



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

## **OHIO YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND DRESS CODE**

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behavior that is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Ohio YMCA Youth in Government program. The items within the Code are designed to protect the welfare of the program for current participants and future generations. A participant's personal behavior reflects upon one's self, one's delegation, and the Ohio YMCA Youth in Government program. Registration to any Ohio YMCA Youth in Government program indicates personal acceptance of the Code of Conduct. Any student sent home for violation of this Code will be at the expense of parent or guardian.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Each delegate shall conduct himself/herself in an orderly and responsible manner before, during, and after all functions of the program.
2. All participants share the responsibility for their actions equally when violations of the Code are witnessed. All program participants who are present when a violation occurs or who have firsthand knowledge of a violation and do not report without delay the violation to their delegation advisor or program staff is in violation of the Code of Conduct. In relation to this Code, there are no "innocents".
3. No delegate shall leave an Ohio YMCA Youth in Government function unless approval of his/her advisor and the YMCA Youth in Government Director (hereafter "Director") is secured. The delegate must be picked up and returned by a parent or legal guardian who must take responsibility for the delegate in writing.
4. Each delegate is legally and financially liable for the removal, defacing, or willful damage to public or private property. Any act of vandalism, destruction of property, or misuse of a facility may be a crime and will be treated as a potential criminal violation.
5. Food (including gum and candy) and beverages are not permitted in any meeting sessions.
6. Cell phones, music players, or other wireless communications devices are not to be used during any meeting sessions.
7. The use of tobacco products, burning of incense, possession of alcoholic beverages, and the use of legal or illegal drugs not in accordance with a prescription is forbidden at any YMCA Youth in Government function.
8. Each youth delegate may only enter the hotel room to which he or she has been assigned.
9. Physical intimacy between participants of any gender is inappropriate at all times while at the YMCA Youth in Government program and is prohibited.
10. All delegates shall be in and remain in their assigned rooms by schedule curfew and doors shall remain closed until schedule end of curfew.
11. Badges shall be worn ONLY by the individual whose name is on the badge. Badge switching or sharing is strictly prohibited. Participants will wear their assigned badges at all times when they are not in their sleeping rooms, and must be visible at all times. Badges are not to be defaced, decorated, or altered in any way. Only advisors can request replacement badges. There may be a charge for replacement badges.
12. Unless there is a fire, participants will not pull the fire alarm. Pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense, and any participant who does so will be held subject to financial and criminal liability. Hotel alarms automatically summon the fire department and create a great inconvenience and fear for the hotel and other guests.
13. Use of personal vehicles by students during the program is strictly prohibited.
14. Weapons of any kind and items that could cause injury or damage to participants and/or property are strictly forbidden.

## VIOLATION OF EXPECTATIONS

All violations of this code of conduct must be brought to the attention of the Director. Participants found to be in violation of the above expectations will be subject to disciplinary actions at the discretion of advisors and the Director, including but not limited to the following: calls to parents/guardians, incident report filed, participant sent home, and school policies implemented. If state or federal law is broken, the Director will notify parent/guardian and law enforcement and the participant will be sent home. At all times the Director reserves the right to alter disciplinary actions at their discretion.

## ROOMING POLICY

I understand that conference delegates are housed four (4) to each room and that in order to participate in the program, I must share a room and bed with a least one other student of the same gender. I also may be housed in a room with other delegations if my delegation does not have four (4) in a room. You do have the option to purchase the extra room space if you do not feel comfortable sharing with another student. I further understand that I may not room with anyone other than YMCA conference delegates, including advisors, parents, or other relatives. I also understand I may not room alone.

## REFUND POLICY

I understand that all fees are non-refundable. In the case of extenuating circumstances, a portion of the payment may be refunded by action of the YMCA Youth in Government Director based upon written request from the student and parent/guardian.

## PARTICIPANT DRESS CODE

YMCA Youth in Government is a professional conference. While at the conference, students are expected to dress business professional while attending any meetings. The evenings will include some time to be casual. Anyone not in compliance with the dress code may be asked to change clothes.

The following attire is considered inappropriate for all delegates at ALL TIMES:

- Tops that are any of the following: backless, see-through, tight-fitting, low-cut, midriff-bearing, or have straps less than two inches wide.
- Tight fitting skirts.
- Leggings as pants.
- Shorts/skirts that do not cover legs within three inches of the top of knee
- Hats during meetings sessions.
- Visible under garments.
- Bare feet.
- Any clothing with inappropriate language or imagery, derogatory of any ethic, religious, or social group.
- Any clothing otherwise deemed inappropriate by the Director.

DELEGATE SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT DELEGATE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_