC shall compose a calendar of such proposals for accelerated consideration by the Plenary Session.

- a. After the first and second committees, the chairmen of these groups shall provide a Presiding Officer their list of eligible proposals that do not pass out of committee. Each Presiding Officer shall likewise compose such a list after third committee.

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- b. In addition to Committee Chairs and Presiding Officers, CLC members may also recommend proposals to be placed on the Consent Calendar by the CLC meeting on Wednesday.
- c. At the CLC meeting Tuesday morning, these nominated proposals shall be announced by the Presiding Officers. CLC Representatives shall discuss these proposals with the delegations during the Tuesday morning delegation meeting and informally throughout Tuesday.
- d. At the CLC meeting on Wednesday morning, each nominated proposal shall be voted upon. Those proposals which receive the unanimous support of all the CLC representatives and the Presiding Officers shall be placed on the Consent Calendar.
- e. During Thursday's Plenary Session, each proposal on the Consent Calendar will be presented by its sponsor(s) for two (2) minutes, after which an immediate vote will be taken. A 2/3 majority of delegates present and voting will be necessary for passage of proposals on the Calendar.

VIII. Conference Life Committee

The Conference Life Committee (CLC) is composed of the Presiding Officers and representatives elected by each state delegation that is comprised of five (5) or more delegates and whose names are submitted to the Conference Director by their respective State Directors. State delegations with fewer than five (5) delegates will combine their groups and select one (1) CLC Representative to represent them on the CLC. All CLC Representatives may not serve as Committee Hearing Chairpersons.

The CLC meets at the beginning of the Conference and as frequently thereafter as it deems necessary to make decisions that will ensure the best operation of the Conference in all its aspects. The CLC will consider and recommend group life controls and guidelines and handle requests from Conference members.

All proposals on general rules pertaining to the operation of the General Assembly/Plenary Session must go through the CLC for approval. The CLC will make decisions on the interpretation of the rules and all other operations of this year's conference. It will also make recommendations for next year's conference. The Conference Life Committee Advisor will serve as the advisor to the CLC and will assist as requested by the committee.

IX. Delegation Roundtable Chairs

Each delegation will select a Roundtable Chair before the conference. This delegate will be responsible for leading the debriefing session in the nightly delegation meeting. This is designed for delegates to express their joys and frustrations of the day. There will be a training session for these Roundtable Chairs on the first day of the conference.

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X. Conference Resource Advisors

Qualified persons knowledgeable in the areas of national and international affairs will serve as resource persons to the conference. It is their role to meet with any young person who seeks information about proposals under consideration. The role of the Conference Resource staff is NOT to do research for ones own proposal. If at all possible, the Resource people will be of alternative views and free of vested interests. Resource persons may be quoted by the delegates.

XI. Conference Newspaper

One youth delegate will be asked to serve as the editor of the Conference newspaper. This newspaper will report on special events, proposed changes in the rules of the Conference and other events of interest to conference participants. Each state is encouraged to bring a member of their press corps to serve on the editorial staff of the National Affairs Conference.

Members of the editorial staff are not required to submit a proposal. However, those not submitting a proposal must submit a news release on their State Youth in Government Program at registration. Members of Press may debate in General Assembly/Plenary Session.

XII. Dress Code

Committee hearing group dress code is business casual: Dress shorts, sport shirts, and blouses will be permitted until the end of the 2nd Committee. Bare midriffs, tank shirts, jeans, jean shorts, and t-shirts may be worn during free time only. Delegates are allowed to wear state delegation t-shirts all day Sunday.

(Note: the conference photo will be taken after lunch on Monday-business attire is recommended.)

During 3rd Committee and General Assembly/Plenary Session, young men and women are expected to wear nice business attire with appropriate dress shoes. (Note: Young men are expected to wear dress slacks, dress shirts with a tie, and most young men choose to wear a coat. Young women are expected to wear dress slacks, shirts, blouses, and dresses-most young women choose to wear business suits or dresses.) Delegates will not be allowed to wear hats during 3rd committee and General Assembly/Plenary Session.

