

Top Teens of America

Sponsored By Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

40TH SYN-LOD

National Top Teens Leadership Conference

June 23 - June 29, 2017

**St. Louis Union Station Hotel
Curio Collection by Hilton
St. Louis, MO 63103**



Workbook & Agenda

“Participation Is Our Foundation As Leaders Of Tomorrow”

Teen Gerrá Gistand

National Top Teens President

Lady Janice Scimmons

National Top Teens Director

Lady Drema Lee Woldman

National TLOD President

Welcome To St. Louis, Missouri Top Teens of America



TOP TEENS OF AMERICA
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Top Teens of America Story

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The eight Founders of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. had as the first objective for TLOD to help alleviate the moral and social problem engulfing the youth in 1964 via a youth organization.

In 1968 while meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, the membership of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. decided that the group should have an official name. Lady Cordelia Mackey, President of the Texarkana Twin City Chapter, suggested the name of Top Teens of America. The name was adopted.

In 1969, there was a need to form a Top Teens of America group in each chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction. A committee was appointed and resultantly, the first National Top Teens of America convention was organized.

The Houston Chapter of Top Ladies and Top Teens hosted a meeting to organize the National Top Teens. Teen representatives from all Top Teens of America chapters were in attendance, under the guidance of the National Director of Top Teens of America, Lady Willie Lee Glass, the first National meeting of Top Teens of America was held in Houston, Texas in 1969. Over three hundred Top Teens were in attendance. Top Teen Harnell Price of the Rose City Chapter, Tyler, Texas was elected as the first TTA National President. At this convention, the purposes of TTA were defined.

The Purpose of organization shall be to:

- a) encourage high academic scholarship;
- b) develop social graces, leadership and fellowship abilities;
- c) develop pride in self; home and community;
- d) encourage participation in workshops which address current fronds;
- e) work collaboratively with other organizations to reach mutual goals;
- f) develop deep concerns for senior citizens, status of women, community beautification and community partnerships;
- g) encourage appreciation for ethic and cultural heritage.

The TTA projects have expanded over the years to include:

- Participation in the NAACP
- Participation in UNCF
- Participation in NCNW
- Participation in the AOIP
- Sickle Cell Disease Awareness
- March of Dimes
- Mentoring Program/TLC

In October 1983, the TTA program was further expanded to include a collaborative project with the National Foundation March of Dimes. The Program was known as **Teens Outreach Program and Service. TOPS**, a peer education program, designed to inform youth about drugs and alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and birth defects through workshops, seminar, and conferences. Parents were encouraged to participate. TOPS through education also enabled youth to make critical decisions regarding their lives.

In January 1996, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. extended its youth peer education through a newly developed program known as **Healthy Choices: Your Future and You**. A TTA/MOD guide was written and circulated to all TLOD Chapters to assist them with implementation of this health conference program. The major purpose of this program focuses on leadership development, critical decision making, adolescent health issues and die support of Walk America.

The **“Me and My Mentor”** Program was initiated in 1995. Every Top Lady was encouraged to personally touch the lives of Top Teens through one-on-one nurturing and the development of relationships that foster mutual trust and respect.

Top Teens of America members shared mentor and mentee relationships through “Me and My Mentor” publication in 1997 and 1999.

Since 1968 thousands of youth in secondary schools, nationally and internationally have benefited from membership in Top Teens of America.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.™

Office of the National President
Lady Drema Lee Woldman



Greetings Top Teens!

It is my honor and pleasure to bring greetings to you at this 40th Syn-Lod National Convention convening in historical St. Louis, Missouri at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel on June 23-29, 2017.

I am excited about all of the wonderful experiences that each of you will be enjoying as we move through the day-to-day of the conference. First and foremost, you will greet old friends and make new ones, perform community service for the Blessings in a Backpack Initiative, take part in the speech contest, talent show, spelling bee, Literacy Café, Black History Bowl, bullying workshops, TIA Recognition Breakfast, cruise the Missouri River on a networking cruise, eat at famous Sweetie Pie's, visit the Dred Scott statue that you helped raise money for, participate in the Mr. & Miss Top Teens Presentation, and much, much more. Whew! I am tired just writing this. There is something for everyone, so please take advantage of all of the information provided and use it to make your chapter and/or your service to your community enriching.

To our graduating seniors, I congratulate you and implore you to take all that you have learned in Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and use it to make your mark on the world. As young men and women, you represent the best of what we have to look forward to in the future. You are smart, talented and awesome, and you have served your community and TLOD well. We are very proud of you.

May God, bless you and may you continue to be a blessing to others. Please enjoy the conference and welcome to St. Louis!

I am at your service,

Lady Drema



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.™

Office of the National First Vice President
Lady Sharon J. Beard



Greetings Top Teens Officers, Top Teens Members, TTA Advisors and Guests:

It is with excitement and great pleasure that I welcome each of you to the 40th National Syn-Lod convention in St. Louis, Missouri. I am delighted to serve as National 1st Vice President working directly as the National Thrust Chair and collaborating with the National Top Teens of America Director, Lady Janice Scimmons during this historic celebration.

It is our desire to ensure that each of you feel connected and a part of this convention. **E**xcellence, **L**eadership and effective **C**ommunication are key to an overall successful event. There is an old saying, that, “you must put something in to it, to get something out of it”. We are asking for each of you to be challenged during this convention to **Imagine** the possibilities, to **Inspire** each other and to get **Involved**.

Syn-Lod is an exciting time when we come together to conduct the business of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America. This convention provides us with an opportunity to renew, refresh, refocus and celebrate the culminating events of a two-year program year.

As we deliberate, discuss and share over the next few days, plan to participate fully in all that the convention has to offer. The goals and objectives of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America are fulfilled through our program of work. We all must preserve and continue to serve our respective communities with “5 Star Winning Rights” in mind.

As we return to our various communities, continue to serve and continue to embrace the change. Remember, “Participation is our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow”. May you have a rewarding and productive Syn-Lod!

I am here and ready to serve,

Lady Sharon



Top Teens of America

Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Office of the National Top Teens Director
Lady Janice Scimmons



Greetings Top Teens National Officers, Top Teens National Committee Chairs, Top Teens Members, and TTA Advisors.

