

## **2010 CYD TEEN SUMMIT TALKING POINTS**

**It is important that the youth who are selected to attend this summer's Teen Summit understand what the Teen Summit is all about and what is expected of them as positive youth leaders while they are at the Summit. TNOYS views each of them as wonderful young people and knows how bright each of them can shine.**

**We strongly encourage YAC Coordinators, Conference Planning Committee members and selected Peer Leaders to go over the following information at each YAC meeting or at a minimum before the youth are selected and again at the last YAC meeting prior to the Summit and during the time that adults are traveling with youth to the Summit.**

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS:** An awesome opportunity for 90 youth ages 12-17, **with emphasis on 13-16 year olds**, to attend a 3-day, 2-night leadership conference. The conference provides many avenues to help youth and adult partners become even stronger leaders in their communities. The Summit is primarily delivered through small and large group workshops and activities.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS NOT:** An opportunity for youth and adults to "do their own thing" and not be a part of these workshops and activities.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS:** A place to meet a lot of other great young leaders and supportive adults who are also involved in making their communities a better place.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS NOT:** A place where youth attend because they primarily want to "hook up" or find a person that they want to date. Young men and young ladies are never allowed to be in each other's rooms or dorm floors. There will be designated common areas for group interaction.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS:** A place to have fun while learning! Workshops, group activities, after-hour events and free time are all very fun aspects of the Teen Summit!

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS NOT:** A place where youth can do whatever they want, when they want to.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS:** An opportunity to stay at a major university, get a feel for college life, maybe in a city that the youth have never been to.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS NOT:** A place where youth can disrespect the property, university facilities and rules. While we truly think this will not occur, we need to express that fines are attached to any damages and university violations that occur during the entire Teen Summit stay. **CYD sites are the responsible parties for these fines even if the damages are accidental in nature.**

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS:** A place where youth will meet caring adults and positive role models that support their leadership efforts and believe in young people's abilities to do even greater positive things! It is also a place where adults are expected to work in partnership with young people and treat youth with mutual respect.

**WHAT THE TEEN SUMMIT IS NOT:** A place where youth can disrespect adults because they aren't their parents, family members or people that they are familiar with. The Teen Summit is not a place where it is acceptable for adults to be disrespectful of youth.



**The CYD Teen Summit is funded by the Texas Department of  
Family & Protective Services**

# 2010 CYD TEEN SUMMIT

## Q & A SHEET

### FOR ADULT CHAPERONES AND POSSIBLE CHAPERONES

The following question and answer sheet is meant to provide adults with information about the CYD Teen Summit and to assist them in deciding whether or not they can meet all of the expectations that come with being an Adult Chaperone.

**QUESTION: What is the Teen Summit?**

**ANSWER:** The Teen Summit is an annual summer leadership conference that will be hosted by the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) and is funded by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). This event is held over a 3-day and 2-night period that takes place at a major university somewhere between Dallas and San Antonio.

**QUESTION: What is the purpose of the Teen Summit?**

**ANSWER:** The overall goal of the Teen Summit is to further develop leadership skills and attitudes as well as provide youth with an avenue to solve problems relevant to their communities rather than have solutions imposed on them without input and opportunity to formulate and present their own ideas and opinions. The Summit aims to increase knowledge and teach skill development in 6 core topic areas that strengthen leadership abilities.

**QUESTION: How many people can attend from each CYD site?**

**ANSWER:** Each of the 15 CYD sites can bring up to 8 people. 6 of these people are youth. 2 of the 6 youth, one male and one female, will be selected as Peer Leaders. Each site needs to bring 2 Adult Chaperones, one male and one female, for that site's group of 6 young people. The ratio is 1 adult to 3 youth. **The Summit is not available to serve every young leader that may want to attend. Therefore, it is critical that each site use all of their 6 youth slots or inform TNOYS immediately if they will be unable to do so. That way TNOYS can do its best to make sure that all 90 youth slots are utilized.**

**QUESTION: What types of activities happen at the Teen Summit?**

**ANSWER:** The biggest part of the Teen Summit is delivered through small and large group workshops and training sessions. Most sessions are interactive in nature and get the audience involved in the process. Young people as well as the adults are expected to be in workshops when they are scheduled for all 3-days. The Teen Summit also recognizes that young people are just that, YOUNG, and they need to have fun!! Some typical activities that young people have chosen to do in the past are: a theme dinner and dance, a drumming circle, fashion show and team building activities.

**QUESTION: Do I have to do anything in order to be an Adult Chaperone?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, minimally you will have to provide TNOYS with a copy or copies of background clearance paperwork that you receive from DFPS. Please talk to your local CYD Project Coordinator and/or YAC Coordinator about how to do this prior to the Teen Summit. **TNOYS is not allowed to have adults present at the Summit unless DFPS has performed the required background checks with no disallowable offenses found. TNOYS MUST have proof that these checks have been performed before any adult arrives at the Summit.**

**QUESTION: How do I get the required paperwork to give to TNOYS?**

**ANSWER:** CYD Fiscal Agents are responsible for ensuring that these required background checks have been performed and meet the State's guidelines. Please contact your local CYD Project Coordinator if you have any questions about making sure that these have been performed with no disallowable offenses found and are valid within the appropriate timeframes set by the State.

