



2026 Audrey Walton Youth Leadership Conference Application



The Audrey Walton Youth Leadership Conference (AWYLC) provides opportunities for Missouri youth (high school juniors and seniors) to gain skills that will assist them in becoming leaders in their communities and schools. Named after and generally sponsored by Audrey Walton, a great leader in her own right, this program promotes the importance of leadership, physical fitness, higher education, and a healthy lifestyle. During the 2-day conference, we will engage in several activities that will encourage the students to step up and be leaders amongst themselves. All of the students will participate in both indoor and outdoor team activities. The Audrey Walton Youth Leadership Program is certainly an experience that will help any student become a true leader in his or her school and community.

When? Thursday, July 16 – Friday, July 17, 2026

Where? University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. Participants will stay in an MU residence hall with an assigned roommate of the same gender and attend the conference's events at various locations on campus.

Who Can Apply? High school students entering their junior or senior year in school for the 2026-2027 school year.

Cost? There is little cost to participants. Lodging, as well as most meals, are provided by the Show-Me STATE GAMES. If participants plan to drive themselves and park overnight, they will need to purchase a parking pass from MU Parking. Participants might want to bring a little spending money for souvenirs and any extra snacks they wish to have.

How To Apply? Email completed application including: 1.) Student Data Sheet, 2.) Signed Excellent Expectations Form, 3.) Signed Medical Release Form and 4.) Short Essay to:

Meagan Shelby
AWYL Conference Coordinator
megshelby98@gmail.com

Please turn in all forms at the same time.

Applications are due May 1, 2026

SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Choose ONE of the following short-answer questions and answer on separate paper. (Expected length: 1 page)

- What is your personal definition of leadership? What characteristics and skills do leaders possess?
- Describe a situation where you exhibited leadership skills and characteristics that resulted in the successful completion of a project.
- Discuss why you want to be involved in the Audrey Walton Youth Leadership Conference and how your leadership skills and characteristics would be enhanced by your participation.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance status by **early-June. Space is limited. Applications will be critiqued, and participants accepted to attend on a first-come, first-served basis.**



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The Show-Me STATE GAMES office must have all the following: **1.)** Completed Student Data Sheet **2.)** Completed and Signed Medical Release Form **3.)** Signed Excellent Expectations Form **4.)** Short Essay with any leadership positions you have held in your school, job, or community **before you will be considered.** Please turn in all forms at the same time. Applicants will be notified of acceptance status **by mid-June, 2026.** Space is limited. Applications will be critiqued and accepted to attend on a first-come, first-served basis. Information (student name and address) will be provided to the university for recruitment purposes.

STUDENT DATA SHEET

Please type or print neatly:

Name: _____ Gender: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____

High School: _____

Grade: JR SR
(CHECK FOR '26-27 YEAR)

E-mail Address: _____

High School Counselor: _____ Their Email: _____

Check the t-shirt size you prefer: S M L XL XXL XXXL

Please **check** your **top three** interests for future career paths. Click the link for more information from Mizzou.

[Business](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Education](#)

[Human & Environmental Science](#)

[Health Sciences \(PT/OT, etc.\)](#)

[Law](#)

[Nursing](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Arts & Sciences](#)

[Journalism](#)

[Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources](#)

Not exactly sure what career path you seek? No problem! We want you to take advantage of this opportunity to explore a variety of areas of study or careers that may interest you to maximize your experience. The Audrey Walton Youth Leadership organization takes pride in helping young leaders of today take steps towards fulfilling their goals. At AWYLC, you can explore different majors and career options to you identify the right career path for you.



Excellent Expectations Form

These **EXCELLENT EXPECTATIONS** were developed to assist you in receiving all the benefits of the **AUDREY WALTON YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**. Your positive response to these expectations will help you achieve your personal goals and others will benefit as well!

1. I keep the room assignments as given by the conference staff. I enjoy making new friends and becoming acquainted with others.
2. I am in my residence hall room by the assigned time so that I am fully alert for the next day's activities.
3. For safety reasons, I stay in groups whenever outside the residence hall, and I will not leave the residence hall without notifying my Team Leader.
4. I am courteous, polite, and considerate of others. As a result, I gain the respect of many other people.
5. I attend all sessions and participate in all activities. My fellow leadership conference participants will be eager to hear about my experiences and what I have learned at the conference.
6. I will arrive at least five minutes early for all sessions. This demonstrates my respect for all conference staff and allows the sessions to begin on time.
7. I report all illnesses, injuries, and other problems to the conference staff so that appropriate action can be taken.
8. I help to project a proper image while visiting other conference participants. I am aware that females are not allowed in males' rooms and males are not allowed in females' rooms.
9. I keep my room door locked at night and when I am away from my room. I will have my key with me at all times and will not give it to someone else. This enables my roommates and me to keep our belongings safe.
10. I will keep the noise low in my room after 10:30 PM. This demonstrates my courtesy for the other guests in the residence hall.