XIII. Behavior

A. Mature and responsible behavior is expected from each delegate. Delegates should practice the four core values of the YMCA: caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

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- B. Delegates will be expected to adhere to the Conference curfew. Evening discussions may be held in the lobby of Lee Hall by those who wish to discuss the issues prior to curfew. Curfew lasts until 6:00 a.m. The only exception is a trip to, and only to, the bathroom.
- C. No one is permitted to leave the conference grounds. If, for any reason, a delegate should have to leave, he/she must clear this with the Conference Office and his/her advisor. Those delegates driving to the Conference will be asked to leave their keys with the Conference Office.
- D. Men will not be permitted on the women's floors, and women will not be permitted on the men's floors. Men must use the back stairs when accessing the 3rd floor of Lee Hall.
- E. Use of tobacco is not permitted.
- F. Any delegate who violates rules A-E shall be dealt with on an individual basis at the discretion of his/her state advisor. The Conference Director shall have the ultimate decision. Possible penalties include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Suspension of free time
 - 2. Loss of proposal sponsorship
 - 3. Loss of speaking privileges
 - 4. Required formal apology to the conference
 - 5. Loss of delegate privileges and departure from the conference.
- G. Delegations who fail to adhere to the posted curfew or other major offense will lose their speaking privileges for the entire next day.
- H. This is a YMCA Conference and there will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or use of drugs for non-medical purposes. Those in violation of these rules will be asked to contact their parents and make immediate arrangements for their departure.
- I. No fire burning in buildings, i.e., incense, candles, etc.
- J. All personal electronic devices must be turned off during sessions.

XIV. Meals

Attendance is required at all meals, and all participants are required to be on time for all meals. This includes breakfast, even though some delegates may not eat breakfast at home. All important announcements are made for the day following this meal.

XV. Athletics and Free Time

This is a working conference, thus very limited time is available for athletic competition or free time events. There will be planned recreational programs, including trips to points of interest on the one free afternoon. Blue Ridge has tennis courts, a gymnasium, swimming pool and other excellent facilities. The mountains lend themselves to hikes and mountain climbing. All recreation will be coordinated by a member of the Conference Advisor Staff.

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XVI. Devotionals

There will be a planned devotional at the close of each day. Delegations desiring to coordinate a devotional should contact their advisor ahead of time. Preference will be given to those state delegations who have not given a devotional in the previous two years.

DEVOTIONAL CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE SHEET

A planned devotional will be conducted at the close of each day. The emphasis of the evening devotionals should be of a religious or spiritual focus, with a concentration on reflection of the day, particular themes or topics. Activities, music selections and readings should encourage the group to reflect and review events encountered in a calm and relaxed atmosphere.

State delegations that conducted devotionals during the previous two years are NOT eligible to coordinate a devotional during this year's Conference. All other state delegations are eligible to plan and coordinate a devotional but must agree to the following guidelines and criteria.

1. State delegation advisors interested in coordinating a devotional MUST submit their state's desire to lead a devotion by the May registration deadline.
2. State delegations MUST limit their individual devotional presentation to a maximum length of 10 minutes. (Devotionals breaking the time limit will be interrupted at the 10 minute mark).
3. State delegations must limit their individual group member presentations to a maximum of 3 speakers/presenters. This will place less focus on any one individual and encourage more group involvement and activities.
4. Individual speakers or presenters MUST limit their presentations of two (2) minutes each.
5. Musical selections, songs, readings, poems, etc., are encouraged. Song sheets, poems, etc., are the responsibility of the coordinating state delegation and not the Conference Staff.
6. Small, inexpensive mementos may be distributed, if desired, by the coordinating state delegation.
7. A state delegation selected to coordinate a devotional may NOT allow other state delegations or individual delegates to participate in their devotional slot.
8. States coordinating a devotional MUST check in with the Devotional Advisor or Conference Director 15 minutes prior to devotion time on the evening that the devotional is to be conducted. Delegation leaders MUST review their agenda with the Devotional Advisor or Conference Director.

