

## *What is the Teen Conference?*

### **Teen Conference**

Every summer, since 1991, the Department of Health and Human Services and youth in care, ages 14 and older, host a statewide event for teens in foster care. This day is a great chance for youth to get together, play, learn, and talk about their experiences in the foster care system.

The Teen Conference offers a keynote speaker, lunch, large group activities, and exciting workshops that cover topics such as college and job readiness, strategic storytelling, dance, life books, challenge courses, and technology.

During the Teen Conference, youth and adults celebrate their personal achievements for the year, and honor those who have made significant contributions to system change.

### **Brad Levesque Youth Leadership Award**

The Brad Levesque Youth Leadership Award is given in honor of Brad, who spent most of his teen years in foster care, all the while fighting cancer. Brad committed many of his years in care to helping improve the lives of other teens in care.

The award is a scholarship and is given to a youth in care who meets the criteria that Brad helped to develop:

- Current of former youth in care between ages 15-21
- Demonstrated active volunteer capacity
- Interested in pursuing education beyond high school
- May be medically or physically challenged
- May have resided in group/residential programs
- May have participated in outdoor adventure programs

### **Friend of Youth in Care Award**

The Friend of Youth in Care Award has been established to honor a caring adult who has exhibited leadership on behalf of youth in foster care. Because youth in foster care face many challenges, adult partners who provide support, leadership, advocacy, and friendship are critically important.

The Friend of Youth in Care Award is presented to adults who are willing to:

- Make a commitment to youth in care.
- Advocate for youth in care.
- Be leaders on behalf of youth in care.
- Be a positive role model for youth in care.

If you'd like to attend the annual Teen Conference, talk with your caseworker or transition worker for more information.



**"I liked  
being able to be me."**

Youth participant at a Teen  
Conference