



**EDUCATE  
HONOR  
CHALLENGE**

## **Preparing AMVETS Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference**

### **Forms:**

Enclosed in your registration packet are several forms that must be returned to the Freedoms Foundation two weeks prior the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference.

These forms include:

1. *Student Information Form*
2. *Medical Information Form with Parental Consent*
3. *Honor Code*
4. *Talent Release Form*

**Please complete all four forms and return to Freedoms Foundation by October 24, 2019.**

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
Education Office – AMVETS Program  
1601 Valley Forge Road, Box 67  
Valley Forge, PA 19481

E-mail to [rschy@ffvf.org](mailto:rschy@ffvf.org) or fax to 610.935.0052

### **“Leave-at-Home” Information:**

Contacting a student – In case of an emergency, you may contact a student by calling the Program Director's cell phone at 610-960-3357. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number. The Foundation's fax number is 610-935-0522.

### **Registration:**

Registration is held Thursday afternoon in the Martha Washington Building. During registration you will receive your weekend program and room key. Following registration you may have some time to unpack and meet other participants before dinner.



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## **Packing Checklist**

Please use this list to ensure you pack all necessities. Remember to check the weather forecast. Snow and cold temperatures are a possibility from November through March. The late spring and summer months can be hot and humid. Please pack comfortable clothes. While facilities are air conditioned, you will be spending time outside as well. Outdoor activities such as basketball, volleyball, frisbee, and football are available during free time.

Other Suggested Items to pack include:

- Toiletries
- Any Medications Needed – including over-the-counter medications for headaches, stomach pains, etc. The FFVF staff does not dispense drugs or medications to students.
- Snow/Rain coat & Snow/Rain gear
- Sun screen & Bug repellent
- Swap Meet Materials
- Camera with extra card and Batteries
- Alarm Clock
- Cell Phone and charger/Phone Card
- Postage Stamps for Postcards
- Spending Money for Snacks and Souvenirs
- Copy of health insurance card
- Copy of all phone numbers and information concerning the conference for your reference. Make sure that all items are clearly labeled with your name. Your luggage should also be clearly labeled with your name, address and phone number.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Rachel Schy in the Education Office at 610.933.8825 x 231 or email at [rschy@ffvf.org](mailto:rschy@ffvf.org)



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## ***AMVETS Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference*** **Accommodation Information**

### **Accommodations:**

Freedoms Foundation was established as an educational campus fully equipped with three dormitories, classroom space, and dining facilities. Upon your arrival, you will be placed in a room with up to five other participants. We assign rooms randomly, so you will not know your roommate(s) until you arrive. Your roommate(s) will remain the same throughout your stay with the Freedoms Foundation.

### **Packing:**

In anticipation of your trip, please pack wisely. Here are a few tips to help you pack:

- ☞ Commercial airlines have a variety of fees and restrictions for luggage. Please check with your individual airline for specifics. **You are responsible for any luggage fees.** If you can pack everything in a carry-on bag and a backpack, you can avoid luggage fees.
- ☞ Clearly mark your name, address and phone number on your luggage. Have the Freedoms Foundation address and phone number on your person in case of emergencies.
- ☞ Dormitory rooms have limited closet space.
- ☞ You will be responsible for the transportation of your luggage to and from your dorm room, so only pack what you can carry.
- ☞ Put your name on everything and **DO NOT** bring valuables. Freedoms Foundation is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### **Dress Code:**

Casual dress may be worn throughout the conference, except for the banquet Saturday evening (see below). Casual dress is considered nice jeans, pants, sweaters, t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, and athletic shoes. Please remember the ABC guidelines: no armpits, bellies, or cleavage. Offensive language on T-Shirts will not be tolerated.

On Saturday night there is a banquet which is considered to be semi formal. Semi formal dress is considered "church clothes" and may include skirts, dresses, and/or suits for women; dress shirts, slacks, jackets and/or suits for men.

## Rules:

Rules are set in place to ensure a safe and exciting environment for you to live and learn. The staff of Freedoms Foundation takes the rules very seriously. Upon your first offense, you will be sent home immediately. There are no exceptions. You will be responsible for your own travel costs if sent home from the program. Rules are expected to be followed upon your arrival at the airport in Philadelphia throughout your stay. Please read and thoroughly understand the rules before you arrive.

- ☞ **Drugs or Alcohol:** Use of these items is strictly prohibited. If for any reason you have doctor prescribed medication, please notify a staff member upon arrival.
- ☞ **Lights Out:** Lights out will be announced at the conclusion of the evening activities. During lights out you must be in your room with lights out.
- ☞ **Dormitory Restrictions:** At NO TIME are women allowed in men's dorms/hotel rooms or vice versa.
- ☞ **Attendance:** Your attendance is required at every session. If you are unable to attend due to illness, you must notify the Program Director immediately.
- ☞ **Honor Code:** All students are expected to sign and return the Honor Code to the Freedoms Foundation prior to their arrival on campus.

## Student Insurance and Medical Information:

Freedoms Foundation requires that each student submit a medical form completed with medical history and insurance information prior to arrival on campus. The form is enclosed in this packet. Should a medical emergency arise, Freedoms Foundation will assume the authority to administer medical treatment in the absence of a parental guardian. Freedoms Foundation will assume NO financial responsibility of medical treatment. Please notify us well in advance of program date if there are any medical needs you have.

