



# HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

## **AT THE REAGAN RANCH**

Santa Barbara, CA • June 18-21, 2025

*“there’s a flickering spark in us all which, if struck at just the right age,  
I think, can light the rest of our lives”  
– President Ronald Reagan*

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **WHAT’S INCLUDED?**

The conference fee of \$125 includes three nights in a hotel, conference materials, transportation during the program, and meals from Wednesday dinner through Saturday lunch.

#### **WHO CAN ATTEND?**

Any student currently enrolled in high school is eligible to attend this program. Spring 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduates are eligible to attend.

#### **WHERE IS THE CONFERENCE HELD AND WHERE WILL STUDENTS STAY?**

The conference is held at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort (633 E Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara, CA 93103). YAF will provide hotel accommodations at the Hilton for students on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. Students will have one or two roommates of the same sex, and students may request a roommate on their application. We will do our best to accommodate roommate requests, and students will receive their roommate assignment at hotel check-in. Students are not allowed in rooms of other students of the opposite sex, even if related.

#### **WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE?**

You should arrive at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort during the afternoon on Wednesday, June 18. Conference registration begins at 3:00 p.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m. Luggage storage will be available for early arrivals. Hotel rooms will be available for check-in at 4:00 p.m.

## **WHAT TIME DOES THE CONFERENCE END?**

The conference ends Saturday, June 21, at 4:30 p.m., and students should depart from the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort (633 E Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara, CA 93103). Shuttles to the airport will operate starting at 3:30 p.m. that day. FULL TIME attendance is required, and flights requiring a departure prior to 3:30 p.m. are not allowed. We recommend flights depart on Saturday night after 4:30 p.m.

If the only return flight would leave your student in an airport overnight for a layover, we are able to provide hotel accommodations on Saturday night at a subsidized rate of \$75 per student and shuttle students to the airport on Sunday. There are a limited number of extended-stay rooms available. To reserve a room, call Madison Habersetzer at 805-957-1980 by Friday, May 16. Do not book a flight on Sunday before confirming room availability.

## **IS TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?**

Travel scholarships may be available on a case-by-case basis for those with demonstrable financial need. While travel scholarships are never guaranteed, Young America's Foundation will gladly consider all completed requests. Apply for a travel scholarship here:

<https://forms.gle/QfyaqMDYiWDFJwyc8>

Travel scholarship requests are due prior to the event. Please note, travel assistance is not guaranteed and does not cover ground transportation, baggage fees, seat assignments, travel insurance, etc. Flights must allow for full-time attendance to be eligible for reimbursement.

If you have any questions regarding your travel scholarship submission, please email [travel@yaf.org](mailto:travel@yaf.org).

## **IS TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?**

Tuition assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis for those with financial need. If you have financial need, please email a brief essay explaining what you hope to gain from the conference and your financial need to Madison Habersetzer at [madisonh@reaganranch.org](mailto:madisonh@reaganranch.org). We cannot consider your request until we receive this essay.

## **WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE LIKE?**

Check out a sample conference agenda here. Students will receive a detailed agenda via email prior to the conference.

## **CAN I SPONSOR A STUDENT TO ATTEND?**

Yes! While students pay only \$125, cost of attendance is valued at more than \$2,500 per student. Your generous tax-deductible gift will allow Young America's Foundation to host a student at this program who could not otherwise attend. You can designate a specific student you know to attend or sponsor a student who is receiving free tuition because of financial need. For more information about these and other sponsorship opportunities, please contact Madison Habersetzer at [madisonh@reaganranch.org](mailto:madisonh@reaganranch.org) or call 805-957-1980.

## **HOW DO I CANCEL MY ATTENDANCE?**

If you can no longer attend for any reason, please email [madisonh@reaganranch.org](mailto:madisonh@reaganranch.org) with your name and indicate which conference you need to cancel. If you cancel prior to Friday, May 16, 2025, you will receive a full refund.

