

YMCA Texas Youth and Government Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behaviors consistent and inconsistent with the YMCA Texas YG program's core values of respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty. The items in this Code of Conduct are designed to uphold these values and program goals, as well as protect students' well-being.

As a member of a YMCA sponsored program, and in conformity with the basic purpose of the YMCA, I agree with and will observe the following principles as my personal code of conduct while attending any of the YMCA-sponsored events.

YMCA Texas Youth and Government has a **zero tolerance policy** and will not tolerate the mistreatment or abuse of consumers in its programs. Any mistreatment or abuse by an employee or volunteer will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or volunteer service and cooperation with law enforcement.

There is also a **zero tolerance** policy for suspicions of illegal drugs or alcohol use, shoplifting or weapons of any kind or any violations made to the participant Code of Conduct.

Please read and provide electronic signature at the bottom:

1. I understand that violations to the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary actions by YMCA Staff and/or appropriate legal authority depending on the seriousness of the infraction (e.g., drugs, alcohol, shoplifting, etc.).
2. I understand that disciplinary actions may also include expulsion from the program and being sent home at your own expense. No refunds or credit will be provided.
3. I understand that I should never be alone, one on one, or by myself with an adult.
4. I will always conduct myself in a way that reflects good conduct and a sense of responsibility by remembering the YMCA values: respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty.
5. If I create social media sites OR post to social media sites that reference YMCA and/or Youth & Government, I agree to follow the same YMCA values as stated above. Any form of bullying, including cyber bullying will not be tolerated.
6. Appropriate verbal communication and interactions must be used at all times. See below for example of appropriate vs. Inappropriate verbal communication:
 - ☐ Appropriate – appropriate Jokes, encouragement, praise
 - ☐ Inappropriate – Name calling, bullying, ridicule, humiliation, cursing, hazing, off-color or sexual jokes, shaming, belittling, derogatory remarks, discriminatory or racist actions or remarks, harsh language that may frighten, threaten, or humiliate other participants or adults, derogatory remarks about another participant or his/her family, inappropriate games like *Truth or Dare* and *Never Have I Ever*



7. I will use appropriate physical interactions must be used at all times. See below for appropriate vs. Inappropriate physical interactions
 - ❑ **Appropriate physical interactions if allowed by the other student or participant:** Side hugs, Shoulder-to-shoulder or “temple” hugs, Pats on the shoulder or back, Handshakes, High-fives and hand slapping, Verbal praise, Pats on the head when culturally appropriate, Touching hands, shoulders, and arms, Arms around shoulders
 - ❑ **Inappropriate physical interactions** - Full-frontal hugs, kissing, showing affection in isolated areas, lap sitting, wrestling, piggyback rides, tickling, exposing oneself, any type of massage given by or to a consumer, any form of affection that is unwanted by the consumer or the staff or volunteer, compliments relating to physique or body development, touching bottom, chest, or genital areas, hitting, shaking, slapping, unnecessary restraint, viewing or showing others pornographic materials
8. I understand that I should not use private electronic communication or messaging between me and another conference staff, volunteer or adult
9. Rest is most important to maximum participation; therefore, it is important that I observe and will abide by all curfews on overnight events/conferences.
10. The use and/or possession of alcohol, any kind of weapon, tobacco, e-cigarettes, or illegal drugs are against all standards implied in our principles and are prohibited. Therefore, I agree not to bring, obtain, possess, or use these contraband en-route to, during, or returning home from the State Conference.
11. I agree to be welcoming for all, use Y core values and assist other conference participants regardless of race, gender, religion, national origin, or disability to feel welcome and to protect their rights to full participation.
12. I agree to avoid violations and violators. While not always fair, I could be held accountable for the actions of those I am with—what is often referred to as "guilt by association."
13. In order to complete our agendas, I will be present at and punctual for all State Conference meetings and events. Any exceptions should be cleared and documented with my advisor, YMCA staff, and/or the District Director in advance of the State Conference.
14. I will respect all parts and areas of the facilities that we use for our program and conference.
15. I will not visit other delegates' lodging rooms. Visiting will be done in the Lobby/common area only.
16. An adult cannot enter a student's room alone. If an adult enters my hotel room, I must notify the conference staff immediately.
17. I understand that only authorized adults may enter the room for urgent and emergency reasons. When doing so, there must be another adult present and in eyesight of one another. The door must be left open when adults enter a room.
18. For emergencies only: when getting an ambulance or a YMCA authorized vehicle is not an option: an authorized adult may transport a delegate in personal vehicle only if another authorized adult is in the car AND prior approval has been obtained from the guardian, the District Director, and/or the State Director. I understand that the driver's personal vehicle

insurance will be used in case of an accident. YMCA Youth and Government State Conference Leadership and Risk Management Department must be notified.

