



## YAF's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conservative Student Conference

August 2 – 7, 2021  
Houston, Texas

### FAQs

#### *When should I arrive?*

You should arrive at the Marriott Marquis (1777 Walker St, Houston, TX 77010) between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 2. The conference starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Houston Ballroom of the hotel. Parking is not provided so if you plan to drive please plan accordingly. Self-parking is available from the hotel. You will receive more detailed arrival information a day or two before the conference.

#### *What time does the conference end?*

Check out is **Saturday morning, August 7, from 7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.** Students are welcome to stay until 11:00 a.m. Saturday, but may also depart following the conclusion of the program Friday evening (approximately 10:00 p.m.).

#### *What is included with my \$150 fee?*

The \$150 fee is your final out of pocket cost to attend the program. Almost everything is included, such as your food (three meals per day), 5 nights in a luxury hotel (only two students per room), tuition, materials, and other related costs. While many books may be provided, some are sold at the conference, so you may want extra spending money if you plan to purchase the speakers' books to be signed. Leave extra room in your suitcase, as we often give out SWAG!

#### *Is travel assistance available for students?*

Yes—travel assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis for those with demonstrable financial need. While travel assistance is never guaranteed, Young America's Foundation will gladly consider all **completed** requests.

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 cost from SBA to IAH is \$500. I am requesting \$200 in assistance.)

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 before the start of the conference, but are issued on a first come, first served basis. If you are not dependent on full financial assistance, we recommend purchasing your ticket as soon as possible to lock in the lowest fare. Travel assistance does not cover ground transportation, baggage fees, seat assignments, etc.

### ***Are tuition scholarships available for students?***

Yes—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 high school students attend?***

This is a college student-only program. Students are eligible to attend beginning the summer before their incoming freshman year of college. Newly graduated high school seniors are eligible to apply, but must list the college they will attend in the fall on their application.

### ***What is the dress for the program?***

During the day, you are required to wear business casual and have the option to wear business professional clothing. During the dinner banquets each evening, you are required to wear business professional attire. Jeans and shorts are not appropriate attire during the program. You may wish to bring casual clothing for your free time.

### ***How much extra money should I bring?***

This depends on what you do, because some students go out every night while others prefer not to. We advise that you bring some spending money for books that can be signed by the speakers. You will also need about \$50 for transportation to and from the airport if you fly. Bring extra money if you anticipate going out frequently.

### ***To which airport do I fly?***

The hotel is conveniently located near both Houston Hobby airport (HOU) and the George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH). Taxis are expensive from both airports, so you may wish to use public transportation or ride share.

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

We do not provide students with transportation to and from the airport for this conference, but it is simple to arrive at the hotel via taxi or rideshare. You can also schedule a Super Shuttle van ride.

***What are the activities during the conference?***

During the day, you will listen to exciting conservative speakers and participate in question and answer sessions. Each evening will feature a dinner banquet with a special guest speaker and time for questions and answers. On occasion, you will even have an opportunity to meet and have your picture taken with our speakers!

***Will I have free time during the conference?***

You will not have much free time in Houston since we provide you with a comprehensive program. You are free in the evenings after dinner (at about 10:00 p.m.) and many students go out and enjoy the town at that time each night. If you wish to have more free time in Houston, you need to come early or stay late. Young America's Foundation is not able to make these arrangements for you but we can help with the event hotel logistics.

***Can I stay in the hotel extra nights before or after the conference?***

Yes. Feel free to call the hotel to make these arrangements, or you can contact Jolie Ballantyne at [jballantyne@yaf.org](mailto:jballantyne@yaf.org) for more information. Young America's Foundation is only responsible for your accommodations during the specified times (Monday-Friday nights). You may want to arrange for extra time in Houston before or after the conference on your own.

***What are the living arrangements?***

Students will have one or more roommates of the same sex for the week at the hotel. The registration form allows you to request roommates, and we will do our best to accommodate those requests. If you wish to room with two or three roommates, all of you must list one another on your application.

***How many students are expected for the conference?***

More than 400 full-time students are expected to attend the conference from all over the country, and a few Houston-area supporters and local interns will also join us for dinner each night.

***How do I access my photos after the event?***

We will post photos to our Facebook page after we sort through the thousands of images. Please be patient.

***Is there a registration deadline?***

Yes, the last day to apply is July 20. If capacity is reached before then, students may register for our waitlist.

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

Yes! Your generous tax-deductible gift of \$2,500 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 Ilinca Scalco at [iscalco@yaf.org](mailto:iscalco@yaf.org) or call 800-USA-1776. Students interested in assistance should apply for travel or tuition assistance. Please see the instructions in the questions above.