## Housing:

There are three residence Halls on campus (MacArthur, Hamilton & Franklin). Each room is carpeted and fully equipped with a private bathroom. Participants are provided with an adequate supply of towels, soap, and bed linens for the conference. Wireless Internet is available in the dormitories. There are **NO** vending machines in the dorms.

## Meals:

Three meals per day are served in the MacArthur dining facility. The first meal will be dinner on Thursday evening. Meals are served in a cafeteria style serving manner and each participant is asked to bus their own table. On Saturday evening, there is a formal banquet to end the conference. During breaks and free time, the FFVF Gift Shop in MacArthur sells soda, chips, and candy. You are allowed to have drinks and snacks in the classroom and your dorm, but you are expected to clean up after yourself.



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## ***AMVETS Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program*** **Major Activities**

### **Leadership Workshops**

Students selected to attend the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference will engage in a variety of leadership workshops. Some of these include: Rights and Responsibilities of a Citizen Leader, Communication and Teamwork, and Personalities of a Leader.

### **Freedom Summit**

In addition to a series of lectures and group discussions on the topics of democracy, citizenship, the American Constitution, and current events, students will participate in a Freedom Summit session wherein the students will become their own working government to debate current topics of global concern.

### **Tours & Sightseeing**

Students will have the opportunity to tour historic Philadelphia and Valley Forge National Historic Park. Sites visited will include: Philadelphia - Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall; Valley Forge - Washington's Headquarters, Continental Army barracks, and the Grande parade ground.

### **Living History Presenters**

Historical characters, such as Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams, speak to the group and answer questions.

### **Committees**

Throughout the weekend you will have an opportunity to participate in committees demonstrating your talents and creativity or just having fun. Committees include: Floor Captains, Public Speaking, News, Affirmations, Flag, Vespers, and Morning Energizers.

### **FFVF Gift Shop**

The Gift Shop will be open throughout the weekend. Students can purchase a variety of clothing items, souvenirs, and snacks. Please note the gift shop is cash only.

## **Materials**

Upon arrival in Valley Forge, you will receive a portfolio containing your schedule, room key and other program information.

## **Staff & Faculty**

- **Freedoms Foundation Program Staff** – Supervise all aspects of the program. Professional staff resides at the Foundation and are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **Faculty** – Core faculty members are experts from national universities in the fields of government, constitutional law and American History. These speakers are supplemented by local and national figures providing an excellent opportunity for *AMVETS Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference* students to dialogue with experts both in theory and practice.



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## Tentative *AMVETS Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program Schedule*

### **Thursday:**

3:00 - 6:00pm	Student arrival and Check-in
7:00	Dinner
8:00	Orientation: Goals of the Program and Review of Schedule
8:30	Social Mixers
9:00	Small Group Icebreakers
10:00	Committee Meetings
10:30	Reflection Time

### **Friday:**

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00	Historical Interpreters
10:00	Freedom Summit I : Constitutional Law Seminar
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30	Freedom Summit II : Mock Congress
3:00	Break
3:15	Reflection in Small Groups
4:00	Free Time
5:00	Committee Meetings
5:30	AMVETS Workshop
6:30	Dinner
7:30	Medal of Honor Workshop
8:30	Leadership Workshop
10:00	Swap Meet and Ice Cream Social

**Saturday:**

7:00 am	Breakfast
8:00	Depart for Philadelphia
9:00	Mock Trial at the Criminal Justice Center
12:00 noon	Lunch at Reading Terminal Market
1:00	Tour of Colonial Philadelphia
6:30	Banquet
7:30	Keynote Speaker
8:30	Closing Orientation
9:00	Vespers Service
9:30	Signer Ceremony
10:00	Dance

**Sunday:**

7:45 am	Flag Ceremony
8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Tour Valley Forge
12:00 noon	Departures for Philadelphia Airport

\*Please note: lunch is *not* provided on Sunday. Students should be prepared to purchase lunch at the airport if they are flying home.



\* Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change.



# SWAP MEET



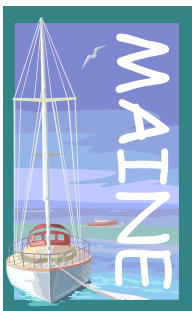
VIRGINIA



HAWAII



Oklahoma



MAINE

The Freedoms Foundation **Swap Meet** gives students the opportunity to bring and share gifts from their home town and state. Items in the past have included: food items, pens and pencils, pins, patches, postcards, keychains, stickers, bumper stickers, candy, etc.

Please do not feel like you need to spend large amounts of money on items. Instead, contact local businesses, colleges and universities, sports teams, and community organizations and ask for donations. Tell them that you are attending a prestigious leadership conference and want to share a bit of your town, city, or state with students from around the nation.

Please keep in mind that there will be 100 students participating in your conference and your items should be easily packed. During the Swap Meet all items will be displayed on tables and each participant will be able to view the tables and select items to take home. If you opt to bring a large item it may be raffled off in the spirit of fairness.

This is a great time to take home a piece of America, so please, feel free to be creative!

Due to increased travel costs, students may choose to mail their swap meet materials to the Freedoms Foundation. Please send any boxes to:

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
Education Department  
Student's Name & Program Date  
1601 Valley Forge Rd, Box 67  
Valley Forge, PA 19481



WEST VIRGINIA



Wisconsin



Arizona



ILLINOIS