

# Active Citizenship Conference

## Conference Basics

- **February 15-16, 2008** [Friday, 5 pm, through Saturday, 3 pm]
- **Comfort Inn**, 12031 Lackland Rd., Maryland Heights 63146
- **\$60 per person** [includes hotel room, all meals and snacks, plus all conference materials] Financial aid is available.
- **Prep Session I:** Saturday, Jan. 19, 9:00 am–11:30 am, Crossroads School
- **Prep Session II:** Saturday, Feb. 9, 9:00 – 11:30 am, Crossroads School

## It's your world now: Make it better your way!

**In politics this year, the big word is “change.”** Are you one of the growing number of young people who care enough about local, national and global issues to do something about them?

**The question is: How can you be an “agent of change,”** both now and in the future? And why is your involvement important?

Every generation of adults seems to say the same thing: The future lies in the hands of the youth of “today.” If that’s true, why isn’t the world getting better? Some people say that America and the world are stuck in a cycle of ignorance and apathy, and that those in power continue to repeat the

same mistakes, miscalculations and misjudgments that plagued every generation before them. Is that true? Is there something you can do to break that cycle?



*You’re inheriting a world with huge problems. What are you going to do about them?*

**At Civitas’ Active Citizenship Conference, you’ll examine these questions.** You and other high-school students will start on your own, personal path toward active, effective citizenship. [For details on conference activities, see page 2.]

**The conference will be serious, intense, intellectually challenging—and fun, too.** You’ll use skills in communication, research, collaboration, reasoning, con-

flict resolution and creative thinking.

**You’ll learn, meet new people,** voice your opinions, work collaboratively, and add your ideas to an important discussion that can make your world a better place for everyone.

On-line sign-up:  
[www.kidswhothink.org](http://www.kidswhothink.org)  
Or, call 314-367-6480

### *Who's going to be there? And what will we be doing?*

*You'll be with high-school students from a wide variety of St. Louis-area public, private and parochial schools. Among the 50 students you'll be working with, you'll find teens from backgrounds both similar and different from your own.*

*You'll share ideas and experiences in committee discussions, get to know each other informally at meal times, and have fun together during free time and our Friday-evening Karaoke party.*

*Participants in previous conferences tell us that the conference gave them new friends, new ideas, and a sense of accomplishment.*

### **Conference schedule**

#### Friday, Feb. 15, 2008

3-5 pm: Registration

5:30–10:30 pm: Dinner, conference intro, committee sessions

10:30 pm–midnight: Free time, Karaoke

12:30 am: Curfew

#### Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008

8:30 am: Breakfast

9:15 am–11:45 am: Committee sessions

11:45 am–12:30 pm: Lunch

12:30 pm–2:30 pm: Committee sessions

2:30–3:00 pm: Wrap-up session

## Lively, thought-provoking discussions!

### **The conference is all about your ideas.**

We'll provide some provocative questions to jump-start discussions, but the rest is up to you. You'll ex-



*Conference participants work out issues in small-group caucuses.*

plore the idea of “active citizenship” by: discussing the problems involved in making change happen; examining the way current political, economic and social policies affect young people; exploring the factors that make ac-

tive citizenship hard to sustain into adulthood; and working together to devise real-world political, economic and social policies that would help empower young people.

### **You'll brainstorm ways to get involved NOW as an active citizen in the community.**

Plus, you'll create action plans that could motivate other young people

to become active citizens, too. Following the conference, Civitas will provide opportunities for you and others to carry on the spirit and ideas of the conference.

### **YOU make it happen.**

You'll be assigned to a “committee,” where

discussions will be led by a facilitator, whose job is to make sure that everyone has a chance to speak, to encourage the free-flow of ideas, and to help move the discussion forward.

**You'll stay with your committee throughout the conference,** and each group will take its own direction, depending on the interests and ideas that come into play. Your committee might even divide into smaller interest groups. At the end of the conference, each committee will share its results with everyone in attendance in a final, wrap-up session. The ideas may surprise and inspire you!

## What's Civitas?

Civitas is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization, not affiliated with any school, school district, political group or religious organization. We've offered high-school and middle-school programs since 1991.

We try to provide experiences that help students grow into knowledgeable, active and responsible citizens of their communities and of the world. Our schedule includes United Nations simulations, discussion groups, conferences,

and a summer Urban Go-Team program.

We encourage discussion—rather than debate—and collaboration—rather than competition.

**More information at [www.kidswhothink.org](http://www.kidswhothink.org)**