***What if I have other questions?***

You will receive information via email a day or so before the conference about what is on the agenda, and how to arrive at the conference site. For questions that are not covered here, please email Conference Director, Jolie Ballantyne at [jballantyne@yaf.org](mailto:jballantyne@yaf.org)

**COVID-19 Specific questions:**

***Will I still be able to meet speakers***

To accommodate social distancing requirements, YAF is unlikely to host many formal photo lines with speakers. If we are able to make meet and greets with speakers possible, we will most likely ask speakers and students to refrain from shaking hands and other physical contact.

***How will the rooming arrangements change and will I have my own room for social distancing reasons?***

Our goal is to match you with a roommate of your choice to avoid additional risk to students. If you don't know anyone attending, or have no preference, you may still be roomed with one fellow attendee of the same sex. If you want guarantee you have your own room, please contact the hotel and make your own reservation at your expense. Please just let us know, by emailing [jhahn@yaf.org](mailto:jhahn@yaf.org), so we don't book a second reservation for you.

***Will social distancing or masks be enforced during sessions?***

YAF will follow all state and local ordinances as well as abide by the rules of the Marriott Marquis. As of now, masks are not required in the State of Texas. Marriott does require masks in public spaces and will require attendees to wear one. To accommodate social distancing, YAF is reducing the number of attendees to allow for adequate space between students.

***Do I need to bring my own mask or will they be provided?***

You are encouraged to bring your own mask. YAF will offer free masks as well.

***How will meal functions change?***

To follow the guidance from the Center for Disease Control, YAF is currently planning to offer individual meal service rather than group buffets.

***Will there be things to enjoy in the city during free time?***

As Texas begins to reopen, we expect there to be amenities available to you during your time with us. As a reminder, you will not have much free time in the area since we provide you with a comprehensive program. If you wish to have more free time in the Houston area, you need to come early or stay late.

***Do we still get to take home YAF swag?***

Yes. Remember to leave extra space in your suitcase as we do offer swag items to take home.

***What are the terms and conditions for this event?***

Terms and Conditions:

- A. LIMITED SPACE. I understand that I am applying for a limited amount of space at this conference and that my application is subject to confirmation. I understand that all applications submitted prior to May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will receive a response on May 25<sup>th</sup> regarding acceptance. Applicants that apply after May 25<sup>th</sup> will receive notice within 2 weeks of their application submission. In the event I have not been accepted I will be refunded by a check mailed to the address provided when I registered.
- B. FAILURE TO ATTEND. I recognize that my participation in this conference is made possible through the generous financial support of Young America's Foundation's supporters nationwide. As such I agree to attend all sessions of the conference. I understand that if I fail to attend all sessions of conference, I will be charged, and I agree to pay, the total cost of my attendance for the conference including the hotel, food, and conference costs, which is \$2,500.
- C. PLEDGE NOT TO DISRUPT. I assert that I am not here under any false pretense. I will not disrupt or undermine the event by my actions.
- D. PROMOTION OF OTHER GROUPS. I understand that Young America's Foundation has a set procedure in place for outside organizations to attend the event and I am not allowed to promote any other groups or organizations without written permission from Young America's Foundation.
- E. FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF CANCELLATION. Except in case of emergency, I must notify Young America's Foundation by June 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EST of my inability to attend or I will be charged the supplemental fee of \$2,500 since it is too late to give my spot to another student.
- F. LATE CANCELLATION. I understand that the conference fee is not refundable if I cancel my participation after June 26, 2021.
- G. ROOMMATES. 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.
- H) HOTEL RULES/REGULATIONS. 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.
- I. WAIVER. 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.

J. ADDED TO EMAIL LIST. I understand that my email address will be added to the YAF email list for notification of future events.

**K. OPT IN TO TEXTING SERVICE. By registering, I agree that the phone number I have provided under Cell Phone is my own and that YAF may call and send text messages to this phone number in order to respond to and provide me with information and services related to my request, comments, and questions regarding YAF. Message and data rates may apply. Text Stop to stop.**

L. SOCIAL MEDIA/PRIVATE MESSAGING. I understand that the words, statements, and images that I post on social media or send through private forms of communication may reflect on YAF and the Conservative Movement as a whole. I understand that during the conference, YAF is monitoring participants social media posts, including but not limited to, posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Group Me. I understand that by posting, or sending, inappropriate words, statements, or images (as determined by YAF), I may be removed from the conference, in which case I forfeit my registration fee and I will be liable to pay the remainder of the \$2,500 program cost.

M. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY TERMS AND CONDITIONS. I understand that if I fail to abide by these terms I will forfeit my registration fee and liable to pay the remainder of the \$2,500 program costs.