I am delighted to extend greetings to each of you assembled at the 40th Syn-Lod in St. Louis, Missouri convening at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel. I encourage each of you to fully participate in this National Convention that has been designed to provide knowledge, networking, enhanced leadership, inspiration, information, and new experiences-all with the intent of motivating you to go forth and serve.

Top Teens, we want to assure that your future is elevated greatly with Top Ladies of Distinction at your side. You have our listening ear and support through times of joy and frustration. We will motivate, encourage, and challenge your minds and hearts with all that is positive!!! Listen and learn from the many workshops, offsite activities, plenary sessions and events that have been planned for you. We hope that our emphasis on the M.O.M.E.N.T.U.M. program and all the initiatives of Top Teens of America will serve as a yardstick to measure our progress in service to youth.

At this 40th Syn-Lod National Convention, we will conduct the business at hand, elect officers, review our progress and enjoy our achievements. It is our hope that you will leave with your spirit ignited, your energy level restored and your desire to serve youth and young adults revitalized. Remember the Top Teens Motto, "Participation is our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow".

I am excited and anticipate a great 40th Syn-Lod in St. Louis.

Yours in service,

Lady Janice Scimmons



"REMEMBER IT IS ALL ABOUT OUR TOP TEENS"

Top Teens of America

Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Office of the National Assistant Top Teens Director
Lady Velda Hunter



Greetings Teen,

I am extremely excited and filled with anticipation for this 40th Syn-Lod Conference. Considering the events, programs and projects occurring over the past two years, I am extremely pleased with your progress. I am eagerly awaiting the recognitions, sharing, and awarding to come. I have watched you grow, develop and expand to new heights of achievement that without TTA would not have occurred.

This Syn-Lod is another opportunity for us to build on the platform of service by strengthening our purpose. Let us attend all plenary sessions and workshops. Let us all participate in the service project and enjoy the fellowship of one another.

So, stand tall, take your place among the Teens of this great organization. Mount a new stage that plays **success success success!!!** Seniors, remember us as you tread new waters of life's adventures. We will never forget you. Underclassmen, continue to maximize your potential... "make your good better and your better the best". Remember "Participation is Our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow".

With Love and Sincerity,

Lady Velda A. Hunter



Top Teens of America

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Office of the National Top Teens of America President
Teen Gerra Gistand



Greetings Top Teens of America!

On behalf of the National Executive Board of Top Teens of America, it's my pleasure to personally welcome each of you to Syn-Lod 2017. I am hippopotamus happy and elephant elated to welcome you and I am so honored that you have decided to attend.

It's an exciting time for Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America. Our organization is confronting a time of many changes and we're meeting these changes during a time of larger nation-wide and global change. Let us take advantage of this opportunity to create, communicate and collaborate.

Teens, we can meet today's challenges and ultimately, achieve our goals through our hard work. We should readily participate and offer fresh ideas. Remember, **"Participation is Our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow."**

Before I close, I'd like to thank each of your for attending Syn-Lod. Throughout this conference, I ask you to stay engaged, be proactive and help us shape the future of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America.

Yours in TTA,

Gerra Gistand



Top Teens of America

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Office of the National Top Teens of America Area III President
Teen Reginald C. Bailey, II



To All Ladies, Lords and Top Teens Assembled here this week,

Welcome to the Beautiful City of Saint Louis, Missouri, also known as the *Show Me State*. And it is also a part of Area III! Other than the fact that we intend to *“Show”* each of you the very best in hospitality, here are some other facts about St. Louis which you might not know. We are the proud supporters of 11-time Baseball World Series champs, the St. Louis Cardinals. We also invented gooey butter cake and the popular drink 7-Up. And, the most profound fact is that, we were the first U.S. city to host the Olympics.

Being the Gateway to the West, we are here at the 40th Syn-Lod of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. to come together as one to recognize service given within our various communities, elect new leaders and perform volunteer opportunities. I would like to welcome all six Areas, near and far, with an open hand and a ready mind. On behalf of all members of Area III South Cluster that planned this week’s activities, under the guidance of our National President, and all Ladies, Lords and Top Teens of Area III, I would like to Welcome you to the 40th Syn-Lod and hope you learn and enjoy your stay in our Independent City.

With service to Top Teens,

Teen Reginald C. Bailey II



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Lady Rose Coker

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“NATIONAL TTA SONG”

Sung to the tune: “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing.”

Words written by TTA Raymond Crawford, Chicago Chapter

Top Teens are we the world can see
Our hearts are filled with love
As youth, we strive to do our best
To learn and serve mankind.

We try to help in times of need
Wherever we may be
In hospitals and nursing homes
And in our communities.

Higher education is our aim
Our goal is success in life
TLOD, our parents, too.
Help us to do what’s right.

That’s the way we are,
Let the world see today
A group of teens
That love mankind
Who plan to never stray.

Hand in Hand as Top Teens
Always on the go
TLOD and parents
Help us find the way.

Top Teens are we the world can see
Our hearts are filled with love
As youth, we strive to do our best
To learn and serve mankind.

We try to help in times of need
Wherever we may be
We’re proud to be the members of
TOP TEENS OF AMERICA



Top Teens of America

Syn-Lod Code of Ethics

1. All Top Teens are expected to be present at all meetings and activities. If a Teen is not going to be present, the Advisor must be notified at once as to where the Teen will be and the reason for not being present.
2. All curfews must be followed. All Top Teens must be settled in their room by 12:00 PM **(MANDATORY)**. There will be absolutely no visitation in rooms after this hour. The National Top Teens Director will determine any extensions of this hour.
3. Top Teens are not to leave the convention site under any circumstances without the permission of and direction from their Top Teens Advisor. Any Teen doing so, without permission, will be disciplined. All TLOD members (mother, aunt and/or grandmother) must respect directives of TTA Advisors when TTA members leave home under the auspices of TLOD members.
4. There shall be no co-ed visitations in the hotel sleeping rooms. No Exceptions. Any co-ed visitation will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics and will be handled accordingly.
5. Alcoholic beverages, marijuana, any illegal stimulants or depressants are not permitted at any conference, convention, function or activity of Top Teens of America. Any Teen found with any of these substances will be disciplined. Parents and the proper authorities shall be notified of any Teen's involvement in any illegal activities and shall be sent home at the parent's expense.
6. Top Teens shall conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to the organization: good manners, proper attire and avoid unnecessary boisterousness. Top Teens should never be guilty of being loud. Therefore, always keep in mind that Top Teens should act like young ladies and young men.
7. Dress for the occasion: Dressy/business attire for all meetings; dressier attire as required for the occasion; hemlines should be no more than three (3) inches above the knees at any time. There shall be no bare ankles, short shorts or above the knee pants for special activities where pants can be worn.
8. Do not run in the halls or gather in unassigned areas. Top Teens are guests of the convention site; therefore, we must respect the hotel's property.
9. Top Teens shall abide by the convention site rules and regulations.
10. A National Top Teens Review Board shall be appointed to review cases of Teens breaking the Code of Ethics.
 - a. The Review Board shall be composed of seven (7) Top Teens of America members (National TTA President and one Teen from each Area), three (3) TTA Advisors from the National Advisory Council and the National TTA Director. The National TTA President shall preside. Should the original grievance be against the National TTA President, the national officer on the Review Board shall be the National TTA First Vice President.

- b. The decision of the Board is final upon consultation with the National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
 - c. Penalties for infractions shall be as follows:
 - (1.) Chapter becomes ineligible to compete for awards.
 - (2.) Chapter shall forfeit any awards received.
 - (3.) Fines shall be imposed upon the Teen(s) and their Chapter(s), not to exceed \$25.00 per infraction; and/or
 - (4.) Community service time (documented by the Chapter TTA Advisor).
 - (5.) Monies collected from fines shall be designed for scholarship(s) to be awarded from the National TLOD body.
 - d. Please refer to Article III Membership, section 5: “A member may be fined and/or suspended from Top Teens of America for breach of the Code of Ethics by the Review Board. Additionally, Article III Membership, section 6 states, “Membership in Top Teens of America may be terminated at the request of the membership, after being brought before the Review Board for violation of the Code of Ethics.”
11. Safety rules must be followed at all times. Swimming is prohibited.
 12. Inappropriate physical contact (i.e. groping, touching, fondling, bumping and grinding), and any other conduct and behavior that is not considered appropriate in front of your mother is prohibited. Likewise, there is zero-tolerance for fighting. Violators will be subject to established consequences.
 13. Top Teens must follow all local, state and federal laws without question.
 14. Profane, swearing and any abusive language is prohibited.
 15. Personal music is permitted for the listener only. It is not for others to hear. Earphones must accompany MP3 Players.
 16. Photographs cannot be publicly displayed, video-taped, electronically downloaded or otherwise captured without the written consent of the legal guardian of the Top Teen. Teens are prohibited from taking inappropriate photos of other Top Teens with cell phones and downloading them on the computer.

My signature indicates that I have read, understood and will comply with the established Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in National, Area & Chapter imposed sanctions, parents being contacted/notified and/or Teen being sent home from conference site or planned activity at their parents' expense.

2017 SYN-LOD



CONFERENCE RULES

The following rules are presented to the voting delegates of the 40th Syn-Lod for Adoption. The Order of Business shall be the same as printed in this workbook if adopted or amended.

General Rules

1. The first order of business will be the adoption of these rules and the agenda for the sessions of the conference.
2. Teens attending the 40th Syn-Lod shall be recognized as
 - Voting Delegates
 - (Chapter Delegates, National Officers, Program Thrust Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs)
 - Alternate Delegates
 - Non-Voting Delegates
3. All Teens attending the conference shall be required to wear their official badge to all conference activities.
4. A majority of the Voting Delegates shall constitute a quorum.
5. All voting delegates shall occupy their assigned seats.
6. No Delegates shall vote unless he/she is in his/her assigned seat.
7. When a Voting Delegate vacates his/her seat, the Alternate Delegate shall replace him/her.
8. Top Teens, who arrive following the signal to close the doors at each business session, shall pay a fine of \$1.00 to gain entry to the session.
9. Top Teens, who are sleeping, texting, listening to music, or playing games during each business session, or other forum, shall pay a fine of \$1.00.
10. All monies collected shall be given to the National TTA Development Fund. Teens and Ladies shall be exempt from this rule if physically challenged

Motions

1. All motions made before the body shall be by Voting Delegates only.
2. A voting Delegate must second all motions
3. No motion shall be discussed until it is seconded.

4. Debate on all motions shall be limited to two (2) minutes.
5. No Delegate can speak more than twice on the same subject unless permission is given by the chair.

Discussion

1. No delegates shall speak unless recognized by the Presiding Officer.
2. Discussion on all questions shall be presided over in a fair and impartial manner.
3. All Delegates speaking to an issue must:
 - a) Move to the microphone.
 - b) Identify themselves by name and chapter before speaking to the subject.

Voting

Voting Cards shall be used to denote the vote.

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall, keeping with Robert Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition, advise the President upon request.

Sergeant-at-Arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall identify and label Delegate seats, admit Delegates, ensure order, supervise the floor and issue material.

The Sergeant-At-Arms, timekeepers, and assistants are appointed to facilitate the order of the meeting.

They may restrict the entrance of late arrivals while reports are being presented.

Time-Keepers

Two (2) -Keepers shall monitor time.

Tellers

Two (2) Tellers shall be appointed to count votes when necessary.

Announcements

All announcements shall be made at the end of the business session, except in emergencies.

Electronic Devices

Top Teens and Top Ladies carrying electronic communication device shall set devices to silent/vibrate or in the off position during business sessions, workshops and/or forums.

No texting is allowed during business sessions, workshops and/or forums.

TOP TEENS, TEXTING DURING BUSINESS MEETINGS/ACTIVITY SESSION, SHALL PAY A FINE OF \$1.00. PHONE WILL BE HELD UNTIL END OF BUSINESS SESSION/ACTIVITY, IF VIOLATOR PERSISTS IN TEXTING.

