

YOUTH SUMMIT- OVERVIEW

The Event

- A **Howard County Youth Summit** will be held at **Marriott's Ridge High School** on **April 27th** from **8:30 am to 1:30 pm**.
- The Summit is being sponsored by **Howard County Recreation & Parks, Office of Citizens Services, Howard County Connections, HCPSS, Vision Howard County** and the **Columbia Association**.
- The **goal** of the Youth Summit is to hear youth voice and empower young people in Howard County by listening to students' issues and working with them to take action to improve these issues. The **agenda** for the day will be break-out sessions by issue followed by closing remarks by Ken Ulman and ending with lunch.

The Participants

- **Student representatives** from each Howard County high school will address issues raised by the results of a **county-wide survey**.
- **Ten students** from each high school will meet for the day, discuss the chosen topics, and propose solutions.
- The **Activity Managers** at each school will identify ten students and two alternates. The Planning Team has requested that there be **diverse representation of each high school's student body**.
- **Funding** for transportation, keynote speaker, and lunch will be secured by the Planning Team.

The Planning Team

The Youth Summit Planning Team includes adult representatives from the sponsoring organizations and many other community groups including; HCDrug Free, Leadership Howard County, HC NAACP Youth Council, and Howard County Tomorrow.

- **Three students from each Howard County high school** have been asked to serve on this Planning Team.

The Issues Survey

The Planning Team, with support from the HCPSS Central Office staff, has created a Youth Summit Issues Survey.

- The **purpose of the survey** is to identify the **issues** that are of greatest concern to the majority of students.
- **Five issues have been identified from this on line survey:** Issue 1-Hang out places within walking distance of schools. Issue 2—Communicating with teachers and other adults. Issue 3—Strengthening student government to advocate for students. Issue 4—Quality of food offered at school. Issues 5—Improve class schedules and the system for scheduling.

Goal of the Youth Summit

- To form student work groups that will create a position paper for each issue followed by an action plan for each issue.