



**Developing a Voice on  
Current Youth Issues  
July 26 - 29, 2011**

**Mission and Goals**

**Mission**

*The 2011 South Dakota Youth Congress will provide an opportunity and public space for high school youth to identify, discuss and share their perspectives on relevant issues that concern youth in South Dakota, the U.S. and globally. They will deliberate on the factors that contribute to youth issues. Participants will recommend plans of action for issues that impact the safe and healthy development of South Dakota youth.*

**Goals**

The high school student leaders will:

- Identify the top concerns serving as barriers to safe and healthy youth development within a community and the state;
- Discuss and deliberate on the effects of youth issues on youth in South Dakota and the nation;
- Share how individual communities have taken steps to address specific issues with positive results;
- Develop a list of recommendations and suggestions dealing with relevant youth issues for consideration by community and state leaders for public policy action or further study;
- Propose plans for youth to be active participants in the development of strategies and involvement in activities that contribute to improving the issues that concern youth; and
- Contribute to the findings of the 2011 SD Youth Congress.

**Chiesman Center For  
Democracy**  
South Dakota Youth Congress  
&  
Civic Education Programs  
Rapid City

**University of South Dakota**  
W.O. Farber Center for  
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&  
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