PLENARY PROCEDURES

1. A member rises and addresses the presiding officer.
2. The presiding officer recognizes the member.
3. The member states the motion and submits a written copy to the recording secretary.
4. Another member seconds the motion.
5. The presiding officer states the motion to the body.
6. Members may discuss the motion, only if debatable.
7. Presiding officer calls for the vote.
8. Presiding officer announces the results.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. All floor nominations made before the body shall be by Voting Delegates only.
 - a) All candidates nominated from floor must complete official nominating form with all required signatures.
 - b) **No person may sign another.**
2. Only two Nominations for any position may be from same chapter.
 - a) Campaign speeches will be limited to two (2) minutes and will be presented during the Plenary Session.

CANDIDACY GUIDELINES

1. Credentials will be verified by the Credentials Committee under the direction of the National TLOD Financial Secretary.
2. Teen's local chapter must be in good standing.
3. Teen must be an active member in a local TTA Chapter for at least one (1) year.
4. Teen cannot be a senior in high school.
5. Teen must have attended an Area Conference.
6. Teen shall serve for a term of two (2) years.
7. Teen must be financial on all level of organization.

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AND CAMPAIGNING

1. Space will be provided to meet the candidates
2. Signs will depend on space available and hotel rules and regulations.
3. No campaigning at the balloting boxes
4. No campaigning during the actual Plenary Sessions.
5. All campaign materials must be in good taste.

ELECTION PROCEDURE GUIDELINES

1. Only official Chapter delegates, National officers, Program Thrust Chairs and standing Committee Chairs will be allowed to vote.
2. Delegates will sign in by Areas.
3. Delegates will receive a blue and white verification card once they have signed in.
4. Delegates will present their verification card to the person posted at the entry to the voting machine.
5. The voting process will be complete by using voting machines.

BUS TRAVEL GUIDELINES

1. All Teens must be seated at all times during the bus ride. The noise level must be kept to a minimum.
2. Teens must be accompanied by their TTA Advisor/ Assistant TTA Advisors or adult designee.
3. Any misconduct going to, while in attendance or returning from the offsite activity, will be dealt with in accordance to our Code of Ethics.

PROTOCOL

1. Protocol shall be properly established at the opening session of Syn-Lod.
2. All Teens and Ladies MUST stand when *National TTA President or National TLOD President is introduced or enter the room.*
3. Members presenting reports to TTA - National convention shall address the *National TTA President, Top Ladies and all Teens assembled.*
4. This is done only ONCE during session. All others greet the body...
5. All reports must be typewritten with copies submitted to the National TTA Recording Secretary immediately following presentation.
6. All Teens making presentations to the Entire body shall address the National Top Teens President, National President, Founder and all Ladies, Lords, Teens and Guest assembled. This is done only ONCE during session or event.
7. No applause after the singing of National Negro hymn or after meditation/prayer or grace.



OPENING CEREMONY

PRESIDING OFFICER: (The presiding officer stands and gives four deliberate raps with the gavel.)

Everyone stands.

(The Presiding Officer gives four more deliberate raps with gavel and speaks the following lines):

PRESIDING OFFICER:

The **Fortieth Syn-Lod National Top Teens of America Convention** is called to order. Our vision extends to all corners of the world. Our major purpose, as we strengthen the chain of friendship throughout the world, is **SERVICE**. We ask for guidance of as we give of ourselves in fulfilling our purposes and responsibilities.

OFFICERS: (In Unison)

As officers of Top Teens of America, it is our duty and responsibility to provide the best leadership in the execution of our purposes.

MEMBERS: (In Unison)

TOPS IN SERVICE must be our watch word:

T is for Tops in Service:

O is for Outreach in working cooperatively with other organizations to reach common goals;

P is for Pride in self, home, and community:

S is for **Service**, our major purpose:

I is for Involvement to keep abreast of current advancements:

N is to seek New goals as we prepare to be leaders of tomorrow:

S is for Senior Citizens and the deep concern we show toward them:

E is to Encourage scholarship, participation, and appreciation of Ethnic History and Cultural Heritage:

R is for Radiate as we branch out into all directions:

V is for our combined Vision that encompasses the scope of all mankind:

I is to Instill in each of us the ideals and purposes of our organization:

C is for Commitment in developing social and personal skills necessary for entering and performing in the competitive society; and

E is for Encouragement as we strive to carry out our objectives as set forth by Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated.

OFFICERS (IN UNISON): Why are we here?

MEMBERS IN UNISON: We are here to deliberate the wisest and best methods for executing our purposes; thereby, helping to provide and maintain effective personal, family, and community life.

PRESIDING OFFICER: First Vice President: Who are the sponsors of our organization?

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Our sponsors are Top Ladies of Distinction Incorporated.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Second Vice President what is our Motto?

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Our motto is "**Participation is Our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow.**"

PRESIDING OFFICER: Recording Secretary, what are the colors of our organization?

RECORDING SECRETARY: Our colors are **blue and silver.**

PRESIDING OFFICER: Assistant Recording Secretary, what do our colors represent?

ASSISTANT RECORDING SECRETARY: Blue represents honor and truthfulness that must be experienced by all human beings. Silver symbolizes faith, purity, and spiritual values to be shared by all.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Financial Secretary, describe our insignia.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Our insignia is a shield bearing a crow, a globe, a scholar, a diploma, an open book, a scroll and the quill and pen.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Corresponding Secretary, what is the meaning of the crow, the globe, the scholar, and the diploma?

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: The crown, at the top, represents **TOPS – TOPS IN SERVICE.** The globe represents our expanding ability to assist others in wholesome living; the scholar represents an intellectual, a studier, and a wise person; the diploma signifies success and scholarship.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Treasurer, what is the meaning of the open book, the scroll, and the quill and pen?

TREASURER: The open book indicates knowledge. The scroll represents our schedule of events, activities and achievements which will be inscribed in history. The quill and pen represents the means by which we can reach out and extend a helping hand to the people of the world.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Top Teens of America, why are we here?

MEMBERS (In Unison): We are here to develop skills which will help in carrying out our

purposes as set forth by Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated. We are here to exchange ideas and to devise new ways in which we can serve senior citizens, enhance the status of women, initiate community partnerships and beautify America. Thus, we are here to add new links and to strengthen the chain of friendship, to improve our moral, social, educational and spiritual values and thereby help to make this world a better place to live.

