

TO: Montana Middle Schools and High Schools
FROM: Joe Moriarty (MBI Consultant and Youth Days Coordinator)
RE: MBI Youth Days
DATE: September 2016

Greetings! The Office of Public Instruction and Special Olympics Montana are once again proud to sponsor MBI Youth Days for the fall of 2016 in five different locations. Youth Days has positively impacted schools across Montana for the past 14 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 2016 Youth Days is– *Creating a Sense of **Belonging** / **Being Part of a Team***. For the third year, the MBI is partnering with Special Olympics Montana in their unified strategies for schools. Together we will address the eight conditions for student aspirations as identified by the Quaglia Institute. Special emphasis will be placed on **self-worth** and how a sense of belonging enhances **self-worth**. 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 participate in the 2016 MBI Youth Days. On-site registration for each event will begin on the respective Sunday at 1:15 p.m. with the official event beginning at 2:00 p.m. A meal will be served on Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. with activities concluding around 8:00 p.m. On Monday, we will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 2:30 p.m. Both breakfast and lunch will be provided on Monday. Your school will be reimbursed for travel, lodging (if you should need it) and per diem at the current state rates. Schools will receive a district reimbursement form at the event. Following are the dates and locations:

LOCATIONS

Kalispell – October 2-3 – Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 U.S. Hwy 93 South, Kalispell, MT 406-758-3561
Great Falls – October 23-24 – Holiday Inn, 1100 5th Street South, Great Falls, MT 406-727-7200
Glasgow – November 6-7 – Cottonwood Inn, 54250 US Highway 2 E., Glasgow, MT 406-228-8213
Helena – November 13-14 – Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Boulevard, Helena, MT 406-457-5500
Additional Accommodations – Holiday Inn Downtown, 22 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 406-443-2200
Billings – December 4-5 – Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mallowney Lane, Billings, MT 406-248-7151

Ask for the Youth Days block of rooms when making your team's lodging reservations.

REGISTRATION

Please plan to attend this event and bring 5 to 12 student participants. You may bring both a middle school team and a high school team with each having the 5-12 student participants. Youth Days suggest at least one chaperone per 5 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.

It is important that you commit to attend for **both** days in order for students to experience the full benefit of the conference. **Please complete the online Registration form and submit by the given deadline indicating the number and names of both students and staff who will be attending. This is important to adequately plan for meals and/or other activities.** We want to make sure every person has something to eat and that there are enough service sites for all.

Online registration form, permission slip and agenda link: <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/MBI/>

STAFF and FEATURED PRESENTERS

1. **Oscar McBride** will be joining us for at least three of our Youth Days. He will impart his experience of being part of a team and his enthusiasm for cultivating leadership. Oscar won a national championship in college football play for Lou Holtz at the University of Notre Dame. He then played several seasons in the NFL playing for the Arizona Cardinals.

2. **Bruce Colton** returns as one of our featured speakers and workshop facilitators. Bruce brings his passion for student health and wellness in his energetic and engaging style.
3. **LeAnn Dolly Powell** is Vice President of Unified Strategies and conference facilitator.
4. **Joe Moriarty, Peggy Perry, Marilyn Granel, Virg Hale and Cindy Noland** are MBI Consultants. Joe will be conference facilitator along with LeAnn. Peggy and Marilyn will coordinate the community service. Virg, Cindy and student intern **Somer Reidl** will assist where needed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA UNIFIED STRATEGIES

Special Olympics Montana engages and empowers students to become agents for change in their communities. 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. Our opponent is intolerance and we are ready to get in the game with you as teammates. Grant funding, resources, and program support from peers and adult allies are available to you and your school team!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Days will once again feature **Service Projects** on Monday morning. Please come prepared to work. Please check the weather and come prepared to be outside as some service sites can be outdoors.

In keeping with this year's theme "*Creating a Sense of **Belonging** / **Being Part of a Team**,*" we are asking you to bring your ideas or successful stories of how this is accomplished at your school, district or community.

As always, we appreciate your school bringing a couple of **Door Prizes** that will be given away throughout the Youth Day Event.

We are also encouraging Youth Days participants to gather **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.

SHARE OUT

We are extending an invitation to all schools to put together a "Share Out" which might include poster/ presentation/video to share with other schools attending Youth Days. It is very exciting to all to see what you did in your school/community last year.

Please bring the signed permission forms and agenda to the Youth Day meeting that you plan to attend.

Please use the hotel telephone numbers on the front page to make your lodging reservations.

For questions, please call me at (406) 581-1909 or joefmoriarty@gmail.com

CHECKLIST FOR ITEMS TO BRING TO YOUTH DAYS

- **Prizes**
- **Non-perishable food items**
- **Share out materials (poster(s) video, etc.)**
- **Enthusiasm and Positive Energy**
- **Willingness to be Student Leaders**

We look forward to seeing you this fall. It is your participation that gives this event genuine merit and success.

Joe Moriarty, Youth Days Leader
MBI Consultant

"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."