



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# **MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT 2015 CIVIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PREPARATION KIT**

The Preparation Kit provides the foundation for discussion and debate during the Civic Leadership Institute. Each student is expected to review the Preparation Kit prior to the State Convention, and develop written answers to the questions/topics below. Each student should bring these written answers with them to the State Convention. Your answers do not need to be long essays. However, please give the questions sufficient attention and consideration when answering them.

## **FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

### **Technology / Social Networking**

1. How often do you use the Internet? Do you use social networking websites, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Google+? Do you feel safe when using these websites?
2. Where did you learn how to use the Internet? Do you feel safe when using the Internet? Did you receive any guidance on what are appropriate and inappropriate behaviors on the Internet?
3. What can be done to better educate youth about the Internet? Can your school do anything to help prepare youth for the Internet? Are any websites blocked on school computers?

### **School Safety**

1. How does school safety affect you as an individual? How does school safety affect the community you live in?
2. What does your school do to promote school safety? Do you feel safe at your school? Please explain your answer.
3. What do you think are some possible solutions to school violence? How would these solutions affect you and your school?

## **FOR HEALTHY LIVING**

### **Health and Wellness**

1. Do you feel your school offers a variety of healthy food choices in your school lunch room? Would you make any changes to the choices?
2. Does your school offer P.E. as a daily or weekly class? Do you feel your school should offer more opportunities for fitness activities?
3. Do you feel well educated on health, nutrition, and fitness? If no, how could you become more educated on these topics?

### **Smoking**

1. How does smoking affect you as an individual? Do you know of any youth that smoke? How do you think smoking affects the community you live in?
2. Many cities and counties have enacted laws which prohibit smoking in all public places, including restaurants. What do you think of these laws? Do you think they will have an impact on smoking?
3. What role could or should government have in reducing the use of tobacco?

### **FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

#### **Community Service**

1. What is community service? Do you participate in any community service activities? At some schools in Missouri, community service hours are required. Do you believe this is appropriate? Do you feel this should also apply to middle school/junior high students?
2. What types of activities or services would not be provided in your community or school without others volunteering their time and talents?
3. What can be done to increase the desire of youth to participate in community service activities in your community?

#### **Environment**

1. What sort of environmental issues do we face as a state? Are there any environmental issues you face in your community? What can be done to address these issues by our state and communities?
2. Does your school encourage you to minimize your consumption? For example, do teachers use both sides of paper? Are you encouraged to not be wasteful with supplies and food?
3. What can our state do to help improve our environment? What can your community and school do to improve our environment? What can you do to help improve our environment?