

2020 Welcoming and Safe Schools Youth Conference

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The **8th Annual Welcoming and Safe Schools Youth Conference** is coming up this March. The conference is a safe and affirming place for middle and high school youth, along with their mentors and educators, to come together. They will share what they are doing in their schools and communities to increase understanding and decrease bias-based and bullying behaviors.

The theme for this year's conference is **Building Equitable Communities**. The conference will focus on building just and welcoming communities and having constructive dialogue amidst difference. Please consider incorporating this theme into your proposal. Additionally, we would like to update our logo. Please email us if you are interested in helping with this.

To facilitate safe spaces for important and mindful discussions, we track sessions for specific audiences. As part of your proposal, please identify the intended audience of your session: middle schoolers, high schoolers, adults/advisors, or everyone.

As always, we welcome sessions describing school or community programs that have been successful in decreasing bias-based and bullying behaviors or promoting acceptance and inclusion. Other topics we are interested in having addressed include:

- Refugee and immigrant experiences
- Students with disabilities accessing their education
- LGBTQ+ topics
- Race and racism
- Religious differences
- Successful strategies for standing up for yourself or others at school

GLSEN Southern Maine, the University of Southern Maine, New Beginnings, Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Department of Education have generously supported this conference over the years.

Session proposals are due by January 5, 2020.

Submit proposals here: <http://www.welcomingandsafeschools.com/proposals.html>

Send questions here: welcomingandsafe@gmail.com

The tentative date for this year's conference is March 17, 2020. The conference will be held at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. General conference registration will open in January.

We look forward to seeing you in March!

Meg Rooks, Lex Lyon, Robin Lea, and Sam Perry, Directors of the 2020 Conference