

Our Goals

The high school student leaders will:

1. Identify the top concerns serving as barriers to safe and healthy youth development within a community and the state;
2. Discuss and deliberate the effects of youth issues on youth in South Dakota and the nation;
3. Share how individual communities have taken steps to address specific issues with positive results;
4. Develop a list of recommendations for dealing with relevant youth issues for consideration by community and state leaders for public policy action or further study;
5. 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
6. Contribute to the findings of the 2011 South Dakota Youth Congress.

Our 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 concerning youth in South Dakota, the U.S. and globally. They will deliberate the factors contributing to youth issues. Participants will recommend plans of action for issues that impact the safe and healthy development of South Dakota youth.

Nominees

Nominees for Youth Congress should have demonstrated one or more of the following leadership qualities:

1. Active within his or her community, school, or organizations;
2. Concern for South Dakota's and America's role in the global community;
3. Excellent attitude about the role youth in the future of South Dakota and the U.S.; and
4. Reliability and commitment to making a difference for their school, community, and state.

The South Dakota Youth Congress is scheduled for July 26 - 29, 2011 on the University of South Dakota campus. This year's topic is "Developing a Voice on Current Youth Issues".

Each Congress produces a report of its findings to be shared with all South Dakota elected officials and other leaders. To receive a copy of any of the Youth Congress reports or to submit a student nomination, contact: **DeVee Dietz, Director, 605-341-4311 or email: ddietz@chiesman.org**



Sponsors

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Contact Us



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www.chiesman.org

Application

Name: _____ Age: _____

Grade for 2011/2012 school year: _____ E-mail: _____

Street/PO Box: _____ Apt: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Parent or Guardian: _____

School/Location: _____

List School Activities: _____

List Community Activities: _____



To Apply

Applicants must be in 11th or 12th grade during the 2011-2012 school year.

Cost: \$65.00, which includes meals, housing, and materials (scholarships are available). Please enclose payment with application to confirm your participation. Please complete the attached form.

On a separate sheet:

References: List two references, position, and a phone number where they can be reached.

Essay: Answer any three of the following questions in short essay format (100-250 words).

1. Why is it important for all citizens to learn about the issues and challenges that impact our youth across South Dakota?
2. How would you address some of the major issues facing youth in South Dakota and in today's society and encourage your peers to become more informed about youth issues in your community and in South Dakota?
3. Describe the leadership role you believe youth should take to help others understand and be more informed about the issues they face in relationship to how it affects them in South Dakota, the U.S. and globally?
4. Why is it important for teens to discuss youth issues and how they pertain to public policy within their school, community and state?
5. What are some positive actions being implemented in your school/community to help deal with challenging youth issues?

Applications **MUST** be received by **May 16, 2011**. Please mail them to:

South Dakota Youth Congress
1641 Deadwood Ave.
Rapid City, SD 57702



South Dakota Youth Congress

The South Dakota Youth Congress is an annual roundtable conference for high school juniors and seniors. Some 30 student leaders participate in this intensive youth leadership experience where students deliberate on a public policy issue; decide what the opportunities, concerns and barriers are; and then make recommendations to state decision-makers. They learn to discuss and listen together to open their minds to other opinions, and to express themselves effectively. Students work together to develop leadership and communication skills along with practices for active participation in their school, community and state.

The first South Dakota Youth Congress was held in 1998 on the University of South Dakota campus. The issue topics are chosen by the participating youth each year.

Developing a Voice on Current Youth Issues



Previous South Dakota Youth Congress issues include:

- 1998 Vision Building and Identification of Issues Pertaining to Today's Youth and Their Future
- 1999 Pre-college (K-12) Education
- 2000 Teen Issues and What Role Public Policy Should Play to Address Youths' Concerns
- 2001 Potential Career Opportunities and Workforce Development for SD Future Leaders
- 2002 Teens & Technology: Public Policy Implications
- 2004 Involving Youth in Environmental Issues and Decision Making
- 2005 Rights, Freedoms, & Responsibilities in Today's Society
- 2006 The Global Community: Youth's Vision for Change
- 2007 The Role of K-12 Education in Preparing Today's Youth for the Future
- 2008 How Does the U.S. Congress and South Dakota State Legislature Respond to Youth Issues
- 2009 The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future
- 2010 Challenges and Effects of Poverty on Youth

July 26-29, 2011