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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First

TO: Montana Middle Schools and High Schools

FROM: Tammy Lysons, Joe Moriarty, Michele Henson, Alicia Doney

RE: OPI MTSS Inclusive Youth Days

DATE: April 16-17, 2023

LOCATION: Missoula, MT- Holiday Inn Downtown

Greetings! The Montana OPI Special Education, Coordinated School Health, and Tribal Student Achievement, Relations and Resiliency Units have teamed up to bring back OPI MTSS Inclusive Youth Days April 16-17, 2023, in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Downtown, with additional dates and regional Youth Days in the works for the fall. Youth Days has positively impacted schools across Montana for many years and continues its mission to create a student forum for cultivating leadership skills, networking, service learning, and building the confidence to make positive contributions to both school and community.

The theme for the 2023 OPI MTSS Inclusive Youth Days is "The Leader Within." Youth Days is an inclusive event focused on youth voice and leadership development, community service and engagement, school safety, and mental health. With our partner Special Olympics Montana (SOMT), the OPI is excited to host this opportunity once again for Middle School and High School students of all abilities to develop their leadership potential.

This team effort will include a number of student-led activities. Please note that schools may be contacted in advance to solicit some additional student involvement and leadership with a number of the planned activities.

An **invitation** is extended to you and your middle school and high school students to apply to participate in the 2023 OPI MTSS Inclusive Youth Days.

APPLY HERE FOR YOUR STUDENT TEAM FOR YOUTH DAYS- APRIL 2023

Note: Resources for this event are limited. We will give priority registration for this spring's event to districts closest to Missoula to save on travel expenses/reimbursements, but those not accepted this spring will have priority registration for the fall Youth Days planned for additional locations around the state. Each district will be initially limited to 10 student students, but additional students may be added later with permission from OPI as space and resources allow. Schools will be notified within 5 days of application if they are accepted so that they can make hotel reservations or if they are placed on a waitlist. Accepted school districts traveling greater than 50 miles from Missoula will be eligible for travel reimbursement for lodging expenses for **up to four rooms and two vehicles**. Schools will receive a district reimbursement form at the event.

ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS

The two-day event will start on Sunday with check-in beginning at 1:00 p.m. and the event to start at 2:00 p.m. A meal will be served on Sunday evening around 6:00 p.m. with activities concluding around 8:00 p.m. On Monday, we will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 2:0 p.m. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided on Monday.

Guests may also contact **Missoula Holiday Inn Downtown** **front desk 24/7 at 406-721-8550** to make a reservation or ask questions they may have regarding their reservation. When contacting the front desk please have the following information available to provide the agent on the phone.

Online Reservations Booking Link: (Please note that the below booking link is not mobile compatible.)

-> **Simply click on the booking link below and change the dates of arrival beginning on April 16th, 2023.**

Group Name:	Youth Days April 2023	**This is the name of your group block.**
Booking Link:	Youth Days April 2023	**Click on this link to book your reservation online.**
Reservation Dates:	4/16 – 4/17/2023	**These dates are the dates the group rate is available.**
Group Booking Code:	Y23	**This is a reference code for your group rate.**

2. Reservations via phone:

Guests may also contact our **front desk 24/7 at 406-721-8550** to make a reservation or ask questions they may have regarding their reservation. When contacting the front desk please have the following information available to provide the agent on the phone.

Group Name:	Youth Days April 2023
Group Booking Code:	Y23

Pre-registration Required- Application details

Please plan to attend this event with 5 to 10 student participants **per school district.** You may bring both a middle school team and a high school team. Youth Days suggest at least one chaperone per 5 students. Names of students are not required to register/apply.* Please get your registration/application in early to assure your school's spot.

Registration Deadlines- Applicants will be notified if they are accepted or on a waitlist within 5 business days of applying so that hotel reservations and travel plans can be made. **Registration will close when we have reached our cap on participants or March 31, 2023**.

APPLY HERE FOR YOUR STUDENT TEAM FOR YOUTH DAYS- APRIL 2023

** Once the district's application is accepted, the primary chaperone [primary registrant] will be sent **a link to provide student names, grades, and email addresses**. Student information will be due no later than April 5, 2023. This information is critical to accurately plan for meals and other activities.*

STUDENTS: In selecting your students, please include a broad spectrum of your student population, including student leaders and future student leaders. A cross section of your student population is ideal in promoting diverse ideas and thoughts.

FEATURED PRESENTERS

- **Oscar McBride,** back by popular demand! Oscar is beyond excited to promote diversity and acceptance as he continues to share his story with the Montana Youth. Oscar brings his experiences as a Division 1 athlete at the University of Notre Dame, a professional athlete in the NFL, teacher, coach, and educational leader.
- **Other special guests:** Kenny Bies, Former Counselor from Bozeman, Snpaqsin(Paq) Morigeau, Big Sky HS student, and Opal Besaw, Flathead Valley Community College student
- A variety of student presenters and workshop facilitators

SOMT's special invitation to become Unified Champion School:

The SOMT invites all participating schools to become Unified Champion Schools and take advantage of funding opportunities, resources and support through our programming. Through youth leadership, whole school engagement, and inclusive sport opportunities, students can be the drivers in creating an environment of inclusion in their school communities and beyond. As we write a new story, join the inclusion revolution and become part of the unified generation. For more information visit www.somt.org/ucs or contact unifiedschools@somt.org.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Days will feature **Service Projects** on Monday morning. Each student should come prepared to volunteer for 1.5 - 2 hours. Naturally, some of the service sites will be outside and require participants to be weather ready.

In addition, we appreciate your school bringing a couple of **Door Prizes** that will be given away throughout the event.

We are also encouraging Youth Days participants to bring **non-perishable food items** that will be donated to local food banks when the teams visit and volunteer. This activity builds community and helps others in need.

We look forward to seeing you in Missoula . It is your participation that gives this event its effectiveness and powerful synergy.

Questions, please contact

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"The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities."