



# WASHINGTON YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

## DELEGATE Code of Conduct and Dress

### Program Purpose

The purpose of the Washington YMCA Youth Legislature Program is to develop dedication to the values of democracy and an awareness of the need for participation and leadership in society. The YMCA believes strongly in the development of character through the principles of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. It is expected every delegate and advisor abide by this contract. Your cooperation is mandatory, and will help ensure continuation of the privilege of using the State Capitol, and other facilities utilized during the program.

### Program Ground Rules

- No Alcohol
- No Drugs
- No sexual activity (including but not limited to certain types of dancing)
- No weapons
- No smoking or use of other tobacco products
- No violent or malicious behavior

### Conduct at Youth & Government Activities

- Delegates and advisors are required to abide by all Washington State, Thurston County and City of Olympia laws.
- Food, drinks (including water), and gum are not allowed in the House or Senate Chambers or any hearing rooms. Be sure to dispose of trash appropriately inside and outside of the buildings.
- Delegates will not be allowed to drive personal vehicles or vans during Youth Legislature. If delegates must transport themselves to the conference, they must turn vehicle keys in to advisors upon arrival. The vehicle is to remain parked at the advisor's Olympia residence (hotel or host family).
- Be courteous and respectful of elected state officials, legislators and legislative staff, Youth & Government staff, advisors, volunteers, host families and delegates.
- Accept responsibility for your own behavior and maintain proper decorum as a member of the delegation while on campus or any area utilized during Youth Legislature. Unnecessary loudness, yelling, screaming, inappropriate physical contact, or irresponsible behavior will not be permitted on campus, inside the Capitol building or in any other area in which you are representing the YMCA Youth & Government Program.
- Be punctual to scheduled activities and remain present until the activity is complete. Lateness or failure to attend Youth Legislature activities will result in a minimum penalty of the entire delegation's loss of Premier Delegation status.
- Maintain appropriate and professional behavior at all times.
- Maintain curfew as defined in program schedule. Inform your host family the time you will return to their home. (Delegates are not permitted to go out after scheduled activities.)
- Use of the Legislative Building for the annual Youth Governor's Ball is a privilege. All advisors and delegates are to keep in mind that this is a YMCA program and questionable or lewd behavior is not congruent with the YMCA Core Values and those choosing not to adhere to appropriate decorum will be asked to leave the dancing area.
- Report any problems or concerns immediately to an advisor or Youth & Government staff.\*Failure to comply with any of the above standards may result in your expulsion from the program and your dismissal from the premises. Transportation will be arranged at your own expense.



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## Dress Code for Delegates and Advisors

You are expected to uphold a professional appearance, similar to rules upheld by members of the State House of Representatives and Senate during all committee and floor sessions. You should wear professional clothing that would be deemed appropriate for a legislator or business professional. If you are unsure if what you are going to wear is acceptable, ask an advisor prior to your arrival.

- ❖ **Acceptable Women's Attire:** modest dress, business suit, skirt, slacks, blouse, sweater, or jacket and dress shoes. If wearing open-toed shoes, socks/nylons must be worn. Flip-flops are not appropriate foot attire. Ladies must be covered to the knee and no mid-drift or cleavage will be shown. (Think of what you would wear to a job interview.)
- ❖ **Acceptable Men's Attire:** a suit, slacks and sport coat, or slacks and sweater, and dress shoes must be worn on the floor at all times. A collared shirt and tie must be worn with any of the before mentioned combinations. A belt or suspenders must also be worn.
- ❖ **Unsuitable Clothing:** Sweats, T-shirts, denim, corduroy, skirts not to the knee, leggings, shorts, miniskirts, sleeveless tops (unless covered by sweater), inappropriate or revealing clothing, clothing unsuitable for a dress occasion, sneakers, flip-flops or casual sandals, sunglasses, and hats. If you aren't sure, ask.
  - Pages are allowed to wear nice-looking tennis shoes.

**All committee and floor sessions:** As is true with the "Real Legislature," advisors and students who are not suitably dressed will not be allowed on the floor. The Sergeant at Arms is the final authority on appropriate dress.

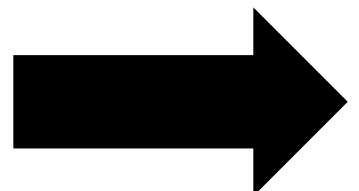
**Governor's Ball:** MODEST semi-formal to formal attire is required. Dresses, skirts or slacks are appropriate for women and clothing that reveals cleavage, has an open back or a slit above the knee is not appropriate. Suits or shirt and tie for gentlemen are appropriate.

Session attire is acceptable and session dress code will be enforced. If delegates or advisors are not appropriately dressed, they will not be allowed into the ball.

The following exceptions apply: sleeveless dresses are ok and nylons do not have to be worn with open-toed shoes. Nametags will serve as your ticket to all Youth and Government activities including the Governor's Ball. You will not be allowed into the ball without your nametag. Nametags may be removed once inside the dance.

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**SEE NEXT PAGE for Required Signature**





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I have read and understand the YMCA Youth & Government Code of Conduct and Dress and I agree to strictly follow it. I understand that failure to adhere to the Code's minimum standards of conduct may result in my immediate expulsion from the Washington YMCA Youth & Government Program.

Delegate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHOTO & INFORMATION RELEASE

Permission is granted for photographs of my child taken during his/her participation in the Youth & Government program as well as his/her information (including but not limited to name, grade and school) to be used for purposes that may include publicity. Further this information may be used without compensation.

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_