



Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership Conference October 31-November 2, 2008

Conference Preview

Friday, October 31, 2008

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Check-in & Registration

**6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Opening Assembly:
"Build UP to Making a Better World"**

7:05 - 9:15 p.m. Interactive Sessions

Repeated three times to give you a taste of what you can delve into over the next two days.

- A. **Visual Arts**, *Tim & Connie Friesen, Arts Vitality Enrich Communities*
- B. **Recording for the Radio**, *WSUM Student Radio's John Kruse & Ashley Viste*
- C. **Play with a Purpose—Mixers and Icebreakers**, *4-H Youth Leader Council*
- D. **Drama & Performance Art**, *to be announced*
.....and more

9:15 - 10:30 p.m. Campfire, Leisure Activities

11:30 p.m. Lights out, Quiet

Saturday, November 1, 2008

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Full Buffet Breakfast

8:45 - 9:50 a.m. Opening Assembly

"Youth Are Needed - Now!" *Senator Luther Olsen, Senator Lena Taylor by video, and Youth Leaders*

**10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Issue Sessions
(Pre-selected on your registration form.)**

A. Youth in Governance. *Waupaca and Kenosha County youth on government boards (invited), Wisconsin Youth Voice.*

Youth are represented in school boards, teen courts, city councils, county boards, and youth commissions across Wisconsin. This issue session will be led by members of these groups who will talk about what's working and strategize how to get youth more involved in decision-making bodies in your community.

(Saturday continued)

B. School Budgets & Issues. *Florence County TORPEDOES (invited).*

Schools across Wisconsin face budget cuts and resources are inequitable from school to school. This interactive workshop will raise awareness about school issues, bring to life the experiences of students working on school issues as board representatives and activists, and work on strategies for increasing student voice within schools and districts.

C. Juvenile Justice. *Wisconsin Council on Children and Families; Urban Underground.*

Through interactive games, we will cover the current state of juvenile justice in Wisconsin, and how youth get treated in the court system. We will focus on the current law that treats 17-year-olds as adults and the efforts that are being made to return 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system.

D. Tobacco Use Prevention. *FACT Lincoln County & Rock County.*

Youth have been major players in working on local smoke free ordinances and testifying before the state legislature. The policy change that we will be working on will be the smoke free Wisconsin bill. If you are interested in working on alcohol and other drug abuse prevention, this session will also give you tools for public action.

E. Relationship Violence Prevention. *Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Youth Action Committee, Chippewa Valley High School; Madison DELTA Project; Urban Underground.*

Youth across Wisconsin are promoting healthy personal relationships and working against dating violence. Help take the next step by exploring how the environment in our schools and communities can be changed to get at the root causes of violence—such as gender dynamics and school bullying and safety policies.

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Box Lunch

1:00- 1:30 p.m. Energizers & Transitions

(next page)

(Saturday continued)

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Tactical Workshops (select one to attend)

A. Hustling for Change: Community Organizing with Youth and Adults. *Urban Underground.*

A "how-to" workshop for young people interested in building a campaign around an issue in their schools or community. This interactive workshop takes young people and adult allies through step-by-step strategies for community organizing.

B. Effective advocacy with elected officials.

Rosemary Potter, UW-Extension Governmental Liaison and ex-legislator; WI Council on Children and Families.

Work with those with personal experience in the legislature to develop the talking points you need to get your message heard.

C. Service-learning and involving youth in community change. *Teri Dary, Department of Public Instruction; Mary Oehler & Students, Eau Claire Memorial High School (invited).*

Some service projects seem like band-aids rather than getting to the root of the issue. Work with experienced teachers and students to learn how to get schools and community groups to address policies and legislation, and how students and teachers can partner in this work.

D. Guerrilla marketing. *Luke Witkowski and FACT Youth Members*

Get your message across by catching people off guard! Not practical jokes, not shock radio, but fun, simple, low-cost ideas that get people buzzing about your message.

E. Recording Radio Announcements. *John Kruse and Ashley Viste, WSUM Radio, Madison.*

Experience the power of radio Public Service Announcements in getting the message of your organization out to your community. Write and record your own message to bring back to distribute to local radio stations.

F. Visual Arts. *Tim & Connie Friesen, Arts Vitally Enrich Communities*

Co-create portable murals to represent your community and advance your projects. The presenters have worked with many projects bringing youth and adults together to create and celebrate community through public art.

Additional Invited Workshops

Drama and Performance Art, Youth Poetry

2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Issue Groups Work on Projects

Return to the Issue Session you attended this morning to work on a project that will advance your issue back home. Use the tactics learned during the Tactical

Workshops. Prepare to present on Sunday. Receive feedback on Sunday from elected officials and other community leaders on the results of projects developed on Saturday.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Free Time

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Full Buffet Dinner

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Roundtable Discussions: Learning from Others' Successes

Participants select three roundtables to attend for 20 minutes each. Listen for a few minutes at each roundtable, then ask questions and find out more about youth as leadership partners in . . .

Schools	Government	Media
Legal System	Communities	Others

7:30 - 7:50 p.m. Team Time

Meet with your community team to reflect on the day and develop a headline to share on Sunday morning: "What will be the result of your work?"

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. D.J. Dance with V.I.B.E.S. Media, Milwaukee. Music for all tastes!

11:30 p.m. Lights out, Quiet

Sunday, November 2, 2008

7:00 a.m. Breakfast snacks available all morning (both healthy and fun)

8:00 - 8:15 a.m. Morning Assembly

8:15 - 9:15 a.m. Issue Groups "Take a Stand"

Each issue group will present its projects.

9:15 - 9:50 a.m. Community Leaders React

A panel of elected officials and other community leaders will react and provide feedback to the issue projects.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Youth for Youth Voice: Advancing youth voice in Wisconsin.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says youth deserve a chance to be heard in issues that affect their lives. Should this be Wisconsin law?

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Conference closing activities and Memory Book signing.

11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Room Check-out

11:45 - 12:30 p.m. Full Buffet Lunch