

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for Teen Conference 2009

By Kim Hedges, 4-H Center for Youth Development

For Parents

If my child has attended before, can he/she attend again? **NEW!**

Yes.

How will my child know where he or she has to be?

At registration they will receive a name tag which shows their workshop times and locations. Chaperones and State Council members will be around to answer any questions and ensure that everyone gets to the right place.

How does my child know who his/her chaperone is?

Each youth name tag has the name of their chaperone on it. Each chaperone will also be given a list their assigned youth. Each county provides one adult chaperone for every 10 youth. Adult chaperones are screened, certified 4-H adult volunteers.

What kind of security will there be at the hotel?

Mizzou 4-H (made up of college students) will be patrolling the hallways through the night and chaperones will check on their youth as well. Youth will know where their chaperone's room is, in case they have a need or concern.

If my child has a problem, who do they go to?

They will need to go talk with their chaperone or if their chaperone is not available, they can find a State 4-H Council member or one of the other adult volunteers.

How will my child be able to identify an adult chaperone or a state council member?

Adult chaperones will have name tags on that state they are a chaperone. State Council members will have on black & white tuxedo shirts along with their state council name tags.

Where will my child have lunch?

They will eat lunch on campus at MU dining halls using a lunch voucher/card to cover the meal cost.

How will my child get to campus and back to the hotel?

We have chartered 4 school buses from a local company that will do pick-ups and drop-offs. Chaperones are tasked with ensuring that all of their assigned youth are on the bus.

What time does registration begin and end?

Registration begins at 10am and ends at 11:30am on Saturday, January 31st.

What time do I need to pick my child up on Sunday?

Teen Conference ends at 10:15am at Stoney Creek Inn on Sunday, February 1st.

Does my child need any money?

Only if they want to donate to our Kids Helping Kids fund. We will be collecting coins.

What is the address and phone number for Stoney Creek Inn?

*2601 S. Providence Rd.
Columbia, MO 65203
573-442-6400 or 1-800-659-2220*

About Rooms:

Who will my child be rooming with?

Your child will room with other youth from their county if possible. If a county has too many (or not enough) youth for a room, they are then grouped with other youth of the same gender from their same region. Boys are always with boys, and girls with girls. Each room fits 4-6 people, depending on the type of room it is. The hotel has several different types of rooms, and hotel staff create room assignments based on county, region, and gender information, which we provide to them.

T-shirts:

Will the t-shirts be youth or adult sizes? **NEW!**

They will be ordered in adult sizes.

How do I know if I have pre-ordered a t-shirt when I arrive at Teen Conference?

We have a table set up and they have a list of each child and what size t-shirt they pre-ordered. You must have pre-ordered in order to purchase a shirt.

For Chaperones

Where is the chaperone meeting?

It is at Stoney Creek Inn on the 2nd floor in the Columbia Room at the top of the stairs.

What time does the chaperone meeting begin?

At 10:30am on Saturday, January 31st. Please be there on time or early, as the information covered is very important.

Who am I chaperoning and why don't I know them?

You will receive a list of names that you will be chaperoning in your packet.

When counties submit their registrations, they must provide an adequate number of chaperones per youth to the state office. The ratio is 10 youth per 1 adult, and counties often work together to make this happen. Each county is responsible for getting chaperones and submitting who they will be chaperoning with on their forms to the state office. We then pair them according to that information.

Do chaperones get any materials?

Yes. Chaperones will receive a packet of information that includes their name tag, a program, lunch vouchers for all youth and themselves, hotel map, emergency info, youth health info, a list of their youth, chaperone notes, and a campus map. You will receive this in the chaperone meeting.

If I am a chaperone, how will I know if all my youth showed up to the event?

After registration is completed, a list of "no-shows" will be provided, and this will be announced in the chaperone meeting.

If I am a chaperone, how do I know which room I am in and which rooms my youth are in?

You will receive this information later in the first afternoon. This is not included in your initial packet because the hotel cannot assign rooms until their previous guests are checked out. As rooming assignments are completed, copies will be made for all chaperones, which will be provided to you in the afternoon.

If I am a chaperone, what about room keys?

Room keys will not be available to us until the late afternoon, for the reasons described above. Kim Hedges will gather these and organize them by chaperone and region. For example, John Doe will get every one of his kid's keys even though they will be in different rooms. The room number for you and your youth can be found on the rooming list provided in the afternoon (please see above). Once sorted, the packets of keys will be dropped off to either Joyce Taylor or Bradd Anderson over at Middlebush and they will hand them out to the chaperones in their region rooms.

Where will we be eating lunch on campus? **UPDATED!**

Everyone will be eating at MU campus dining halls.

Can we eat somewhere else?

No. Meal cards are only good for the announced location, and these arrangements must be made in advance. In addition, chaperones must know where their youth are at all times and this is not possible if some are eating at a separate location. We will not be eating at McDonalds this year, unfortunately, because it is too difficult to get 300 people through the line in less than an hour.

Other:

Do males have to chaperone male youth and do females have to chaperone female youth?
NEW!

This is left up to the discretion of your local county office.

Where is Middlebush?

It is on the MU Campus, at the corner of University Ave. and 9th St.

What happens to my luggage after I check in at the registration table at Stoney Creek?

Luggage will go in the Lewis and Clark room on the 1st Floor and be stored there until the youth get back from their workshops Saturday evening. State Council members will show the youth and chaperones where this is. The luggage room will be divided into regions, which will make it easier to find luggage. Chaperones will hand out keys prior to picking up luggage. Youth will then grab their luggage and go directly to their rooms.

What if I have additional questions that this FAQ hasn't covered?

You are welcome to contact Kim Hedges at hedgesk@missouri.edu or by phone at (573) 882-9359.