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2023 Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) Program Changes

We strive to create the best program experience for students and chaperones alike. Based on feedback from the 2022 KYA Season, the following changes will be implemented beginning in 2023.

I. AGENDA

- a. First Night Split
- b. Red/Blue Tag Splits
- c. Bringing CLC to Middle School

II. ADULTS AT CONFERENCE

- a. Adult: Student Ratio Minimum

III. BILL DRAFTING RESOURCES

- a. The Legislative Resource Commission

IV. CANDIDATES

- a. Middle School Candidate Grade Requirement

V. COVID-19 SAFETY

- a. General Safety Policies

VI. DRESS CODE

- a. First Day Dress Code

VII. DEBATE

- a. Online Bill Tracking Sheet
- b. Closing Session Veto Override Procedure
- c. Amendments
- d. Committee Chair Requirements

VIII. MEALS

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- b. Pizza

IX. PAYMENT

- a. Need-Based Scholarship Deadlines

X. PRESIDING & SUPPORTING OFFICERS

- a. Middle School Clerks
- b. Executive Orders (HS Only)

XI. REGISTRATION

- a. Delegate Info Form

XII. RESOURCES FOR NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS

XIII. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- a. Lobbyist Program at MS



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I. AGENDA

- a. First Night Split – all conferences (middle and high school) will be split by tag on the first night.
- b. Red/Blue Tag Split – if the total conference participant numbers are below 600 people, we will not have a tag split. Participants will stay at the Capitol for the full debate period of programming, but taking a break in the middle of the day to bus to Claudia Sanders for lunch.
- a. Bringing CLC to Middle School – we will begin having CLC at the Middle School level. This allows us to get valuable input from our Middle School cohorts! Advisors will be able to appoint a student on registration to be a CLC representative and meet with Y-Staff at the end of Day 2 to give feedback on the conferences.

II. ADULTS AT CONFERENCE

- a. Adult: Student Ratio Minimum – to ensure we are cultivating a safe environment for our students, the KYYMCA will implement a minimum of adults needed for registered students at the conference. We require 1 adult for every 25 students registered at the conference (1:25). This does not impact the maximum adult: student ratio of 1:10 we currently have implemented.

III. BILL DRAFTING RESOURCES

- a. The Legislative Research Commission – this is a new resource that will be available to all delegates preparing bills for KYA. Every Tuesday from October 3–November 7 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM (EST), delegates can meet with our Speakers of the House and Senate Presidents on Zoom to get feedback and assistance with their bills.

IV. CANDIDATES

- a. Middle School Candidate Grade Requirement – Starting in the 2023/24 KYA & KUNA season, Middle School candidates must be in 7th grade to run and will serve at the conference during their 8th grade year. We will have one transition year where 7th AND 8th graders will be eligible to run for Presiding Officer (there will be two elections, one for 8th grade candidates and one for 7th grade candidates). For the full plan and more information, please visit kyyymca.org/programs/kya/leadership/candidates.

V. COVID-19 SAFETY

- a. General COVID-19 Safety – each year, the KYYMCA will review the current status of COVID-19 and make program adjustments as needed. This includes masking at conference and any necessary information we may need from participants prior to the conference (negative tests, proof of vaccination, screening questions, etc.). These updates will be made prior to registration opening.

VI. DRESS CODE

- a. First Day Dress Code – business casual attire will no longer be required on the first day of KYA, students can be in casual wear.

VII. DEBATE

- a. Online Bill Tracking Sheet – participants will have access to the Bill Tracking Sheet on their conference assembly page. This spreadsheet tracks where the bills are during debate and notes if they have been passed or defeated. It also lists the meeting times with the Governor and Lt. Governor.
- b. Closing Session Veto Override Procedure – we will no longer ask the General Assembly if they want to hear the veto override for each bill. All bills that signed up for veto override will be heard.
- c. Amendments – we will formally return to paper amendment forms that can be retrieved from the Y-Desk. There will not be an option to submit amendments online.
- d. Committee Chair Requirements – in order to be a Chairperson, students will need to be in 8th grade (MS conferences) or 12th grade (HS conferences) and have been to at least one KYA or KUNA conference.
- e. Doorkeepers – we will have Doorkeepers return this season. Advisors will be able to appoint one



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Doorkeeper on registration. They must attend the Chair & Doorkeeper meeting on the first day to serve.

VIII. MEALS

- a. Meal Delivery Services – students are not allowed to use food/meal delivery services at any point during the conference. However, advisors can use these services. But, no outside food is allowed inside program areas. Any outside food ordered by advisors **MUST** remain in sleeping rooms.
- b. Pizza Orders – our goal is that pizza will be returning. A final decision will be made prior to registration opening.

IX. PAYMENT

- a. Need-Based Scholarship Deadlines – to ensure that students are able to receive as much NBS as needed, we ask that all scholarship applications be submitted **PRIOR** to registration submission. If an application is submitted after that deadline, advisors will need to individually reach out to Y-Staff to ensure their invoice is updated appropriately. Y-Staff will not adjust invoices without communication.

X. PRESIDING & SUPPORTING OFFICERS

- a. Middle School Clerks – the middle school CW Speaker of the House & CW President of the Senate will no longer appoint their Clerk. Their Clerks will be chosen from the pool of Committee Chairs at the conference. These appointments will be made based on Committee Chair rankings from the first round of debate.
- b. Executive Orders (HS Only) – we will begin implementing a formalized process for Governors to enact Executive Orders. Delegates will follow along the process of an Executive Order throughout various General Assemblies as the Governor, Attorney General, and their supporting staff work through the legal process of enacting an Executive Order and suing on behalf of the Kentucky people when one of those orders goes too far.

XI. REGISTRATION

- a. Delegate Info Form – to amplify the security of all of our forms, including the Delegate Info form that is required for registering for all KYMCA programs, we will be requiring additional information to access those forms. We are finalizing this process and will have more information at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year.

XII. RESOURCES FOR NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS

- a. To ensure all of our students receive the support they need, the KYMCA will have resources available to students with neurodivergent needs. This includes a “safe room” for any student feeling overwhelmed and/or overstimulated. We will also have sound cancelling headphones, fidget toys, coloring books, and more available at the Y-Desk for students to use.

XIII. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- a. Lobbyist Program at MS – we are excited to introduce the Cabinet & Lobbyist Program to Middle School conferences starting this season! The program will be adapted for Middle School conferences. We will have a finalized plan introduced this summer prior to registration opening in the fall. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to the program lead, Vontella Thomas at vontella@kymca.org.



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