**QUESTION: Do all Adult Chaperones have to be at least 21 years of age to fulfill this role?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, all Adult Chaperones must be at least 21 years old to provide the expected support and oversight for their group of young people.

**QUESTION: Is there any way that an older youth who has "aged out" of CYD services can come to the Summit?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, this is a possibility. TNOYS sends out a Call for Presenters to attract and select speakers. We strongly encourage young adults to apply to be speakers knowing that they have a lot to offer. If selected, that young adult would attend in a "professional" role not as a "participant" of the Summit. Once his or her workshop(s) were over they would return home.

**QUESTION: Does TNOYS provide CYD sites with a permission form or slip for parents or guardians to sign that allows their child(ren) to attend the Summit?**

**ANSWER:** No, the adults from the CYD sites serve as the people that are responsible for their youth. Parents or guardians are releasing the care of their child to them by providing written permission. Those adults then have the obligation to keep each youth safe. It is a good idea to discuss this need with your CYD Project Coordinator in order to comply with the Fiscal Agent's policies and procedures around parental / guardian permission.

**QUESTION: Can CYD sites utilize their agency's photo permission form(s) to ask parent or guardians for permission to photograph their child for photos taken at the Summit?**

**ANSWER:** No, TNOYS serves as the host of the event. Therefore, we utilize photographs taken during the Summit to post on our web site, newsletter and for other promotional purposes. The TNOYS photo permission form needs to be completed by the parent or guardian for each child and submitted to TNOYS prior to the Summit. CYD agencies are certainly free to ALSO ask parents and guardians to complete their specific agency's photo permission form(s).

**QUESTION: If I am employed by CYD as a YAC Coordinator, am I responsible for informing the second Adult Chaperone about the Teen Summit and what is expected of both youth and adults?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, unless the second Adult Chaperone is the CYD Project Coordinator TNOYS has no way of providing them with the information to properly prepare them for their role. We strongly recommend that any information that is sent to you be shared with the second Adult Chaperone. We encourage all Adult Chaperones be present for our final conference call to hear a final overview of expectations, answer questions and to get excited about the Summit! This conference call will likely take place in early June. CYD sites will receive notice prior to this call.

**QUESTION: Am I responsible for the young people that I bring 24 hours a day?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, ultimately the adults who serve as chaperones are responsible for their group throughout the entire Teen Summit. We strongly encourage the adults and Peer Leaders to spend time with the youth prior to coming to the event to cover rules, systems of checking in, behavior expectations and consequences. The exception to this rule is when youth are in breakout workshop sessions. 2 adult chaperones cannot be in the same place that all 6 of

their youth are in. Therefore, we rely on ALL adults to work as a team to provide proper and supportive oversight of youth.

**QUESTION: Is there any free time when the young people and adults do not have to be in workshops or training sessions?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, there are segments of free time that will be on your conference program agenda. TNOYS will provide each CYD site with some ideas about what kinds of things are available to do in the city and on the campus that the Summit is being held. **We strongly encourage you to discuss and decide upon free time before your group gets to the Summit.**

**QUESTION: Is it acceptable for the young people to leave the university campus or premises without adults?**

**ANSWER:** No, this is never an acceptable option. The young people are in the Adult Chaperone's care until they have been returned safely to their homes and families.

**QUESTION: Is it acceptable to allow a youth or group of youth permission to stay on the campus without an Adult Chaperone if they don't want to do what the group decided upon for their free time?**

**ANSWER:** No, this is never an acceptable option. Adult Chaperones must keep their group together during free time.

**QUESTION: Can I ask another Adult Chaperone from a different city to take responsibility for my group of youth?**

**ANSWER:** No, the parents and or guardians of the youth have provided permission and entrusted you with the care and oversight of their son or daughter during the entirety of the Summit.

**QUESTION: If a youth needs to return home before the Summit is over due to illness, family emergency or behavior is it the Adult Chaperone's responsibility to take them home?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, one of the Adult Chaperones will be responsible for returning the youth to his or her home. Before leaving the university, that Adult Chaperone needs to make arrangements with the remaining chaperone to ensure that the other 5 youth are adequately accounted for and supervised.

**QUESTION: Will the Teen Summit be an event that wears me out?**

**ANSWER:** It is very likely that you will be extremely tired by the time the Summit ends. Most adults do not routinely spend this much time being fully responsible for a group of preteen and teenage youth. Youth often ask, "Why can't this be a week long?" Only half jokingly, we think because the adults need some sleep! However, we have heard through the grapevine that most youth fall fast asleep on their way back home!

**QUESTION: Will I have fun?**

**ANSWER:** We think so! This is an exciting annual event where so many exceptional adults and young people come together that are energized and enthusiastic about making their communities and the world a better place!

**QUESTION: Whom do I contact to learn more about becoming an Adult Chaperone?**

**ANSWER:** You should contact your local CYD Project Coordinator and/or YAC Coordinator.

Marla Miller, serves as the Teen Summit Director and is also available to answer any questions. She can be reached at: 512 328-6860 or [mmiller@tnoys.org](mailto:mmiller@tnoys.org)

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