



## High School Conference at the Reagan Ranch Santa Barbara, California October 17 to 20 FAQ's

When should I arrive?

You should arrive during the afternoon on Wednesday and check in at the Reagan Ranch Center. Registration will be available starting at 2:00 p.m. This is where you will receive your hotel assignment. Room keys will be available at the hotels at 3:00 p.m. Students can peruse the Exhibit Galleries at the Reagan Ranch Center if they arrive before then. Students will be assigned to a room at the Best Western Beachside Inn. Shuttle vans will be available from the Santa Barbara Airport (SBA), escorted by a member of our staff.

What time does the conference end?

The conference ends Saturday, at 5:00 p.m. We recommend flights depart on Saturday night, after 6:20 p.m. Shuttles to the airport will operate starting at about 5:30 p.m. that day. We only provide a hotel room for Saturday night if the only return flights have an overnight *layover*. If you need to stay Saturday night, please call us and we may be able to help find a suitable flight.

Is tuition assistance available?

Tuition assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis for those

with 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 and what you hope to gain by attending the conference. We cannot consider your request until we receive this essay.

Is travel assistance available?

While Travel assistance is never guaranteed, Young America's Foundation will gladly consider all completed requests.

Travel assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis for those with financial need. If you have 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 costs from IAD to SBA \$500. I am requesting \$200 in assistance.)

We will not consider your request until we receive this completed essay. Travel assistance essays are due October 1, 2018.

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 these and other sponsorship opportunities, please contact Young America's Foundation development officer Haley Jones at [hjones@yaf.org](mailto:hjones@yaf.org) or call 888-USA-1776. If you are a student seeking assistance, please see the above options for tuition and travel assistance.

To which airport do I fly?

You should fly to Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) if possible, or you can arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and take a 2-hour bus to Santa Barbara through the Santa Barbara Airbus (Please visit [www.sbairbus.com](http://www.sbairbus.com) for more information). Another option is to fly to Burbank airport and take the Amtrak train to Santa Barbara, but this

option will add several hours to your arrival.

How will I get to and from the airport and the conference?

Students arriving at SBA will be picked up by a Young America's Foundation staff member (with a sign) just outside the baggage claim area on the curb and will be taken in a shuttle bus to the Reagan Ranch Center. The specific times of these shuttles will be determined once students submit their travel information forms about two weeks before the conference, but they will run on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday night. You may have to wait in the airport for the next shuttle to arrive. We will not be able to accommodate you if you arrive or depart at other times. Full time attendance is required, so students should not take any flights leaving before 6:00 p.m. or any trains departing before 4:30 p.m.

Can I take the bus?

Yes, Greyhound has buses to downtown Santa Barbara, but they are not within walking distance of the Reagan Ranch Center or the hotels. You can take a taxi or Uber to the Reagan Ranch Center from the bus stop. Please visit [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com) for more information on this option.

Can I take the train?

Yes, Amtrak trains travel to Santa Barbara on its Pacific Surfliner route, which spans from San Diego to San Luis Obispo. The train station is located right in front of the Reagan Ranch Center and is a short walk to the hotel. Please visit [www.amtrakcalifornia.com](http://www.amtrakcalifornia.com) for more information on this option.

Will there be supervision during the weekend?

Yes, students will be supervised by several staff members who will be chaperones, and stay in the same hotel, for the whole event. **Students are expected to behave appropriately** or will have to leave the conference at their parents' expense. Parents need to sign the waiver form and responsibility pledge that will be sent to students prior to the event via email. Please remind your student of their obligation to behave respectfully of other guests.

Will students have free time during the conference?

No, because the event is only three days long. If you wish to tour Santa Barbara or go to the beach, please make your own plans to arrive on Tuesday night or stay through Saturday night and Sunday. Young America's Foundation only covers your hotel room on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, and you will check out on Saturday morning before the sessions. A luggage storage room will be provided.

Where can I find all the photos after the conference?

All photos will be posted to [YAF's Facebook page](#) after the event. Please be aware it may take several weeks after the conference to post the pictures.

Are parents and family members invited to attend the program?

Parents and grandparents are invited to the opening reception and dinner banquet on Wednesday, at the Reagan Ranch Center and to a parent tour of Rancho del Cielo. Further details will be emailed to students and parents in the week or two preceding the conference. There is limited space available for parents.

What does the conference fee include?

The conference fee \$100, includes three nights at a Santa Barbara hotel, conference tuition, materials, and meals from Wednesday dinner through Saturday lunch. It does not include travel to Santa Barbara, however, students are welcome to apply for travel assistance.

What is the dress code for this conference?

Dress for the first two dinner banquets will be business professional. This means a suit for the gentlemen and a suit or dress for the ladies. Jeans, shorts, and t-shirts are not acceptable attire.

Dress for the trip up to the Ranch is casual, but respectful. Please note the weather on the mountain is unpredictable. It could be hot, but it may also be raining or windy. Jeans are acceptable as long as there are no holes or tears. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. We will head straight to the Ranch center for a casual dinner banquet following the tour.

Dress for daytime sessions in business casual, except the morning of the Ranch tour. This means slacks, polo shirts or button-up shirts,

sweaters, etc. Jeans, shorts, and t-shirts are **not** acceptable attire.

\*\*\*The Reagan Ranch Center is about a 10-minute walk from the hotel, so ladies who wear high heels may want to consider wearing commuter-friendly shoes for the walks and then slipping into heels upon arriving at the Center.\*\*\*

What are the activities during the conference?

The weekend will feature speakers and question-and-answer sessions, luncheons, and evening dinner banquets. A highlight of the trip is the tour of the Reagan Ranch. Students will receive a detailed agenda via email prior to the conference.

What are the living arrangements?

Students will have one or two roommates of the same sex for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night at the conference hotel. The registration form contains a blank in which you can request a roommate, and we will do our best to accommodate your requests.

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 by a check mailed to the address provided when I registered.
- b) I must attend all sessions of the High School Conference at the Reagan Ranch. If I do not attend all functions, I will be charged the full cost of the conference and/or event(s), including the hotel, food, and conference costs, which total \$2,000 per attendee.
- c) I must notify Young America's Foundation by October 5, 2018 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 October 5, 2018.

- 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 to obey all laws. I agree to notify Young America's Foundation's staff immediately if a problem arises during the conference.
- g) Young America's Foundation uses real photos, videos, and quotes from our students for promotional purposes and to advance its mission. By attending this program, I do hereby grant Young America's Foundation ("the Foundation") permission to use, exploit, adapt, modify, reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and display, in any form now known or later developed, my image or visual likeness, my name and/or my voice ("Personal Information") throughout the world, by incorporating it or them into publications, catalogues, brochures, books, magazines, photo exhibits, motion picture films, videotapes, websites, and/or other media ("Works") or commercial, informational, educational, advertising, fundraising, or promotional materials relating thereto. I waive any right to inspect or approve any Works that may be created using the Personal Information and waive any claim with respect to the eventual use to which the personal information may be applied. The Personal Information may be used at the Foundation's sole discretion. I understand and agree that the Foundation is and shall be the exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest, including copyright, in the Works, and any commercial, informational, educational, advertising, fundraising, or promotional material containing the Personal Information.
- h) I understand that my email address will be added to the YAF email list for notification of future events.