PRESIDING OFFICER: With our purposes clearly in mind, the **Fortieth Syn-Lod-National Top Teens of America Convention** is now in session.

CLOSING CEREMONY

PRESIDING OFFICER: (Gives three raps with the gavel as a signal to stand.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Our destiny calls us to be outstanding leaders in the community and the world through rendering **SERVICE** to the people of the world. May we repeat our creed....

MEMBERS: (In Unison) We, Top Teens of America, **Fortieth Syn-Lod**, under the auspices of Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated seek to be of greater **SERVICE** in our community. We seek to accomplish high academic standards, to strengthen our leadership, fellowship, moral and social graces in order to be well rounded productive citizens of the world. We seek to partner with other organizations. We seek to aid the Senior Citizen. We seek to enhance the Status of Women. We seek to make the communities of the world more Beautiful. Through knowledge, love, understanding, integrity, and faith in God we go forth to **SERVE** the people of the world so that the American dream can be fulfilled in the lives of all people.

PRESIDENT: I declare this meeting adjourned.





Top Teens of America 40th Syn-Lod Conference Credentials and Delegates Rules

The rules presented below govern the delegate credential and voting strength process at the 40th Syn-Lod Conference.

Delegates and Voting Privileges

Voting at the Syn-Lod Conference is based on representation. Each chapter has is allocated delegates.

Delegates are apportioned by chapter as follows per the Standard Operating Procedure Manual, page 1.

Membership of Chapter	Delegates	Alternates
10-20 Active members	2	2
Each additional 15 members	1	1

Additional voting privileges are given to National TTA Officers (elected & appointed),

Voting strength is determined based on the number of active Teens in each chapter as of March 31, 2017.

Prior to the conference, the National Financial Secretary has provided the total strength per chapter based on membership and any additional votes for officers, etc. The Chapter Presidents and TTA Advisors were requested to confirm the delegate identification entered in the Registration system.

The National Financial Secretary confirms the credentials of the delegates and alternates to ensure they were eligible to vote (i.e. active as of March 31, 2017)

Officer, Delegate and Alternate ribbons identify members that are eligible to vote at the conference.

DELEGATE SIGN IN WILL BE 15 MINUTES BEFORE EACH PLENARY SESSION

Conference Plenary Session Voting

The National Financial Secretary is responsible for providing the voting strength for each plenary session.

Voting members (delegates and officers) for National will have designated seating.

Voting Delegates are required to certify prior to each plenary session in order to be seated (i.e. vote) in a given session. This includes chapter delegates and any other delegates with voting privileges. Delegates can only be replaced by certified alternates. If an alternate is being replaced, the financial secretary must confirm the eligibility of the new alternate.

Delegate certification will be done 30 minutes prior to each plenary session. Each delegate must sign-in to be credentialed and receive a voting card for the session. Once the credentials sheets are pulled, the voting strength for the session will be closed and no additional voting cards will be issued.

Voting strength will be announced at the beginning of each plenary session. Each delegate must have certified prior to the start of the session in order to be included in the chapter voting strength.

Late attendees will have to request to be seated from the presiding officer. The delegate will need to seek privileges of the floor, upon recognition by the presiding officer she shall state his/ her name, chapter indicating he/she is a delegate requesting to be seated. Upon recognition from the presiding officer, the voting strength will be amended by the Financial Secretary.



 Syn-Lod Voting Strength			Chapter Delegates	National Officers	National Chairs	Total Chapter Voting Strength	Plenary Sessions			
Area	Chapter	Active Teens 2016/2017	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	I Seated	II Seated	III Seated	IV Seated
I	Baytown	10	2			2				
I	Beaumont	63	4			4				
I	Capital City	53	4			4				
I	Central Oklahoma	14	2			2				
I	Central Texas	0	0			0				
I	Dallas	27	2			2				
I	El Paso	29	2			2				
I	Houston	205	14	1	1	16				
I	Humble Intercontinental	135	9	2	1	12				
I	Jasper	10	2			2				
I	Lake Charles	29	2			2				
I	Lake Houston	23	2			2				
I	Little Rock	15	2			2				
I	Longview Oil City	14	2			2				
I	Lufkin	26	2		1	3				
I	Marshall All America	29	2			2				
I	Missouri City	37	3			3				
I	Monroe	23	2			2				
I	Nacogdoches	19	2			2				
I	New Orleans	26	2			2				
I	Nonpareil	24	2			2				
I	Oklahoma Metroplex	7	0			0				
I	Oran 'Je	20	2			2				
I	Pearland	0	0			0				
I	Port Arthur	71	5			5				
I	Prairie View	10	2			2				
I	River City	26	2			2				
I	Rose City	26	2			2				
I	San Antonio Metro	45	3	1		4				
I	Shreveport	50	4			4				
I	Suburban Bayou City	14	2			2				
I	Sugar Valley	56	4		1	5				
I	Trinity West	14	2	1		3				
I	Twin City	19	2			2				
I	Victoria	0	0			0				
II	Alexandria City	16	2			2				
II	Baltimore	17	2		1	3				
II	Dale City-Prince William	19	2			2				
II	Gotham	10	2			2				
II	Hampton Roads	17	2		1	3				
II	Philadelphia	15	2			2				
II	Prince George's County	47	3			3				
II	Queens Empire	14	2			2				
II	Southern Maryland	50	4			4				
II	Trenton	10	2			2				
II	Washington DC	12	2			2				

Approved by the
National Financial Secretary

Credentials based on membership as of March 31, 2015
for FY July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015