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XVII. Awards

- A. Presiding Officers - At the closing program, recognition will be given to the six delegates and six alternates selected for their outstanding statesmanship by the presiding office selection committee. (The procedures of this committee are available from the Conference Director). These six delegates will preside over the Third Committee Hearings and the General Assembly/Plenary Session the following year, provided they continue to show exemplary leadership qualities and serve as role models for the conference participants as determined by the Conference Planning Committee.
- B. Outstanding Statesmen will be recognized by a committee of adults chosen by the Conference Director. The Committee will recognize delegates who not only debate well, but also exhibit poise and tact.
- C. Press Corp Recognition will be given to the member of the press corps who has distinguished him/herself by extraordinary effort, writing and commitment to the conference media coverage. Such delegate shall be selected by the press advisor in consultation with the Conference Director.
- D. Outstanding Proposals will be recognized by the Resource Advisors.
- E. The Chandler Scholarship for Outstanding Christian Statesmanship (Given by Alumni Association)
- F. Premier Delegations - Those delegations who have met the following criteria will be named Premier Delegations at the closing ceremony on the last night of the Conference. All Premier Delegations will be listed on the first page of the Conference manual the following year. Criteria for selection are:
 - 1. Proposals, applications and fees in (TO THE NATIONAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE in Montgomery, Alabama) by the posted deadlines.
 - 2. 100% Attendance at all Caucuses
 - 3. Exceptional overall behavior of delegation, students and adults (code of conduct)
 - 4. Participation in all scheduled events
 - 5. Representation on CLC
 - 6. Participation in Press Corps
 - 7. No more than one proposal on the same topic
 - 8. No proposal submitted that is on the Banned Topics List
 - 9. If there are special circumstances, the state's CLC Representative shall take his/her case to the Conference Director.
 - 10. If all registration criteria is met and a delegate does not come to Conference, it will not count against delegations.

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XVIII. Travel

Each state delegation will arrange its own travel to and from Blue Ridge. When advised and possible, a representative of the conference will meet planes and buses. An additional cost is charged for local transportation.

XIX. What to Bring

Blue Ridge is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The weather in July normally includes hot and humid days but possibly cool nights with some rain. Most rooms are not air-conditioned.

Items to bring:

Alarm Clock

Attire for Celebration Dinner

Attire for Committee, General Assembly, and Plenary meetings

Attire for recreation

Comfortable Dress shoes (no flip-flops)

Athletic shoes

Accessories, socks and underclothes

Toiletry articles

Towels (non white)

You may also want to bring:

A Bible

Shoes for mountain climbing

Swimsuit

Water bottles

Camera and Film

Bug spray

Umbrella

Money for snacks and free time activities

(Optional trips may include a bus trip to the Biltmore Estate (aprox. \$30) or to another local place of interest.)

Please do not bring these items:

- Knives

- Firearms

- Matches, lighters, Candles, Incense (anything that burns)

- Tobacco Products

- Alcoholic Beverages

- Illegal Drugs

- Skate boards, Roller Blades, etc.

- Expensive jewelry or electronics

- Large amounts of cash

- Animals

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XX. Role of the Advisor

The adult advisor is in charge of and responsible for the delegation from his/her state. Advisors and the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs serve as encouragers, listeners, and supporters. They are expected to both adhere to, and enforce the conference rules.

It is the young people who are charged with facilitating debate and the youth leadership of the conference.

Each adult advisor is asked to share in the Conference Administration through the following roles, among others:

1. ROLE MODEL

2. Celebration Dinner Decoration
3. Committee Advisor
4. Recreation Coordinator
5. Information Center, Resource Advisor
6. Selection Committees
7. Recreation, Transportation, Medical
8. Devotionals
9. Newspaper
10. Dance
11. Closing Fire
12. Trips
13. Picture Sales
14. Evaluations
15. Conference Planning Committee
16. Paul Grist Award
17. Multi-State Delegation Leader
18. Conference Life Committee
19. Proposal Flow
20. Night Duty

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XXI. Proposal Form

Proposals will be submitted online either by your state director or by you individually. Please ask your state director for more information.

40TH YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE
ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS
June 30 – July 5, 2007

PROPOSAL NUMBER: (Leave blank, will be assigned by conference staff)

AUTHOR: (Participant Name, State Delegation)

TITLE or PURPOSE: (Briefly state the basic action of the proposal)

1. Major Areas to be Affected: (List the key entities that would be impacted by this proposal).
- 3.
4. Justification: (In paragraph form, tell why there is a need for your proposal.
5. Include any supportive information, include statistics, quotes, etc.,
6. you feel necessary. Don't include all of your facts. You will have
7. an opportunity to present your ideas during debate)
- 8.
9. Proposal for Action: (State your proposal. You may use outline form. You are
10. not writing legislation, rather, a broad proposal)
- 11.
12. Result to be Expected: (Simply state the result you expect to see after your proposal is
13. put into action.)
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.

