

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
13th ANNUAL
STUDENT SUMMIT IN HARRISBURG
FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Dear Student Council Advisors and Student Leaders:

For the past twelve years, the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils has taken the initiative to bring together approximately 150-200 student leaders in Pennsylvania for a discussion of critical issues facing the youth of our state. This "Student Summit in Harrisburg Program" has allowed us to provide students the opportunity to dialog with a state legislator, exchange views with their peers, develop position papers on areas of interest to them, defend their viewpoints on the floor of the Pennsylvania General Assembly chamber, and to see their views shared with political leaders of Pennsylvania. This one-day in Harrisburg activity has been extremely well received by the student participants who, in past years, have joined us from all corners of the Commonwealth. Their very positive evaluations caused PASC to agree to sponsor a similar program in 2010 in partnership with PennCORD as a major civic engagement initiative in Pennsylvania. There is no cost to the students or to the faculty sponsor or parent who accompany them to Harrisburg other than the cost of lunch which they obtain on their own.

The 2010 program will focus on issues facing Pennsylvania as we approach the election of our next Governor. Our 2010 program format will allow student leaders to develop, debate and present resolutions on five major areas of concern to all Pennsylvanians. Issue areas include but are not limited to: Education, Energy & Environment, Healthy Lifestyles, State Budget and Funding, the Rebuilding of our State Infrastructure including bridges, highways, and mass transit. Delegates will be asked to submit resolutions, in advance, on topics in the areas listed above or on other topics that they feel should be addressed by the youth of the Commonwealth.

A copy of the schedule is included with this mailing. The major components include:

- A discussion session, with a group of participants, on each of the five critical issues concerning Pennsylvania youth.
- A work session in which students in each of the five topic groups will review and debate the merits of student resolutions. The student committees will select resolutions to be presented to the entire group in the House Chambers.
- Lunch at the state capitol building or at nearby Strawberry Square Mall at the students' expense.
- An afternoon session on the floor of the House of Representatives using the desks, rostrums, and microphones of the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Student speakers will present their proposals, debate will occur, and each student will vote expressing their personal opinion for each proposal. All five topic areas will follow the same format.
- The program will end with the presentation of the approved student resolutions to a representative of Governor Rendell. Resolutions will also be communicated to the campaign committees of the Republican and Democratic candidates for Governor.

An application form and essay topics are also included in this packet. Student delegates are asked to submit proposals for resolutions at the time of application. We look forward to bringing approximately 150-200 senior high school students together on **Thursday, February 25, 2010** for this program. We have also invited the school nominees of the 2010 United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program. Additionally, we would encourage you, as a PASC member school advisor, to select up to **three high school students** and an alternate (whom we will invite if space allows). These students should be interested in the political process and particularly interested in the five topics that have been selected for debate this year. **As advisors we ask that you not limit the selection to Student Council leaders, but to also recruit interested students from National Honor Society, class government, and through direct contact with your school's Social Studies department.** We hope that students in your school will be interested in attending this challenging and unique educational opportunity in one of the most impressive settings in America, the Pennsylvania Capitol. Transportation can be provided by you, another faculty member or a parent.

If you have any questions about this opportunity for your high school students, please do not hesitate to email us at **PASCInfo@aol.com** or call me at 215-280-9299. Please have your school's applications postmarked by **THURSDAY, February 4, 2010. Mail to PASC STUDENT SUMMIT 224 Oak Park Road Hatfield, PA 19440**

PASC STUDENT SUMMIT
HARRISBURG, PA
February 25, 2010
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8:15-8:45 Registration at the East Wing of the State Capitol Building

9:00-9:15 Opening Session- House of Representative's Chamber

Welcome: Jim Finnemeyer, PASC Executive Director

Review of Plans and Expectations for the Day

9:30-10:15 General Work Session

- Students will be divided into groups based on their interest in the five major topic issues facing Pennsylvania's youth.
- A facilitator will lead a group of 30-35 students in a discussion of their topic. Students will be asked to present their resolutions to the group.

10:15-10:30 Break

11:00-11:45 Resolution Writing

- Each of the five groups will select up to three student resolutions and divide into that number of sub-groups. Each committee will prepare one or more resolutions to be presented to all delegates during the afternoon General Session.
- The committee will select two or more spokespersons to make General Session presentations.

