



GIANT STEP TEEN CONFERENCE

Inclusion, Harmony, Acceptance

Giant Step is a one-day teen workshop of open discussion groups with trained facilitators. The conference brings together a diverse group of 250 students so they can share issues and uncover similarities.



WHEN: Tuesday, October 24, 2017
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Wayne State Student Center Ballroom
5221 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202

COST: FREE, includes pizza lunch.
Registration required
Parking is \$7.50/day and requires a credit card

Selecting Your Students

Choose up to nine 9th or 10th grade students, who have never attended Giant Step before.

Consider candidates not usually selected for special workshops or leadership roles. Try to nominate students from diverse academic, economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds. Consider the student who has great potential but may need extra support to move toward personal improvement and success. Also consider your group's "thought leaders" who have the power to persuade other students, as well as students involved in social media, the school newsletter or yearbook who would be willing to share their conference experience.

Students should display an **open-minded, nonjudgmental attitude**, be able to work with and show concern for others, and represent your school or organization well.

With training and mentoring, the student could **develop into an effective leader**.

Students **respect themselves** and the boundaries and needs of others.

Students can **accept responsibility** and fulfill commitments to self and others.

Teachers and counselors can receive 2.5 CE's in Social Work or SCECHs (cost is \$10) at our Education Workshop while students attend Giant Step. See reverse.



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Why Send Students to Giant Step?

Each year, hundreds of teens from dozens of schools meet at the annual Take a Giant Step Teen Conference. Public, private, charter and parochial schools – even home schools – from diverse districts across southeast Michigan send students. These diverse teens enter as strangers and leave as friends. Trained facilitators and 34 years of working with teens help us show young people how to promote inclusion, harmony and acceptance. And it's free.

Does Giant Step Make a Difference?

95% of our 2016 students report that talking with teens from different backgrounds was interesting and educational. They tell us Giant Step was a positive experience for them and they recommend their schools continue to participate.

92% said they were able to talk about issues important to them.

84% told us that Giant Step helped them feel more confident that they can make choices in life that will lead to a better future.



Giant Step builds friendships. Four out of five students plan to stay in touch with their new friends.

Students Say . . .

"This is one of the best things that happened in weeks."

"We all come from different backgrounds and we've become friends."

"This was wonderful. It allowed me to open up and know new people."

"No matter what race, gender or anything, we are all one community that should stick together."

Giant Step Teen Conference is hosted by the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development at Wayne State University. Yearly research verifies that Giant Step increases self-responsibility and improves attitudes toward family, community, cultures, religions and ethnic groups.