BANNED TOPICS

To stimulate creativity, topics that make it to the General Assemblies or Plenary Sessions are off limits for the next year. The number in parenthesis is the proposal, or base proposal that was presented.

Please do not write a proposal that is in any way related to the topics below. Please address all questions to your state director.

1. Affirmative Action in College Admissions (294)
2. Artificial Insemination Database (164)
3. Deportation of Illegal Aliens (405)
4. Direct Election of the President/Abolish Electoral College (483)
5. Domestic Spying Prohibition Without Warrant/Domestic Surveillance (100)
6. Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients (111)
7. Election Day Voter Registration (55)
8. English Proficiency Exams for Non-English Speaking Legalized Immigrants in Grades K-12 (2)
9. Ethanol Production and Utilization (377)
10. Flag Defamation (333)
11. Funding for High Schools Based on Dropout Rates (37)
12. High School Graduation Requirements (315)
13. HIV Testing in High Schools (160)
14. Homosexuals in the Military (36)
15. Limit Illegal Immigration through Tariffs on Vegetables Imported from Mexico/NAFTA Revision (423)
16. Line-item Veto (38)
17. Mandatory Voting/7-Day Voting Period (465)
18. Marshall Plan for Latin America (Aid/Free Trade/Tax Breaks for Latin America)(106)
19. National Port Security (109)
20. National Sales Tax (326)
21. No Smoking in Vehicles with Minors (35)
22. Non-voting Delegate for Northern Mariana Islands (279)
23. Observance of Race and Gender-Based History Months (63)
24. Parent/Guardian Presence Required for Interrogation of Mentally Disabled (397)
25. Permit Same Sex Marriages/Defense of Marriage Act (130)
26. Piracy, on Water (115)
27. Presidential Signing Statements (197)
28. Printing Pertinent Identifying Numbers on Insurance Cards (430)
29. Recognize Hamas and the Palestinian Government (346)
30. Rights of American Forces Detainees (95)
31. Setting a Protocol for Federal School Funding Based on Student Performance (443)
32. Solvency of Social Security (381)
33. Space Weapons Funding (480)
34. Stem Cell Research (288)
35. Support of an Independent Taiwan/United States and Taiwan Policy (217)
36. Trigger Locks on Firearms (89)
37. U.S. Humanitarian Aid to African Nations (495)
38. U.S. Nuclear Arsenal Disarmament/Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (477)
39. United Nations as Primary Agent for War on Terrorism (117)
40. United Nations Charter (29)
41. Use of Depleted Uranium (429)
42. Voting Rights, Disenfranchisement (104 for the Homeless, 335 Restore Rights for Felons)

END OF LIST

THE BLUE RIDGE SPIRIT

The YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly was established in 1906 as an interdenominational Christian conference and training center by Dr. Willis D. Weatherford. When Dr. Weatherford founded Blue Ridge, he recruited college age young people to work, based on four guiding principles.

1. There is dignity in all labor. Anything ministering to human need is a God given task.
2. Every person must be intellectually respectable and learn to think.
3. Religion is indispensable to building life values.
4. A person must believe in the dignity and worth of individual persons as created in the image of God and worthy of love and respect.

Dr. Weatherford urged students and conference guests to appreciate fully the significance of quiet and meditation. He believed the Assembly with its mountains and natural settings give both the students and guests an opportunity for meditation in their search for future goals.

It is during this time of meditation and sharing that the Blue Ridge Spirit develops an inexplicable force bringing people together from differing backgrounds to share a common experience.

The Core Values of the YMCA

[Excerpted from www.ymcapa.org]

CARING - "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14

HONESTY - "He that speaks the truth shows righteousness..." Proverbs 12:17

RESPECT - "Pay all of them their dues, ... respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due." Romans 13:7

RESPONSIBILITY - "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

FAITH - "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

**The YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs is a program of the
YMCA of Montgomery, Alabama.**



*Building Character
Making a Difference
Changing Lives*

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Conference Director

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