



70 YEARS
INSPIRING YOUTH

72nd MLC DRESS CODE

California YMCA Youth & Government establishes the following dress code for all program participants (delegates, advisors and program staff). Our general dress code protects the health and safety of our participants and the reputation of Y&G as California's leading youth development and civic engagement program. Accommodations or exceptions to this dress code may only be granted upon written request addressed to the CEO.

GENERAL DRESS CODE

- During conferences, name badges must be worn visibly above the waist at all times.
- No clothes that expose the abdomen, torso, backside, or undergarments. No transparent, ripped or torn clothing.
- No athletic attire (gym/basketball shorts, leggings, sweatpants) or pajamas.
- No clothing with inappropriate sayings or images (i.e. drug, alcohol, sexual references).
- Clothes should fit comfortably without need for adjusting (not too baggy and not too tight).
- Closed-toed shoes must be worn outside of hotel rooms at all times and must have a back (no slippers, sandals or flip flops).
- Participants should exhibit good personal hygiene and overall cleanliness in attire.

SOCIAL TIME DRESS CODE

During evening social time at all conferences, participants may wear athletic attire (gym/basketball shorts, leggings, yoga pants, sweat pants) after the final scheduled session for T&E conferences or after 10:00 PM for MLC Sacramento (unless noted otherwise in the schedule)

MLC SACRAMENTO DRESS CODE

At MLC Sacramento, all participants must be dressed in business attire ("Sac attire") from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM, unless in their assigned sleeping room or expressly permitted in the conference schedule. After 10:00 PM, casual and athletic attire may be worn.

Y&G is a professional development program. Our dress code is designed not only to preserve the professional presentation of our delegates but to help fully immerse themselves in their program areas and experience life as a member of California state government, courts and/or related industries. Delegates are expected to follow not only the rule of the dress code, but the spirit intended in the professional tone of attire. Items like floor length ball gowns, sundresses, might fit the technical rule but do not follow the tone of professional business attire. If you have items on questions, please ask an advisor before conference.

Participants must wear one item from each of the following layer categories below:

Bottom Layer

- Dress slacks or suit pants
- Cannot be jeans, athletic attire, or shorts
- Knee-length or longer skirt (slit no more than 3" above the knee)
- Professional knee-length or longer dress (acceptable as top and bottom layer)

Top Layer

- Button-up collared shirt (tucked in) with a tie or bow tie
- Button-up blouse (tucked in)
- Blouse (shirt tails should not be visible)
- Professional knee-length or longer dress (acceptable as top and bottom layer)

Outer Layer

- Blazer, sport coat, or suit jacket
- Sweater or cardigan (that covers shoulders)
- Sweater vest (permitted if over a long sleeved collared shirt or blouse)

Shoes (all shoes must be closed-toed with a back, exception made for peep-toe shoes)

- Dress shoes (cannot be casual footwear, flip flops, or sandals)
- Flats or heels (low heels highly recommended)
- Dress boots (any height of boot; low heel highly recommended)

Attire for Closing Joint Session/Governor's Banquet may also include tuxedo with collared shirt and tie (or collarless formal shirt) tucked in or formal/semi-formal dresses with appropriate evening shoes (see shoe rules above). Dresses can be no shorter than 3" above the knee. No slip or sheer/transparent dresses are permitted.

Other business dress requirements for all participants:

- Clothing should be in conservative colors or muted patterns.
- Curved shirt hems should be tucked in and not peak from beneath the top layer.
- Dresses should be professional in style. No sweatshirt dresses, casual sweater dresses, or casual shirt dresses including those with curved hems.
- No unnatural hair color or highlights. No extreme hairstyles (mohawks, etc.).
- No casual or loud clothes (t-shirts, halter-tops, see-through tops, flannel shirts, jackets made out of the flag, athletic attire, jeans, shorts).
- Peep-toe and slingback shoes are permitted.
- No casual shoes (sneakers, skate shoes, Tom's, boat shoes, UGG boots, flip flops, sandals/slides, real ballet shoes or canvas shoes without soles).
- Hosiery is not required. If worn, it must be conservative in color and pattern. Tights or leggings that end at the ankle are not permitted.
- Extreme or large facial piercings must be either filled with a small, clear spacer, or covered with a modest, skin-tone bandage. Conservative earrings and small piercings that do not detract from the overall professional attire will be permitted.
- During cold/rain weather, rain coats, winter jackets, casual jackets/coats, rain boots and hats may be worn but must be removed during sessions.

ADVICE FOR DELEGATES

Advisors and program staff do their best to consistently apply the dress code to all delegates. When requested by an advisor or program staff to adjust your attire to fit the dress code, follow their instructions and consult with your lead advisor if concerns arise.

If you have any questions about attire you plan to wear at conference, consult with your advisors in advance. You will be sent back to change if your attire is not consistent with dress code expectations. "This is all I brought" or "My feet hurt" are not acceptable reasons for not following dress code.

Updated July 12th, 2019