I commit to doing my very best to fulfill the **EXCELLENT EXPECTATIONS** of this conference. Doing so will enable me to receive the maximum benefits from the **AUDREY WALTON YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**. I understand that if I do not choose to commit myself to the **EXCELLENT EXPECTATIONS** of the conference, I will have to return home at the expense of my legal guardian.

Applicant Signature

Date



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Medical Release Form

Name of Participant: _____

Gender: _____

In consideration of my participating in the Audrey Walton Youth Leadership Conference, I, intending to be legally bound, do hereby for myself, educators and administrators, waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages, including any claims for loss, damages, or injury to my person or property arising out of my participation in the Audrey Walton Youth Leadership Conference, the Show-Me STATE GAMES, the National Sports Governing bodies, the Curators of the University of Missouri, the owner of the site of any activity I may be participating in, their agents, representatives, successors and assigns.

I hereby authorize and consent to any first aid, medication, medical treatment, or surgery deemed necessary in case of emergency.

I understand that I can obtain further information on the program or activity described above by contacting Meagan Shelby at: megshelby98@gmail.com.

Show-Me STATE GAMES: 1400 S. Rock Quarry Rd., Entrance 5; Columbia, MO 65211.

We may take photos and videos during the event. I hereby grant the Show-Me STATE GAMES permission to use photographs and videos of the participant at the event for social media, website, marketing, advertising, or print use. I understand that I will not receive compensation for use of these images.

Please specify any medical allergies or chronic illnesses you may have. Also, please list any medicines that you must take as well as complete instructions of the dosage and frequency. These medications should be made known to the conference staff at the time of arrival. In addition, please note any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, diabetic, kosher, etc.) as well as any other information the staff should be informed of.

Signature of Conference Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Relationship to Applicant: _____

In case of emergency, call: _____ at _____
Name Phone #

Allergies/Medical Conditions/Dietary Restrictions: _____

Medicine(s) to be taken (dosage and frequency): _____



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You May Be Wondering About...

You may be wondering about some of the activities or what you will be learning about at the conference. Below is a schedule of events from a **previous conference**. The 2026 conference will follow a similar schedule and provide the same types of seminars, learning opportunities, and activities.

**Some schedule changes are expected for the 2025 event.*

2025 Schedule

Thursday, July 17, 2025

9:00-10:00	Arrival, Registration, and Move-In
10:00-10:45	Introductions, Expectations, Teams – Johnston Hall
11:00-11:20	Jon Edlin - How to Live a Full Life by Overcoming Adversity - Plaza 900, Gold Private Dining Room
12:00-12:45	Lunch & True Colors - Plaza 900, Gold Private Dining Room
1:00-1:45	MU Career Center Presentation - 220 Jesse Hall
1:45-3:30	MU Campus Tour - 220 Jesse Hall
4:00-5:30	Hexagon Alley
5:30-7:00	Dinner on the Town - The Heidelberg
7:00-8:30	Team Building Games
9:45-10:00	Room Checks
10:00	Lights Out

Friday, July 18, 2025

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast - Plaza 900
9:00 - 10:00	Dave Fox – How You Being You Can Make a Bigger Difference Than You Think – Arts & Science Rm 234
10:00-11:30	RagTag Film with Discussion – Dream School: A Journey to Higher Ed
11:30-12:00	Lunch – Plaza 900 Gold Private Dining Room
12:00-1:00	Q&A Panel with Mizzou Students - Ag Building 2-06
1:00-1:45	Leigh Ann Clayton – Leadership & Accountability: Stepping Up, Standing Out – Ag Building 2-06
3:00 - 3:15	Goal Setting & Reflection - Arts & Science Rm 234
3:00-4:00	Team Games-Relay Races – Francis Quad
4:00 - 4:45	Pack up and Closing Remarks
5:00	Depart Home



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