 Syn-Lod Voting Strength			Chapter Delegates	National Officers	National Chairs	Total Chapter Voting Strength	Plenary Sessions			
Area	Chapter	Active Teens 2016/2017	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	I Seated	II Seated	III Seated	IV Seated
III	Cardinal	16	2			2				
III	Chicago	16	2	1		3				
III	Confluence	10	2			2				
III	East St. Louis	13	2			2				
III	Ebony	13	2			2				
III	Evergreen Park Chicago	15	2			2				
III	Lincoln Park Chicago	29	2	1		3				
III	Madison	0	0			0				
III	Midway Chicago	24	2			2				
III	Milwaukee	74	5			5				
III	North Shore	14	2			2				
III	Skyline Metro	22	2			2				
III	South Suburban Chicago	35	3			3				
III	St. Louis	13	2			2				
III	West Suburban Chicago	21	2			2				
III	Will County Black Diamond	55	4			4				
III	Will County Cosmo	0	0			0				
IV	Atlanta Peachtree	19	2			2				
IV	Augusta	27	2			2				
IV	Birmingham Metro	10	2			2				
IV	Bryan-Liberties County	15	2			2				
IV	Cary	0	0			0				
IV	Cocoa Brevard	29	2			2				
IV	Columbia Palmetto	0	0			0				
IV	Durham	16	2			2				
IV	Effingham	17	2			2				
IV	Florence	19	2			2				
IV	Greenville	12	2			2				
IV	Guilford County	33	2			2				
IV	Hattiesburg	0	0			0				
IV	Jackson	25	2			2				
IV	Knoxville	10	2			2				
IV	Memphis	7	0			0				
IV	Miami	22	2		1	3				
IV	Nashville Capitol City	160	11			11				
IV	Raleigh	79	5	1		6				
IV	Savannah	59	4	1	1	6				
IV	St. Petersburg	10	2			2				
IV	Tampa Bay/WCF	11	2			2				
IV	Tipton County	18	2							
IV	Wendell	19	2			2				
IV	Winston-Salem	49	3		1	4				

Approved by the
National Financial Secretary

Credentials based on membership as of March 31, 2015
for FY July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015

 Syn-Lod Voting Strength			Chapter Delegates	National Officers	National Chairs	Total Chapter Voting Strength	Plenary Sessions			
Area	Chapter	Active Teens 2016/2017	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	I Seated	II Seated	III Seated	IV Seated
V	Cincinnati	10	2			2				
V	Cite D'Etroit	0	0			0				
V	Columbus	12	2			2				
V	Dayton	12	2		1	3				
V	Detroit	30	2			2				
V	Greater Cleveland	18	2			2				
V	Indianapolis	29	2	1		3				
V	Kentuckiana	10	2			2				
V	Michigan Metro	16	2			2				
V	Northwest Indiana	0	0			0				
V	Renaissance	9	0			0				
V	Saginaw	10	2			2				
V	Toledo	10	2			2				
VI	Altadena	10	2			2				
VI	Carson	16	2			2				
VI	City of Angels	17	2			2				
VI	Denver	0	0			0				
VI	Hub City	12	2			2				
VI	Inglewood	17	2			2				
VI	Inland Empire	0	0			0				
VI	Ladera Heights	41	3	1		4				
VI	Las Vegas Crown Jewels	0	0			0				
VI	Los Angeles	10	2			2				
VI	Mountain West	13	2		1	3				
VI	Phoenix	12	2			2				
VI	Rocky Mountain Colorado	0	0			0				
VI	San Diego By the Bay	15	2			2				
VI	Starlight Las Vegas	19	2			2				
		2780	255	11	11	275				
						Majority				
						Two-Thirds				

Approved by the
National Financial Secretary

Credentials based on membership as of March 31, 2015
for FY July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015



TOP TEENS OF AMERICA
Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc

40th Syn-Lod Agenda

Friday, June 23, 2017

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm Teens Meet & Greet Pegram

Saturday, June 24, 2017

7:00 am – 7:45 am Prayer with Lady Porch Grand F
8:00 am – 9:00 am Continental Beautification Walk
8:30 am – 9:00 am First Timers Meeting Grand F
9:00 am – 10:00 am Continental Breakfast Grand Ballroom D
10:00 am – 1:00 pm In-Service Project
(Blessings in a Backpack Assembly) Grand Ballroom E
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Lunch on your Own
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP** Grand D

Moderator

Teen Josef Sorrells, National TTA Chaplain
Area One - Trinity West Chapter

Facilitators

Teen Benjamin Chapman
Area Three - Lincoln Park Chapter

Teen Joshua White
Area Two - Prince George's County Chapter

Recorders

Teen Kayla Clark
Area II - Baltimore Chapter

Teen Sheena Dean
Area IV - Raleigh Chapter

WORKSHOP # 1

College Panel Discussion

Teen LeZaire Reese – Clark Atlanta University - Former National TTA President
Teen Cameron Bouligny – Mercer University - Former National Director of Operations
Teen Kerry Jones – Tuskegee University – Former Area III President

WORKSHOP #2

My Perfect Plus

Teen Dymond Walker – Area VI – Ladera Heights Chapter – National TTA UNCF Chair

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dinner on Your Own
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Talent Show Grand F
8:00 pm – 11:30 pm Welcome to St. Louis Grand F
11:15 pm – 11:45 pm TTA Newsletter Meeting

12:00 am **TTA CURFEW**
(TTA Advisors, Assistants and Lords on Patrol)

Sunday, June 25, 2017

10:00 am – 12:30 pm Ecumenical Brunch Grand DEF
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm TTA Board Meeting Frisco/Burlington
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Joint Opening Session Regency
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **TTA PLENARY SESSION #1** Regency AB

Teen Gerra Gistand, National Top Teens of America President, Presiding

Opening Ceremony.....Teen Gerra Gistand
National TTA President
Introductions.....Teen Nia Dodd
National TTA Assistant Recording Secretary
Call to Order.....Teen Gerra Gistand
National TTA President
Meditation.....Teen Josef Sorrells
National TTA Chaplain
Greetings.....Lady Janice Scimmons
National TTA Director

Lady Velda Hunter
National Assistant TTA Director

Teen Alexandria Green
National TTA 1st Vice President

Protocol.....Teen Reginald Bailey
Area III TTA President

Adoption of Conference RulesTeen Victoria Cater
National TTA Parliamentarian

Adoption of Agenda.....Teen Gerra Gistand
National TTA President

Roll Call.....Teen Destini Manuel
National TTA Financial Secretary

Credentialing of Delegates.....Teen Jermaine Jackson
National TTA Treasurer

Minutes.....Teen Samaria Wilson
National TTA Recording Secretary

Appointment of Pages and Timekeepers.....Teen Benjamin Chapman
National TTA Sergeant-At-Arms

