



Parent FAQs

Thank you for supporting your student's involvement in Texas YG! Below you will find answers to questions frequently asked by YG parents.

What meals are/are not provided for students at the YG State Conference?

- Provided meals: lunch Friday, lunch Saturday, dinner Saturday
- Meals not provided: dinner Thursday, breakfast Friday, dinner Friday, breakfast Saturday, breakfast Sunday
 - For breakfast Sunday, some districts provide an option for students to order \$5 worth of breakfast food from McDonald's to be delivered to them on the bus. Advisors should work with District Directors to coordinate orders and the process for collection of money.

What meals are/are not provided for students at the JYG Conference?

- Provided meals: lunch Saturday, dinner Saturday
- Meals not provided: breakfast Saturday, breakfast Sunday

What will my child do during Conference meals not provided by Texas YG?

- Meal time is built into the schedule for students. They can purchase their own food from the restaurants both inside and outside the hotel(s). Students should bring spending money for these meals or bring their own non-perishable food for these meals.
- Room service will not be available to students, nor will other hotel incidentals like pay-per-view movies. There will be no landline phone service or gaming capability in students' rooms. Students will also not have access to the hotel fitness or pool areas.
- Students must abide by all mealtime schedules and curfews. Advisors will ensure their students have enough time to eat and are where they need to be on time.

What are some key rules/guidelines for adults and students at the State Conferences?

- Students and adults must wear name badges and wristbands at all times.
- Students may not enter any hotel room other than their own. Connecting doors between rooms must remain locked at all times.
- Advisors will not be one-on-one with any student at any time.
- Student illness and student needs to enter or leave outside of scheduled conference time must be reported to the Security Office.
- Students must be signed out by parents or advisors if they must leave the conference premises outside of scheduled times.
- Students must abide by all schedules and curfews listed in the Conference Brochure.
- Any amendments to rooming lists must be reported to the Security Office by advisors. Students may not change their own room assignments.

For additional information, please review the Parent Code of Conduct in the Parents section of the [Resource Portal](#).



What should my child do if he or she forgot supplies at home?

- There will be a designated Conference Security Office at the hotel. Students can pick up items they may have forgotten (e.g. toiletries) here. They must visit before curfew. Please do not call the hotel, housekeeping, or State Office for these items. Supplies are limited.

What happens if my child needs first aid at the State Conference?

- First Aid will be available at two locations, the Security Office at the hotel and Volunteer Check-In at the Capitol. Over the counter (OTC) medication cannot be dispensed by conference staff or volunteers. 911 will be called in case of emergency.

Can I book a room at the State Conference hotel to observe the State Conference?

- Yes! Texas YG reserves a small room block each year for parents. Parents reserve these rooms on a first-come, first-served basis by calling the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel begins accepting reservations in mid-December.

Can students participating in the State Conferences (YG or JYG) stay in a hotel room with their parents?

- The Texas YG Program is designed for middle school and high school students who are ready to experience a hands-on civic engagement program. We believe sharing a hotel room (four students per room) with students from the same delegation/school/club, traveling to Austin with adult chaperones and Y staff (all background-checked), and fully participating in State Conference activities from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. are a crucial part of this experience. Texas YG students are socializing and building friendships with likeminded peers interested in civic engagement throughout the State Conferences. Therefore, Texas YG students staying in hotel rooms with their parents/guardians attending the State Conferences as guests is **strongly discouraged**.
- If parents want their YG students to stay in hotel rooms with them and not with other students, the student registration fee still applies. In other words, costs are not reduced. Parents will need to make their own arrangements with the hotel as discussed above with regard to room blocks. Additional questions can be referred to the State Director, Angela Castilleja (angela.castilleja@austinyimca.org).

What should I do if I am concerned about the functioning of my child's Section during State Conference(s)?

- Each Section (i.e. Legislative, Judicial, State Affairs Forum) will have a volunteer point person to whom parents should first bring any concerns. This volunteer point person will work with parents to resolve any issues and determine whether escalation to Section Leaders, District Directors, etc. is needed.
- Please respect this communication process to ensure Section Leaders, State Office staff, and District Directors can remain focused on their unique roles supporting the State Conferences. Thank you!



How do I complete the parental authorization for my student's Texas YG program registration?

- If you have an email address:
 - You will first receive an email from Texas YG with the subject line "2017-18 Texas Youth and Government Participant Registration Confirmation." You will receive this email at the address your student entered for parent/guardian on his or her online, individual program registration. Click on the link to your student's registration form included in this email. Verify the information your student entered and add medical information. On the second page, review the Code of Conduct and click submit. **On the third page, review the responses one final time and add your signature.**
 - You will receive another email from Texas YG with the subject line "Verify: Signed Response for Form "2017-18 YMCA Parental Approval"." Visit the included URL to finalize your signed responses and confirm your student's registration.
 - You will receive a third and final email from Texas YG with the subject line "Sealed: Signed Response for Form "2017-18 YMCA Parental Approval"." No action is required. You may use the included link to access records of your signed response at any time.
 - Detailed information about this three-email process is available in the 2017-2018 Registration Instructions for Students document located in the Parents section of the [Resource Portal](#).
- If you do not have an email address:
 - Visit <https://ymcatexasyg.org/registration/participant/> to print a hard copy registration form. Ask your student to fill out the student sections, then review the information he or she provided and authorize the form with your signature. Return this hard copy to the Texas YG State Office.

Parental authorization must be received by the State Office by the Monday before the first District Conferences in November (November 6, 2017).

If my child qualified for a national conference (NJC or CONA), may I attend and observe their performance?

- NJC and CONA are youth conferences, and adult parents are not permitted to observe sessions to preserve the focus on youth. We appreciate your desire to support your students and will do all we can to inform parents about available live-streaming of conference sessions and updates on students' progress.