



# 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 23, 2018  
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:** Parking is approximately \$8/day  
and **REQUIRES A CREDIT CARD**

## Selecting Your Students

Choose up to nine 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> 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 3 CEs in Social Work or 3 SCECHs (cost is \$10) at our *Teen Substance Abuse* workshop while students attend Giant Step. See form.**



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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.

## Giant Step Makes a Difference

After the 2017 conference, students were significantly more likely to rank higher in:

- Wanting to know people who are different from the,
- Feeling comfortable speaking up to bullies
- Finding things in common with almost anyone, regardless of appearance
- Feeling that the entire metro Detroit area is their community



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

## Students Say . . .

*“Everyone is unique, but everyone can have some things in common.”*

*“If you don’t expose yourself to other people’s viewpoints,  
you’ll never evolve your thinking.”*

*“Bullying should be taken seriously and dealt with. Stand up when others are put down.”*

*“Getting to know people isn’t as hard as you think it is.”*

*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.*