### **TO WHICH AIRPORT DO I FLY?**

You should fly to Santa Barbara Airport (SBA), if possible, or you can arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and take a 2-hour bus ride to Santa Barbara through the Santa Barbara Airbus (Please visit <https://www.sbairbus.com> for more information). Another option is to fly to Burbank Airport (BUR) and take the Amtrak train to Santa Barbara, but this option will add several hours to your trip.

Due to limited staffing, Young America's Foundation staff cannot chaperone unaccompanied minors traveling by airplane or train.

### **IS THERE AN AIRPORT SHUTTLE?**

Students arriving at Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) will be picked up by a Young America's Foundation staff member (with a sign) at the baggage claim area and will be taken in a shuttle to the conference venue. The specific times of these shuttles will be determined once students submit their travel information a couple of weeks prior to the conference. Shuttles will run on Wednesday afternoon, Saturday evening, and early Sunday morning.

Only students arriving at Santa Barbara Airport, the Santa Barbara Amtrak stop, and the La Cumbre Plaza Airbus stop will be transported by Young America's Foundation, and we will not be able to accommodate you if you arrive or depart outside the conference schedule times. Shuttles are only guaranteed for students registered to attend the program. Due to limited staffing and vehicles, parents and chaperones should arrange their own transportation to and from the airport, if applicable.

### **CAN I TAKE THE GREYHOUSE OR SANTA BARBARA AIRBUS?**

Yes, Greyhound has buses to downtown Santa Barbara, but they are not within walking distance of the conference venue. You can take a taxi or Uber to the conference from the bus stop. Please visit [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com) for more information.

If you are arriving via the Santa Barbara Airbus, YAF can offer pickup from the stop at La Cumbre Plaza. Please visit <https://www.sbairbus.com> for more information.

### **CAN I TAKE THE TRAIN?**

Yes, Amtrak runs trains through Santa Barbara on its Pacific Surfliner route, which spans from San Diego to San Luis Obispo. The train station is located across the parking lot from the Reagan Ranch Center. Please visit <https://www.amtrak.com/pacific-surfliner-train> for more information on this option.

Due to limited staffing, Young America's Foundation staff cannot sign for and chaperone unaccompanied minors traveling by train.

## **WILL THERE BE SUPERVISION THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM?**

Yes, students will be supervised by YAF staff members who will chaperone and stay in the same hotel for the duration of the event. Students are expected to behave appropriately or will be sent home at their parents' expense. Parents and students must sign a liability waiver and responsibility pledge via DocuSign prior to the event. Even if a student is 18, they are still expected to abide by all rules and curfews.

## **WILL STUDENTS HAVE FREE TIME DURING THE CONFERENCE?**

Because the event is only four days long, there is minimal free time. Students will have approximately a 2-hour break before dinner on Thursday and Friday, but they must stay on hotel property, unless chaperoned by YAF staff. If you wish to tour Santa Barbara, please make your own plans to arrive early or to extend your stay in Santa Barbara. Young America's Foundation only covers your hotel room on Wednesday through Friday nights, and you will check out on Saturday morning before the sessions.

## **ARE PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND THE PROGRAM?**

Parents are invited to the opening student dinner banquet on Wednesday evening and to the Roundtable Luncheon held on Friday afternoon. Space is limited for both events, and further details and information about how to RSVP will be emailed to students and parents about two weeks preceding the conference.

## **WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE?**

Wednesday dinner – professional  
Thursday daytime – casual  
Thursday dinner – professional  
Friday daytime – business casual  
Friday dinner – professional  
Saturday daytime – business casual

Professional means a suit for the gentlemen and a suit, dress, or skirt for the ladies. Jeans, shorts, leggings, dresses with cutouts, baseball caps, and t-shirts are not acceptable attire.

Business casual means slacks, polo or button-up shirts, sweaters, etc. Jeans, shorts, leggings, clothes with cutouts, baseball caps, and t-shirts are not acceptable attire.

The dress for the trip to the Reagan Ranch is casual, but respectful. Please pack layered clothes and bring a jacket as weather can be unpredictable on the mountain. Jeans are acceptable if there are no holes or tears. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. Leggings, sweatpants, and clothes with holes are not allowed.