Review of Code of Ethics.....Lady Janice Scimmons
National TTA Director

Introduction of Dr. Triesta Fowler.....Teen Ashley Campbell
Wendell Chapter

BULLYING WORKSHOP

Be More than a Bystander

Dr. Triesta Fowler

Medical Officer, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Announcements.....Teen Christal Griffis
National TTA Corresponding Secretary

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner on Your Own

8:00 pm – 11:30 pm President’s Reception Grand DEF
Literacy Cafe
Speaker’s Tournament
Spelling Bee

12:00 am

**TTA CURFEW
(TTA Advisors, Assistants and Lords on Patrol)**

Monday, June 26, 2017

7:00 am – 7:45 am

Prayer with Ladies Porch and Edner Regency C

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Top Teens Recognition Breakfast Grand DEF

11: 30 am – 12:30 pm

TTA Plenary Session #2 Regency AB

Teen Gerra Gistand, National Top Teens of America President, Presiding

Call to Order.....Teen Gerra Gistand
National TTA President

Roll Call.....Teen Destini Manuel
National TTA Financial Secretary

Credentialing of Delegates.....Teen Jermaine Jackson
National TTA Treasurer

Nominating Committee.....Teen DeAndrea Smith
National TTA Nominating Committee Chair -Area I

Election Committee.....Teen Alexis Clark
TTA Elections Committee Member

Campaign Speeches (Candidates are limited to two (2) minutes

Remarks/National Convention Overview.....Lady Janice M. Scimmons
National Top Teens of America Director

Announcements.....Teen Christal Griffis
National TTA Corresponding Secretary

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Teens Lunch and Learn Regency A&B
St. Jude Workshop

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

TTA Plenary Session #3 Regency A&B

Teen Gerra Gistand, National Top Teens of America President, Presiding

Call to Order.....Teen Gerra Gistand
National TTA President

Roll Call.....Teen Destini Manuel
National TTA Financial Secretary

7:00 am – 8:30 am	TTA Voting	Grand D
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Community Beautification Walk	
8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Silent Auction	Midway
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Black History Bowl	Regency C
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Offsite Activities	

Offsite Time Schedule

11:45 am	Board busses from East Side of hotel on 20 th street
12:00 pm	Depart
12:15 pm	Arrive Old Courthouse
	Tour Old Courthouse and Arch Grounds and scavenger hunt
2:15 pm	Group photo on Arch Steps
2:30 pm	Board Riverboat
3:00 pm	Depart for 1 hour Riverboat All White Networking Event
	Teens will meet and greet and discuss future plans exchanging business cards
4:00 pm	Arrive back to shore
4:15 pm	Board busses
4:30 pm	Buses depart Arch grounds for hotel or Sweetie Pies

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Pre-Reception VIP	Grand D
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Community Awards	Regency Ballroom
11:15 pm – 11:45 pm	TTA Newsletter Meeting	

12:00 am **TTA CURFEW**
(TTA Advisors, Assistants and Lords on Patrol)

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Area III Continental Breakfast Morning Prayer-Area Chaplains	Grand DEF
9:00 am – 12 noon	TTA Plenary Session IV	Regency AB

Teen Gerra Gistand, National Top Teens of America President, Presiding

Call to Order.....	Teen Gerra Gistand National TTA President
Roll Call.....	Teen Destini Manuel National TTA Financial Secretary

Credentialing of Delegates.....	Teen Jermaine Jackson National TTA Treasurer
Committee Reports – (2 minutes each)	
Community Beautification.....	Teen Naim Muhammad National TTA Community Beautification Chair
Community Partnership.....	Teen Erin Wheeler National TTA Community Partnership Chair
Senior Citizens.....	Teen Kevin Moone National TTA Senior Citizens Chair
NAACP.....	Teen Allyse Hopkins National TTA NAACP Chair
UNCF.....	Teen Dymond Walker National TTA UNCF Chair
Sickle Cell.....	Teen Tianna Irvin National TTA Sickle Cell Chair
March of Dimes.....	Teen Austin Hale National TTA March of Dimes Chair
NCNW.....	Teen Sophia Haralson National TTA NCNW Chair
Literacy.....	Teen Leron Ebron National TTA Literacy Chair
Introduction of TTA National President.....	Teen Alexandria Green National TTA Vice President
The TTA National President Speaks.....	Teen Gerra Gistand National Top Teens of America President
Introduction and Installation of Newly Elected National Top Teens Officers.....	Teen Gerra Gistand National TTA President
Closing Remarks.....	Lady Janice Scimmons National Top Teens of America Director
Closing Ceremony.....	Teen Gerra Gistand National TTA President
Adjournment	

12:00 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Health Fair/Healthy Choices	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TTA College Career Fair	
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own	
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Rehearsal for Ball	Pegram
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Blue/Pink and Silver Gala	Grand DEF
10:00 PM – 12:00 PM	Teens Melt Down	Regency

12:00 am

TTA CURFEW
(TTA Advisors, Assistants and Lords on Patrol)

Thursday, June 29, 2017

9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Outgoing/Incoming TTA Executive Board Transition	Frisco
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TEENS BE SURE TO ADHERE TO ALL DRESS CODES



Top Teens of America Prayer

(Written by Teen LeZaire Reese – TTA National President 2014)

GRACIOUS GOD, TEACH US YOUR WAYS

Let the TTA spirit, be our light in the path of darkness.
With our eyes stayed on you oh God, we can overcome times of the hardest.

Through ups and downs and the wicked ways of the world,
As Top Teens, let our purpose be unfurled.
You are our protector; You are always near. With You on our side,
We have no need to fear.

We praise you oh God, for TLOD, Advisors and Parents,
helping us to do things Your way.

Keep us forever on the path so that we may not stray.