19. I will abide by the set Dress Codes for any YMCA Youth and Government meetings/events/conferences.
20. I will abide by the Pre-Conference Handbook and Delegate Handbook.
21. I understand that any violation of the above can result in suspension or expulsion from the program and that no refunds will be made.

Behavior Policy Statement

The YMCA reserves the right to warn, suspend, dismiss, or remove any participant from our programs, locations, and facilities upon the following conditions:

1. If their behavior poses a threat to themselves or others.
2. If they require an inordinate amount of attention from the staff—thereby causing inadequate levels of supervision for the remainder of the participants or members.
3. If their behavior is determined to be inappropriate within the scope and spirit of the YMCA values. For any reason within the discretion of YMCA management.

Please note: If your teen is removed from the program for any of the above reasons, you must retrieve your teen at your expense.

If any adult or participants observe inappropriate or suspicious behavior, they must report it to an adult at the conference or a Youth and Government State conference staff immediately.

YMCA Texas Youth and Government Adult Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behaviors consistent and inconsistent with the YMCA Texas YG program's core values of respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty. The items in this Code of Conduct are designed to uphold these values and program goals, as well as protect students' well-being.

As a member of a YMCA sponsored program, and in conformity with the basic purpose of the YMCA, I agree with and will observe the following principles as my personal code of conduct while attending any of the YMCA-sponsored events.

YMCA Texas Youth and Government has a **zero tolerance policy** and will not tolerate the mistreatment or abuse of consumers in its programs. Any mistreatment or abuse by an employee or volunteer will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or volunteer service and cooperation with law enforcement.

There is also a **zero tolerance** policy for suspicions of illegal drugs or alcohol use, shoplifting or firearms or any violations made to the participant Code of Conduct.

By virtue of my involvement with YMCA Texas Youth and Government as a club advisor, YMCA staff member, adult volunteer, and/or college staff member, I agree to the following standards of conduct:

1. I will enforce the Student Code of Conduct at all times when attending YMCA Texas Youth and Government programs.
2. I will model the YMCA core values of respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty and maintain an expectation that students share these values, treating them accordingly.
3. When at State Conference, I will immediately report all violations of the Student Code of Conduct to YG Security.
4. I will never talk with a student one-on-one in a private setting. This includes providing a single student with transportation.
5. When at State Conference, I will participate in all assigned volunteer shifts and be present in assigned program areas at designated times.
6. I will attend all mandatory adult training sessions and meetings, including my district's advisor training and mandatory adult meetings at State Conference.
7. I will not allow a student in my club to travel to State Conference until I am sure that the student has fully registered for the program. Full registration includes complete parental authorization.
8. I will not share sleeping accommodations with students (the State Office may approve exceptions).
9. I will maintain proper adult decorum. This includes refraining from the use of profanity.

10. I will never possess or use alcohol or non-medically necessary drugs at any YMCA Texas Youth and Government program. I will refrain from the use of tobacco products/e-cigarettes/juuls and vaping devices while in the presence of YMCA Texas Youth and Government participants and their parents.
11. I will treat students with respect and consideration regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexuality, culture, socioeconomic background, disability, or any other identity characteristics.
12. I will wear appropriate dress at all times, including professional dress when YMCA Texas Youth and Government students are in business attire.
13. I will not engage in intimate displays of affection when in the presence of YMCA Texas Youth and Government participants, their parents, and/or other adult volunteers.
14. I will not attend YMCA Texas Youth and Government programming when I am experiencing a health condition, such as fever or contagious disease, that might adversely affect others.
15. I will maintain appropriate boundaries in my relationships with teen participants, abstaining from fraternizing with them outside YMCA Texas Youth and Government programming and other classes/extracurricular activities.
16. I will never physically abuse (e.g. strike, slap), verbally abuse (e.g. humiliate, threaten), or sexually abuse (e.g. inappropriate touch or comments) any student. I understand that the State Office will report this unacceptable behavior to appropriate regulatory and law enforcement agencies.
17. I understand that I should remain on the premises at State Conference and will not leave premises for any reason without a supervisory plan and approval from YMCA Youth and Government staff.