11:45- 12:45 Lunch on your own/ Free Time at the State Capitol Complex

1:00- 4:30 General Session on the Floor of the House of Representatives

- Each committee will present resolutions to the general body. Delegates and committee spokespersons will engage in a comment period and debate on the resolutions during a 30 minute block of time.
- At the end of 30 minutes the delegates will vote to support or to reject each resolution presented on that topic.
- The same process above will be used to reach student opinion on each of the five major topic areas:
Education, Energy & Environment, Health Care, Transportation, Economic Development

4:30- 5:00 Closing Session

- Presentation of Student Opinions to a representative of the Governor's Office.
- Final Remarks and Evaluation

PASC Youth Summit
APPLICATION

NAME _____ GRADE _____ AGE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME TELEPHONE (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ (print carefully and clearly)

SCHOOL _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

SCHOOL TELEPHONE (_____) _____ FAX (_____) _____

FACULTY ADVISOR _____

FACULTY ADVISOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

_____ I need information on hotel arrangements in the Harrisburg area.

_____ I will be accompanied by _____ Relationship _____

_____ Accompanying adult would be interested in serving as one of two facilitators for a small group session. If YES, what would be your preferred topic:

_____.

By signing below, we give permission for the student listed above to attend the PASC STUDENT SUMMIT in Harrisburg on February 25, 2010.

Parent _____

Advisor _____

Principal _____

A letter confirming acceptance from PASC will be sent by e-mail to the student and to the faculty advisor by no later than Wednesday, February 10, 2010. There is a limit of three student applicants per school.

Travel information, housing information, and final itinerary and locations for sessions will be forwarded in the confirmation mailing.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CALLS OF INQUIRY TO THE PASC OFFICE AT 215-280-9299
or E-mail Jim Finnemeyer at PASCInfo@aol.com.

TOPICS FOR RESOLUTIONS AND DEBATE

Rank order your top two choices of topics (you will be writing a resolution related to each topic):

_____ Education

_____ Budget and State Financing

_____ Energy & Environment

_____ Health Care

_____ Transportation: Rebuilding our Infrastructure

_____ Delegate proposed resolution

Example of Topics on which Resolutions could be written: Below are potential topics designed to give student delegates ideas of issues they may want to see addressed by Pennsylvania government and for which they would want to write resolutions to be considered by committees on February 25th.

Education:

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education should adopt revisions to high school graduation requirements and to the methods presently used for state standardized testing. Other potential education topics could include: Uneven school funding and equity (rural vs. urban vs. suburban), AP testing week conflicting with PSSA's, Teacher Education and Certification and Prep, standards for Physical Education and their effect on health curriculum, lack of education in critical thought due to standardize testing in today's high schools .

Environment and Energy:

Pennsylvania schools should enact policies to show sensitivity toward school-related ecological issues and promote the concept that schools go "green" or become more green.

Pennsylvania should create a state energy policy promoting the use of alternative energy sources.

Economic Development/ State Budget and Financing:

Table games should be permitted at Pennsylvania casinos to finance public schools and to provide additional college financial aid.

Natural gas obtained from the newly accessible Marcellus Shale Deposits should be taxed to balance the state budget.

Healthy Choices:

In the public schools, the Pennsylvania Department of Education should promote healthy lifestyles. This initiative should include but is not limited to school lunch choices, health and physical education class offerings, and co-curricular programs.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

Pennsylvania should adopt long-term funding sources to pay for the building and the repair of state highways, bridges, and mass transit systems within the Commonwealth.

Other Topic Areas: Create Your Own Resolution

Delegates are encouraged to write resolutions on additional topics that are of concern to them and that they feel students in schools throughout Pennsylvania will value discussing and that should be addressed by Governor Rendell and the next Governor of Pennsylvania.

Select two of the topics areas above. For each topic, write a resolution and the rationale for your proposed resolution. Limit each of your two essays to 200 words each, expressing specific actions which the Pennsylvania state government should take to solve problems associated with the selected topics. Students will be assigned to either their first or second topic choice. Students from the same school will not be placed in the same topic group to ensure a variety of points of view and background. Please make your choices accordingly.

Submit these essays on separate pieces of paper with a heading containing your name, school, along with the topic. Be sure to attach the completed application.

**Return this application and your essays to: PASC Student Summit,
224 Oak Park Road, Hatfield, Pa. 19440**

215-280-9299

POSTMARK DEADLINE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010