



Alabama Lions

Youth Leadership Conferences

POST OFFICE BOX 2336 / MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36102

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LIONS

DATES OF THE CONFERENCES

The dates for the **Boys' Conference** are **April 18-20, 2008**.

The dates for the **Girls' Conference** are **April 25-27, 2008**.

COST

The Conference Fee is \$160 for each delegate. However, for delegate registrations received by the Camp Chandler office by March 1 but before April 1, the Conference Fee is \$155. The full amount of the Conference Fee must be submitted with each application.

TRANSPORTATION

All transportation arrangements and costs for youth traveling to and from the conferences are the responsibility of each sponsoring Lions Club and must be made and provided by the sponsoring Lions Club for each youth delegate. The Alabama Lions Youth Leadership Conference Committee will assist clubs by providing information that may help in forming car-pools to minimize transportation costs and travel time. Information regarding transportation arrangements must be included on each delegate's registration form.

LIONS VOLUNTEERS/COUNSELORS ARE NEEDED

Lions participation in the conferences is an important part of the conference program. It is important to young people that adults care about them. It takes, approximately, one Lion for every five youth delegates to deliver the most effective conference program. Lions' involvement in the conference is an important aspect of the conference. As counselors, Lions help in moderating discussion groups, assist cabin groups in presenting devotionals, skits, talent presentations, campfire programs, flag presentations, help in serving meals, referee games, encourage youth participation, and help youth in learning about Lionism and Lions service. Any Lion who would like to serve as a counselor is invited to attend for the weekend at no cost for food and lodging. Lions who may be providing transportation for delegates should consider serving as counselors. You will have a great time of fun and fellowship with both Lions and youth from around the state. Experience is not necessary, but a caring attitude toward high school-aged young men and women is essential.

SELECTING DELEGATES

Leo Clubs, other school service clubs, student government groups, athletic teams, school bands, church youth groups, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, community service groups, and other school and community groups are good sources for finding young people who may be interested in attending the conferences. Also, children and grandchildren of Lions Club members may be interested in attending.

Inviting young people from the community to attend a statewide youth conference gives Lions Clubs an opportunity to establish a relationship with youth leaders in the community. Give potential delegates a call, make an appointment to meet them at school or another public meeting place with their school counselors, parents, or other Lions, then invite them to attend the conferences as a representative of their school, the community, and your Lions Club. You may also want to have school counselors or adult leaders of youth groups help you select delegates to attend the conferences.

REGISTRATION

After you have selected potential delegates, give them a Delegate Registration Form and ask them to fill it out and return it to you as soon as possible. After you have received the completed form and confirmed that they will attend the conference, complete the bottom portion of the registration form by providing information for contacting your club's Youth Leadership Conference Chairman or other contact Lion and information regarding transportation arrangements. Any changes in this information should be forwarded to the Camp Chandler Office as soon as possible. After the registration form has been filled out completely, it should be mailed as soon as possible, along with a check in the amount of the Conference Fees, to the Camp Chandler Office. Upon receipt of the registration form and fees, the Camp Office will send out more detailed information regarding the conference to the delegate and your Lions Club chairman or designated Lion contact. The detailed information will include a list of personal items to bring to the camp, a suggested clothing list, directions to the camp, camp contact information, and a Delegate Information form that must be completed and returned by each delegate.

PREPARING DELEGATES FOR ATTENDING THE CONFERENCES

The sooner delegates are selected and registered for the conference, the better the delegates can be prepared for attending the conference. The information included in the conference brochure and the detailed information packet, and additional information that you and other Lions can provide will better prepare delegates for attending the conference and enhance their conference experience. You may want to invite delegates to attend one of your club meetings prior to attending the conference so they may learn something about Lions and what your club does to serve your community. You may also want to invite delegates to one of your club meetings after the conference to share their conference experience with members of your club.

OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARDS

The delegates from each cabin/team/small-group comprised of about 10 delegates will select an outstanding youth leader. Each of these outstanding youth leaders (about 4 to 6, depending on the number of conference attendees) will be interviewed by a panel of Lions who will select an outstanding youth leader for each of the conferences. The outstanding youth leader from each conference will receive an invitation to attend an international youth camp. Since each of the international youth camps requires attendees to be at least 16 years old, each of the outstanding youth leaders selected will be at least 16 years old. Typically, the outstanding youth leader from the boys' conference will be invited to attend the Montgomery Lions International Youth Camp. The outstanding youth leader from the girls' camp will be invited to attend the Hawaii Lions International Youth Camp.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE / GOALS

The purpose of the conferences is to give high school students of Alabama an opportunity to strengthen their leadership, organization and service skills, to build relationships, and to network with other leaders, both youth and adult, from across the state. The goal of the conference is to encourage, motivate, and empower youth to return to their communities as advocates for positive change and service through understanding and action based on effective, ethical and compassionate leadership.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Through a blend of individual and team sports, team-building activities, seminars and presentations, small-group discussions and reflections, and structured program planning and presentation, delegates to the conference will have the chance to practice, test, refine, measure, and improve their leadership skills. They will have the opportunity to interact informally with Lions who are leaders in their communities, and other adults with leadership positions in education, business, government, military service, volunteerism, and community service. Speakers have included Lions Club International Presidents and Directors, Alabama Supreme Court Justices, Alabama State Legislators, State School Board members, officers of International military services, naturalized American citizens, law enforcement officials, and many other professional, cleric, business, community, and family leaders who have presented a wide range of experiences with topics

on communication, vision, faith, commitment, integrity, personal responsibility, team building, goal setting, and community service . Each of the presentations is intended to fulfill the purpose and goals of the conference. Activities such as team sports competition, team challenge courses, individual high ropes and climbing courses, canoeing, talent shows, skits, campfires, and some free-time to casually fellowship with other delegates and adult leaders are intended to inspire, motivate, and encourage delegates to become more successful, extraordinary leaders and to be a positive influence for change in their families, schools, communities, state, and the world. The conference activities are also designed to encourage networking and developing friendships with other youth and adult leaders from around the state.

LOCATION

The conferences are held at the Montgomery YMCA Camp Chandler located on Lake Jordan approximately nine (7) miles north of Wetumpka and about 1 mile west of U.S. Highway 231.

From Sylacauga: Travel south on U.S. 231 from its intersection with U.S. 280 approximately 36.4 miles.

Turn right on Old U.S. 231 (Elmore CR 667) and travel 1.8 miles to Jordan Dam Road. Turn right, sharply, on Jordan Dam Road and travel 1.3 miles, keeping to the right, to Camp Chandler.

From the intersection of Alabama 9 with U.S. 231 north of Wetumpka: Travel north on U.S. 231 approximately 2.6 miles to Old U.S. 231 (Elmore CR 667). Turn left from U.S. 231 onto Old U.S. 231 (Elmore CR 667) and travel north approximately 2.5 miles to Jordan Dam Road. Bear slightly left from Old U.S. 231 onto Jordan Dam Road and travel 1.3 miles, keeping to the right, to Camp Chandler.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding the conferences or the camp facilities, please call any of the following persons:

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