This is the Teens prayer,

Amen

Top Teens Attire
(No Jeans or Tennis Shoes)



Workshops/In-Service/Black History Bowl/Spelling/Talent Show

TTA Casual - Khaki pants, chapter shirt, TTA T-shirt, polo shirt, comfortable shoes

Plenary Sessions/Speaker's Tournament/Voting/Campaign Corner

Young Ladies: Business attire to include appropriate dress, suite or pantsuit, dress shoes.
Young Gentlemen: Business attire to include slacks, shirt, belt, dress shoes, jacket optional

Memorial/Ecumenical

Young Ladies: Appropriate uninterrupted white/off-white dress or suit, shoes, hose no pants
Young Gentlemen: Dark suit, white suit, tie, belt, dress shoes, black socks

TTA Recognition Breakfast

Young Ladies: Royal or navy blue dress or suit, dress shoes, hose
Young Gentlemen: Dark suit, white shirt, tie, belt, dress shoes, black socks

Off Site Activity

All: White bottoms (**no shorts, jeans, pedal pushers**), Syn-Lod TTA T-shirt, comfortable shoes

Community Awards

Young Ladies: Appropriate business dress or suit, dress shoes, hose
Young Gentlemen: Dark suit, white shirt, tie, belt, dress shoes, black socks

Health-Career-College Fair/Melt Down/Meet and Greet

All: TTA Casual - Khaki pants, chapter shirt, TTA T-shirt, polo shirt, comfortable shoes

Host Night

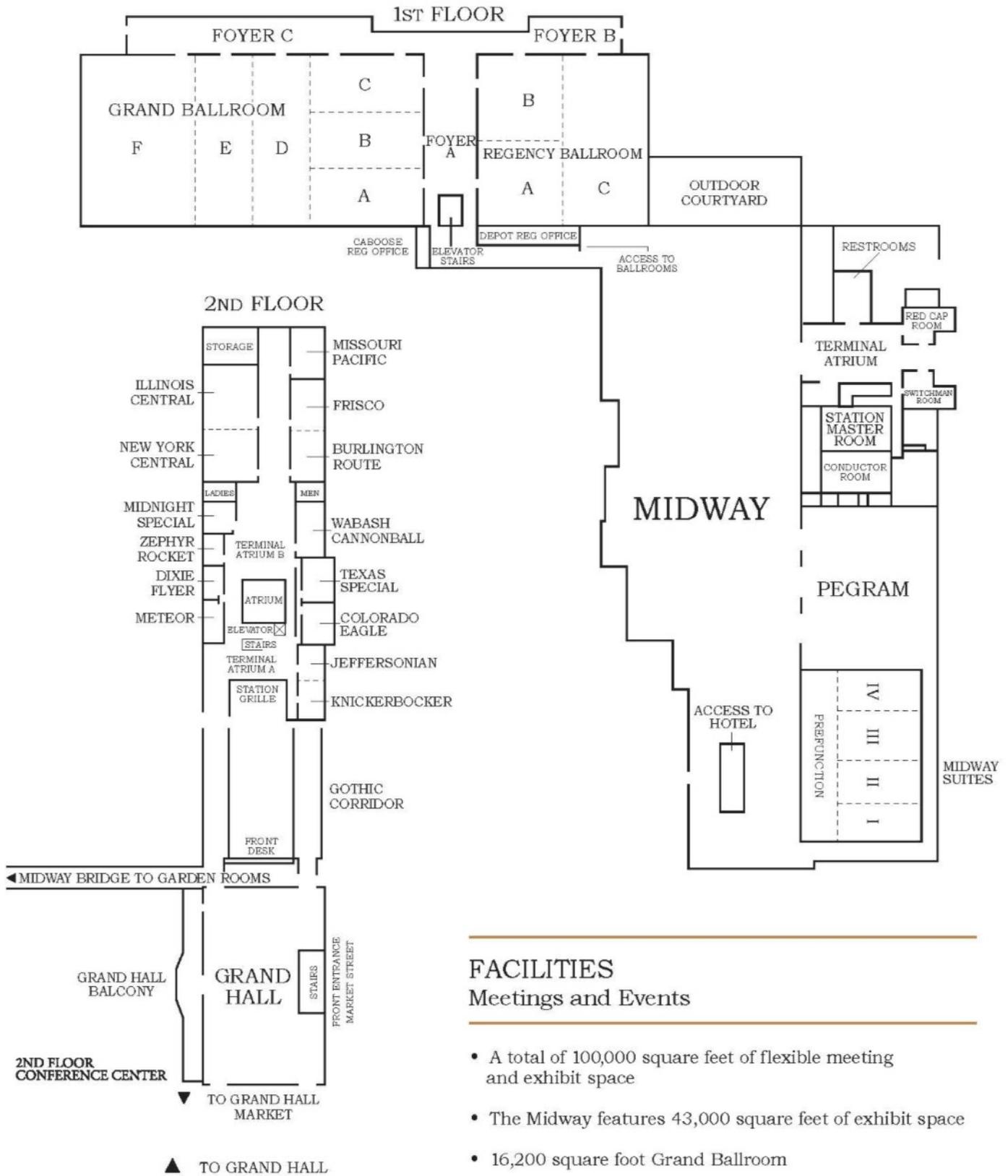
All: Your favorite sports team apparel. **No jeans or sweats.**

Mr. and Miss Top Teen

Miss TTA: Appropriate white full ball gown with elbow length gloves, chapter sash, tiara
Mr. TTA: Dark suit/tuxedo, white shirt, tie, belt, dress shoes, black socks, chapter sash, crown optional

Blue/Pink and Silver Extravaganza

Young Ladies: Appropriate long gowns - your choice of color
Young Gentlemen: Dark suit or tuxedo, white shirt, tie, belt, dress shoes, black socks



FACILITIES

Meetings and Events

- A total of 100,000 square feet of flexible meeting and exhibit space
- The Midway features 43,000 square feet of exhibit space
- 16,200 square foot Grand Ballroom
- 8,000 square foot Regency Ballroom
- Historic venues: The Grand Hall, Gothic Corridor and The Midway



Certificate of Attendance

This certifies that

Teen



attended the

40th Syn-Lod

of

Top Teens of America

Sponsored By Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

presented

This 23rd day of June 2017

St. Louis, Missouri

Lady Janice Scimmons, National TTA Director

Teen Gerrá Gistand, National TTA President

Lady Drema Lee Woldman
National TLOD President