Behavior Policy Statement

1. The YMCA reserves the right to warn, suspend, dismiss, or remove any program participant or member from programs, program locations, and facilities upon the following conditions:
2. If their behavior poses a threat to themselves or others.
3. If they require an inordinate amount of attention from staff, thereby contributing to inadequate levels of supervision for the remainder of participants or members.
4. If their behavior is not appropriate within the scope and spirit of the YMCA core values.
5. For any reason within the discretion of YMCA leadership.

YMCA Texas Youth and Government Program Consent

Waiver, Release, Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement: I understand that the Greater Austin YMCA Inc., sponsoring YMCA, affiliated YMCA, YMCA of USA, representatives or assignees (collectively "Affiliated Parties"), facilities and activities have inherent risk and in consideration for participation in Greater Austin YMCA Inc.'s and Affiliated Parties facilities, services, programs and activities without respect to location, I hereby assume all risks and hazards incident to my participation and or the participation of my child(ren) in all Greater Austin YMCA Inc., Affiliated parties, activities, due to the NEGLIGENCE of the Greater Austin YMCA Inc., or Affiliated parties, otherwise while in, or upon the premises of the Greater Austin YMCA Inc., Affiliated Parties premises and/or while using the premises or any facilities or equipment thereon or participating in any program or activity at an off-site location affiliated with the Greater Austin YMCA Inc., Affiliated Parties, including volunteer services. I further waive, release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless the Greater Austin YMCA Inc., affiliated parties the organizers, volunteers, supervisors, officers, directors, participants, coaches, referees, agents or representatives as well as persons or parents transporting participants to and from activities or injury sustained during my use of the Greater Austin YMCA Inc., Affiliated Parties, property or participation in programs, activities on or off-site.

Communicable disease including Coronavirus, COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily through person-to-person contact. Federal and state authorities recommend social distancing as a means to prevent the spread of the virus. Communicable disease and COVID-19 can lead to severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death. Participating in programs or accessing facilities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19 or communicable disease. Greater Austin YMCA, Affiliated Parties in no way warrants that COVID-19 or other communicable disease infections will not occur through participation in programs or use of YMCA facilities. I assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death or property damage for communicable disease including COVID-19 in my participation and or the participation of myself or my child(ren) in all Greater Austin YMCA Inc.'s, affiliated parties, facilities, services, programs and activities or any off-site location.

By my signature, and of my free will I assume all risks and hazards incidental to this program/event. I do further release, absolve, indemnify and hold harmless, now and for all time, the Greater Austin YMCA, the sponsoring YMCA, YMCA of the USA, the organizers, participants, sponsors, supervisors, volunteers and their agents, board of directors, representatives or assignees (collectively "The Parties"). I hereby waive all claims, now and for all time, against the Parties, for any injury to myself/my child any loss due to theft of or damage to his/her personal property or for any other consequential or incidental damages caused in any manner whatsoever where any such liability is attributable to the absence of ordinary or even slight care by the program/event organizers and the conduct of this program/event.



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

The YMCA is hereby granted permission to use any individual or group photographs and/or videotapes showing me/my child in YMCA activities for use in public relations, promotional or advertising purposes.

The YMCA has my permission to transport my child to, from, and during YMCA-sponsored events/activities. I authorize the YMCA staff to take me to the nearest hospital/clinic for treatment or to the one listed elsewhere on this form. I give consent for all necessary treatment for my child when in the care of a physician and/or hospital or clinic

___ I understand and will abide by these agreements. I understand that the below is a legal representation of my signature.

___ I understand that by signing this form I will be responsible for all fees due by the payment deadlines.

___ I understand that if my child is unable to attend or is removed from the program due to behavior, any and all fees paid are non-refundable, non transferable.

___ I give my consent for my child to be transported and supervised by YMCA staff in case of emergency, to YMCA events and to and from home, if applicable.

___ I understand that state law mandates the YMCA to report any suspected case of child abuse or neglect or additional identified issues to the appropriate authorities for investigation

___ I understand that as a participant and member of a YMCA sponsored program and in conformity with basic purpose of the YMCA, I understand that my signature on the program agreement for the 2024-2025 program year August 2024- August 30, 2025. My child will observe the principles and code of conduct while attending any of the YMCA-sponsored events.

By typing your name above, you understand and acknowledge this agreement electronically. You agree that your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this application.



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT