



## *Tennessee YMCA Center for Civic Engagement* **Officer Code of Conduct**

*The purpose of the Tennessee YMCA Center for Civic Engagement is to educate its participants on the processes of government at the city, state, national and international levels, in the hopes of beginning what will be a lifetime of civic engagement for our alumni. As part of that program, we offer annually the YMCA Model United Nations Conference and the YMCA Youth in Government Conference. Officers with the CCE are expected to prepare by making themselves aware of current issues facing international and state government, as well as familiarizing themselves with past issues and current laws. Debate and intellectual engagement at all CCE programs is expected to be of the highest quality, with participants demonstrating the utmost respect for the program, its advisors, and their peers.*

*Given such, a code of conduct has been developed to help ensure that every delegate receives the maximum benefits possible as a result of their participation. Please keep in mind, this code of conduct is applicable to adults as well as student delegates. Because of their leadership positions during the conference, officers will be held to a higher code of conduct. With that in mind, the following code of conduct has been adopted for officers:*

All individuals participating in the YMCA Center for Civic Engagement programs will conduct themselves in a respectable and positive manner and present a good and decent reflection of themselves, their school and their community.

All participants share equally the responsibility for their actions when violations of the code are witnessed. Those who decide to be present when a violation occurs, shall, by their choice, be considered a participant in the violation. In this program there are no “innocent by-standers.”

Dress code for conference is business attire. No jeans!

**Young ladies:** Suits, dresses, long skirts, blouses or sweaters and appropriate shoes (no sandals or flip-flops).

Tennis/athletic shoes are not appropriate; strapless or spaghetti strap style tops are prohibited as well. Also, no cropped tops and no bare midriffs please. **Skirts must be one inch above the knee or longer.**

**Young men:** Suits or blazers and slacks, shirt and tie. Appropriate shoes. (Appropriate means, as it does for young ladies, no sandals, e.g. Birkenstocks, or tennis/athletic shoes.)

When choosing an outfit, ask yourself, “Would I wear this to a job interview if I really wanted to be hired?” Obviously, if the answer is no, then you should probably search the closet again. And, please do not be offended if conference staff ask you to return to your room and change. We are merely upholding this dress code and would never personally criticize your fashion sense! ☺

Possession and or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs (unless prescribed), tobacco products or pornography by any participant will result in an immediate expulsion from the conference. Any participant who is expelled from the conference will be sent home at his or her own expense. Parents and school administration will be notified of the expulsion as soon as possible, and students should be aware they might be subject to further disciplinary action by their respective schools, depending on specific school policies.

There is absolutely no leaving the conference after officer check-in and no officer may drive or ride in ANY vehicle during the time they are at a CCE conference.

All officers are to participate in all scheduled events. This includes the nightly activity.

Officers must be early in arrival to all scheduled conference events and officer meetings.

Officers must dress in costume if required for conference theme.

Officers must not exhibit school or district favoritism.

Officers must remain unbiased where elections are concerned.

Officers are responsible for maintaining decorum during the conference.

Officers must be knowledgeable of parliamentary procedure.

Officers will report ALL incidents of misconduct to the CCE Executive Director by any means necessary. Once again, remember there are no innocent by-standers.

No boys allowed in girls’ rooms or girls allowed in boys’ rooms. Violation of this rule is grounds for expulsion.

No delegate may leave his or her room after curfew except for an emergency. If you have an emergency you must notify your adult advisor and the YMCA Center for Civic Engagement Executive Director.

Nametags must be worn visibly at all functions.

Destruction of personal property, hotel or other property will result in immediate expulsion. Any delegate responsible for damages must make restitution and will be held accountable for any legal actions that follow.

No food or drinks shall be permitted in any session. No cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices are allowed in any session.

Noise must be kept to a minimum in all hotel rooms and hallways. YMCA or other conference staff will investigate any complaints waged by other hotel guests.

ABSOLUTELY no throwing of anything over the balconies of the hotel.

Use of the Tennessee State Capitol voting machines is strictly prohibited. No touching or pushing buttons in chamber seats. Violation of this regulation is grounds for expulsion.

Use of the Tennessee State Capitol sound system is prohibited. Tampering with the components of the sound systems (microphones, cords, etc) is prohibited. Delegates who violate this regulation will be expelled from the conference.

Violation of any conference guidelines may result in dismissal from the conference and or the suspension of your school for the next CCE Conference.

Officers will not be allowed to participate unless a YDC release form is on file at the CCE office.

The YMCA Center for Civic Engagement staff reserves the right to make amendments to the officer code of conduct at anytime. Notice of these amendments will be given to all officers and advisors.

**Waiver**

**We acknowledge that CCE events will be held at different venues and that transportation maybe provided between venues. The transportation will be provided by third parties with whom YMCA will contract or certified YMCA staff. We agree that we will hold YMCA harmless against, and agree not to name YMCA as a defendant in any action arising out of or related to, any injury, harm, damage, loss or expenses of any nature incurred in connection with such transportation activities.**

No participant may drive or ride in ANY vehicle during the time they are at a CCE conference this includes taxis and friends vehicles who are not attending the conference .

Destruction of personal property, hotel or other property will result in immediate expulsion. Any delegate responsible for damages must make restitution and will be held accountable for any legal actions that follow. Hotel rooms are registered to the conference and are subject to search by the CCE staff at any time. All conference participants, guests, bags and vehicles at the conference are also subject to search by the CCE staff at any time.

I grant permission for photographs, written/art work, quotes, videos or other media which may include my child, to be used in media releases which benefit the YMCA of Middle Tennessee.

I have read and adhere to all officer guidelines:

**Officer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_