



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

It breaks our hearts to let you know that **YIG Tri-Star Conference for April 2-5 and YIG Volunteer for April 23-26** have been **postponed indefinitely** due to health concerns associated with the spread of COVID-19 in Tennessee. After the Metro Public Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County issued their revised guidance regarding gatherings of 100 or more people and the CDC published recommendations against gatherings of 50 or more people, we consulted with senior leadership at the YMCA of Middle Tennessee and our counterparts nationwide, and we have concluded that there is no way to responsibly hold our conference while ensuring the safety of our delegates, teachers, and volunteers. The health and safety of our participants is of the utmost concern to us, and while it is tremendously difficult for us to suspend this conference, we believe it is best to follow the current guidelines of the CDC, State Department of Health, and Nashville's local public health officials.

This was not an easy decision for us, and I know this will not be welcome news to you or your advisors. Postponing a conference indefinitely is not something we have done before, and we ask for patience and understanding over the next few weeks as we continue to work through what this means for us, you, and your advisors. We will keep your advisors updated with regular information in the coming weeks. We know there will be many questions going forward. Here are the answers we have now:

#### **REFUNDS**

We are dedicated to refunding as many conference fees as we can. We are working through our contract with the DoubleTree Hotel and will be in touch with your advisor as soon as we have definitive answers. We thank you in advance for your patience on this matter.

#### **RESCHEDULING /ALTERNATIVES**

We are currently evaluating options for a virtual conference alternative for our high school conferences to debate legislation and run some special components. We plan to distribute bill and component awards as usual, so please make sure to turn in your briefs, bills, or pre-conference assignments in order to be considered eligible for awards or for an office next year.

#### **ELECTIONS/OFFICERS**

We understand that this suspension will particularly affect those of you who will be running for office for YIG 2021 conferences. We are working with our team here and our current slate of officers to determine the correct methodology for selecting next year's officers and will reach out to candidates and advisors once we have more information. **Candidates should still submit their speeches as usual.**

We understand that this is disappointing and upsetting. The core values of the YMCA are Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. At the Center for Civic Engagement, we are going to be putting these values first as we make decisions that affect the safety and health of our students, advisors, and volunteers. We ask that you all keep these values in minds over the next few weeks. Civic Engagement does not begin and end at the Youth in Government Conference, and your communities are sure to find themselves in need of a group of young, bright, and passionate servant leaders over the next few weeks.

We will keep you informed—via our website, social media platforms, and e-mail—as the situation develops, and we wish safety and health to you and all of your families. Please reach out if there is any way that we can be of service. We will be responding as quickly as we can.

Thanks,

Susan, Elise, and Tyler