

WHITE HOUSE  
CONFERENCE  
ON  
CHILDREN and YOUTH



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

*“ . . . for a creative life  
in freedom and dignity ”*

MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 1960

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## THE CALL TO ACTION

“Every ten years during this century there has been a White House Conference concerned with the Nation’s children and youth. . . . These conferences have contributed much to our present recognition of the importance of children and youth and their full development to our national future.

“A new decade will soon begin, and I am, therefore, directing that a sixth White House Conference on Children and Youth be held in March 1960. The rapidly changing times in which we live, and the increasingly fast pace of change, make it incumbent upon us to do everything we can to plan ahead and to see that we prepare today’s children well for life in tomorrow’s world. . . .”



Dwight D. Eisenhower

## WHAT IT'S ABOUT

The Golden Anniversary Conference, to be held in Washington, D. C., March 27 to April 2, 1960, has been called “the greatest single undertaking of our time in behalf of our young people.”

*Its purpose*—“to promote opportunities for children and youth to realize their full potential for a creative life in freedom and dignity.”

*Its focus*—on the effects of our rapidly changing world on the development of our young . . . on appraising and reappraising the values and ideals we live by . . . on studying the factors that influence individual fulfillment—family, religion, education, health, community life.

Right now, a half million citizens, private and public agencies at local, state, and national levels, are at work preparing for the Conference. The pre-conference materials they are developing during the year before the Washington meetings, plus the plans for carrying out the recommendations in the decade that follows, point up this significant fact—

*The Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth is a process rather than five days of meetings—an eleven year process of earnest study and action that continues until the next Conference in 1970.*

The 1960 Conference, bringing together some 7,000 delegates on invitation of the President, will provide the rallying point—the springboard for a concerted attack on virtually every question that affects the well-being of the next generation and hope for a more rewarding tomorrow. For this reason, it is truly *a total approach to the total concerns of young people.*

## HOW IT BEGAN

In 1908 Theodore Dreiser and James West called on President Theodore Roosevelt to discuss the plight of orphaned children. So impressed was the President that on Christmas Day he personally addressed 200 invitations requesting people from all over the Nation to attend a White House Conference in January of 1909.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED

This first Conference gave impetus to the establishment of the United States Children's Bureau in 1912, the enactment of child labor laws, and the organization of the first national voluntary agency concerned with the welfare of children. In each decade that followed, a White House Conference on Children and Youth called by the President left its mark—

1919—Established national responsibility in setting minimum health and welfare standards for mothers and children.

1930—Produced the most comprehensive collection of data on the health and welfare of children ever assembled, including the Children's Charter.

1940—Led to strengthening of personnel and training standards in equipping American Children "for the successful practice of democracy."

1950—Endorsed a platform for meeting the problems which prevent young people from achieving healthy personalities; developed machinery for continuing activity during the time between Conferences.

## HOW IT IS ORGANIZED

The National Committee of 93 distinguished citizens appointed by President Eisenhower has been organized into major committees on conference studies, interpretation, organization and arrangements, finance and follow-up.

### **Joined for Action—**

A National Council of State Committees, representing governor-appointed committees from 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia . . .

A Council of National Organizations representing about 500 voluntary groups and . . .

An Interdepartmental Committee on Children and Youth representing 34 divisions of the Federal Government.

### **It's a Citizen's Conference—**

“This Conference will be run by the people of the United States, acting through their local, state and national organizations in cooperation with the National Committee. . . . This is the only way that such a conference can truly reflect the desires and aspirations of the American people for the children and youth of this country.”  
*Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.*

## WHO WILL ATTEND

Invitations to the White House Conference in Washington will be issued by the President on recommendation of the Committee on Invitations and Credentials. The conference participants will include representatives of state committees, national organizations, 700 young people, national leaders and 500 international guests.

## HOW IT IS FINANCED

The financing will be derived in major part from the citizenry through grants from foundations and contributions by organizations, industry and individuals, with the Federal Government providing funds for initial organization.

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- By indicating your interest to the chairman of your state committee or national officer of your organization.
- By engaging in projects relating to children and youth that are under the sponsorship of your national organization.
- By relating the program and projects of the local and state groups to which you belong, to the planning of the state committee.
- By joining forces, as an individual, with the army of citizens participating in pre-conference preparation.

*Every citizen has a vital stake in the future well-being of our young people. That's why it's a citizen's conference—why it's YOURS for a more rewarding tomorrow.*

*For further information, write to—*

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY  
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE  
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington 25, D. C.**

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
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CONFERENCE ON  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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