



**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Gratia Houghton Rinehart  
National High School Leadership Conference  
July 5 to 8, 2017 – Chevy Chase, Maryland**

**FAQs**

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*When should I arrive?*

You should arrive between **2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5**. The conference starts at 6:00 p.m. at the National 4-H Conference Center, located at 7100 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

*What time does the conference end?*

Checking out of the conference and the 4-H Center will occur **Saturday morning, July 8**. We recommend flights depart between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, as the airport shuttles will run during those hours.

*To which airport should I fly?*

You should fly to Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), because it is the most convenient to the 4-H Center, but we will also pick up students at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). We **do not** provide a shuttle from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), as that airport is located a substantial distance from the 4-H Center and we are limited in the staff we can allocate to airport pick-up and drop-off. **Students arriving at BWI will be responsible for making their own arrangements for getting to the National 4-H Center.**

*How will students get to and from the airport and the conference?*

Students will be picked up by a Young America's Foundation staff member (with a sign) at the baggage claim (#3 for IAD and #1 for Reagan) and will be taken in a shuttle bus to the 4-H Center. They may have to wait at the airport for the next shuttle to arrive. The specific times of these shuttles will be determined once students submit their travel information forms. **Students will receive an email with these details no later than Tuesday, July 4.**

*What if I take the train?*

We also pick up students from Union Station (staff will meet students at the Amtrak ticket counter) in Washington, D.C. which is a hub for Amtrak and within walking distance of the Greyhound bus terminal. **Please arrange to arrive between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5 and depart between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 8.**

*Is travel assistance available for students?*

Yes—travel assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis for those with demonstrable financial need. Please email a brief essay (no more than a page) to [travel@yaf.org](mailto:travel@yaf.org) that includes:

- Language regarding your financial need
- What you hope to gain by attending the conference
- Your travel plans
- **The expected amount of your travel plans and the amount you are requesting.** (For example, Expected travel cost from LAX to IAD is \$500. I am requesting \$200 in assistance.)

**We will not consider your request until we receive this completed essay.**

Please note that travel assistance is not guaranteed, and is allocated on a case-by-case basis. Incomplete essays will not be considered. Travel assistance essays are due no later than June 8, but are issued first come-first served.

*Is tuition assistance available?*

Tuition assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis for those with demonstrable financial need. If you have financial need, please email a brief essay (no more than a page) to Jolie Ballantyne at [jballantyne@yaf.org](mailto:jballantyne@yaf.org) with some language regarding your financial need. **We cannot consider your request until we receive this essay.**

*Can I sponsor a student to attend this program?*

Yes! Your generous tax-deductible gift of \$2,000 will allow Young America's Foundation to host a student at this program who could not otherwise attend. You can designate a specific student you know to attend, or sponsor a student who is receiving free tuition as a result of financial need. For more information about this sponsorship opportunity, please contact Young America's Foundation Development Officer Haley Jones at [hjones@yaf.org](mailto:hjones@yaf.org) or call 800-USA-1776. Please notify us if your gift is intended for a specific student.

*Will there be supervision during the weekend?*

Yes, students will be supervised by Young America's Foundation staff members who will chaperone the students the entire weekend. Students are expected to behave appropriately or will have to leave the conference at their parent's expense. The 4-H Center enforces a curfew each evening, and students must abide by their rules. Both parents and students will need to sign a responsibility pledge when the conference approaches.

*What are the activities during the conference?*

The event kicks off with a dinner banquet on Wednesday night, and Thursday and Friday will feature speakers and discussion sessions. The conference concludes with a twilight tour of the monuments in Washington, D.C. on Friday night.

*Will students have free time during the conference?*

No, because the event is only three days long. **If you wish to tour Washington, D.C., you need to make your own plans to arrive early or stay late.** Young America's Foundation only covers your lodging on Wednesday through Friday nights, and we are unable to accommodate or supervise you at any other time.

*What does the conference fee include?*

The conference fee (\$100 if you register by June 26, \$175 if you register after) includes three nights in the dormitories at the National 4-H Conference Center, conference tuition, materials, and meals from Wednesday dinner through Saturday breakfast.

*What is the dress for this conference?*

You need to wear business professional attire to the dinner banquets on Wednesday and Thursday nights and business casual clothing during the daytime sessions. Please pack an umbrella and comfortable, casual clothing and shoes for the Washington, D.C. tour as it may be very hot and/or raining during the tour. You will receive more detailed information as the conference approaches.

*What are the living arrangements?*

Students will have one or more roommates of the same sex for the conference in the dormitories at the 4-H Center. The registration form contains a blank in which you can request a roommate, and we will do our best to accommodate those requests. Linens are provided.

*What if I have other questions?*

Please feel free to call Jolie Ballantyne at 800-USA-1776, or email her at [jballantyne@yaf.org](mailto:jballantyne@yaf.org) if you have any specific questions.

*How many students are expected for the conference?*

More than 100 students are expected to attend the conference.

*What are the terms and conditions of the conference?*

- a) I understand that I am applying for a limited amount of space at this conference and that my application is subject to confirmation. I will be notified within two weeks of submitting my application whether I have been accepted to the conference. In the event I have not been accepted, my charge will be refunded immediately.
- b) I must attend all sessions of the National High School Leadership Conference. If I do not attend all functions, I will be charged the full cost of the conference and/or

event(s), including the lodging, food, and conference costs, which total \$2,000 per attendee.

- c) Except in case of emergency, I must notify Young America's Foundation by June 8, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EST of my inability to attend, or I will be charged the supplemental fee since it is too late to give my spot to another student.
- d) I understand that the conference fee is not refundable if I cancel my participation after June 8, 2017.
- e) I understand I will be assigned roommates for the conference. I may request preferred roommates of the same sex, but there is a chance I may not be able to room with them.
- f) I agree to abide by all rules and instructions of Young America's Foundation and the National 4-H Conference Center, and to obey all laws. I agree to notify Young America's Foundation's staff immediately if a problem arises during the conference.
- g) I understand that YAF will be adding my email address to its email list for updates for this conference and notifications of future events.
- h) Young America's Foundation uses real photos, videos, and quotes from our students for promotional purposes and to advance our mission. By attending this program, I consent to the use of my photo, written evaluation statements, and video in any Young America's Foundation materials.