



MCSS State Conference Letter for Business Sponsorships

Dear Teachers,

The Michigan Council for the Social Studies wants you to attend the 2015 annual conference. To that end, we have put together a packet of information that will assist you in finding local businesses to sponsor your attendance.

All you need to do is read through the attached materials, print a few documents, visit some local businesses, and share the great work that you are doing in educating for democracy! Through these efforts we hope to raise the visibility and importance of social studies education for our state and our collective future, as well as implement a creative way for you to attend the statewide professional development conference. We know that school budgets are tight and legislative policies do not recognize the importance of educating for democracy. Hopefully, your local community will see how important our work is and will step up to support their local school district and students in becoming knowledgeable, thinking, and active citizens.

The following information is included in this packet to help you get financial support to attend the conference:

- An explanation of process
- A letter for teachers to give to businesses
- Talking points for why teachers should be sponsored
- Process for businesses to pay/receive credit for their teacher sponsorships

If you are successful, we will also provide some After the Conference support:

- A reminder to write a personal thank you/follow up for teachers to businesses
- MCSS will send photo of teacher along with certificate of sponsorship to go back to businesses

We hope you will undertake this effort to promote social studies education in your community and to obtain financial support for your attendance.

Sincerely,

Amy Bloom and Kathryn Gustafson,
2015 MCSS Conference Committee

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING MCSS TEACHER SPONSORSHIP

Deadline for completion: October 16, 2015

- 1) Download/print Teacher Sponsorship Packet - READ EVERYTHING!
- 2) Print copies of "Letter to Businesses" for prospective business sponsors.
- 3) Make certain that you have included YOUR information on the form.
- 4) Approach businesses in a professional manner. You represent yourself, your district, and teachers everywhere!
- 5) Be sure to speak to someone who has the ability to sponsor you on behalf of the business.
- 6) Explain why you would like to participate in the MCSS conference. See some suggested talking points below.
- 7) Provide the letter to businesses included in the packet.
- 8) If necessary, assist the sponsor in completing form. If sponsor is unwilling to commit in this moment, plan to follow up at a later date.
- 9) Answer any questions the potential sponsor may have.
- 10) Send the sponsorship application and check, payable to MCSS, to:

Michigan Council for the Social Studies
2111 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

If you have questions, please contact Amy Bloom at Amy.Bloom@Oakland.k12.mi.us or Kathryn Gustafson at Kathryn.Gustafson@farmington.k12.mi.us

Talking Points

- The Michigan Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) is the statewide professional organization supporting K-12 educators in the areas of economics, civics and government, history, geography, and content literacy in the social sciences.
- Since its inception in 1954, MCSS has supported teachers in the mission of educating for democracy.
- MCSS provides two signature events to support teachers and students: an annual conference focused on providing teachers with cutting edge, research-based methods to improve teaching and learning, and a student competition -- Social Studies Olympiad.
- MCSS Annual Conference is a way to improve teaching and learning for students in our own community. The conference focuses on helping educators prepare students in our community with the intellectual power to see societal problems, develop meaningful investigations into them; and consider possible solutions and potential consequences.
- Teachers who have been able to participate in previous conferences have been able to enrich student learning with real world problems and research proven strategies.
- The conference also enables teachers to learn from one another as well as university professors and professionals within the fields of economics, civics and government, history and geography.
- Since the social studies classroom is where the next generation learns the dispositions of citizenship as well as the fundamental economic and constitutional principles upon which our society is based, it is in all of our interests that teachers are supported in this most important task.
- It is through a robust social studies experience that students are prepared to take their place as leaders and citizens, acting as good stewards of our collective future locally, nationally, and globally.

Dear Business Owner,

The Michigan Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) supports K-12 education in economics, civics and government, history, and geography. The MCSS annual conference is the statewide forum for teacher educators that work with students.

In the past, teachers who have participated have been able to enrich student learning with real world problems and research proven strategies. The conference also enables teachers to learn from one another as well as university professors and professionals within the fields of economics, civics and government, history and geography.

Below are some reflections from teachers who have been able to attend the conference in previous years:

"The simulations I participated in at the MCSS conference have added depth and active participation to student learning in my classroom."

--- Adam Lincoln - Ithica Public Schools

"I learned how to help struggling readers better comprehend informational text at the state conference."

--- Jen Simone, Berkley High School

"I was able to take strategies from the MCSS conference and use them in my classroom the next day, as well as share ideas I learned with colleagues!"

--- Nancy Domke - Kindergarten Teacher, Utica Community Schools

"The technology sessions at MCSS helped me seamlessly integrate video, data, current events to greatly improve student engagement and learning."

--- Melissa Wozniak, Rogers City High School

This year, the MCSS conference will highlight the progress of Southeastern Michigan with events at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve, and Oakland Schools. The cost for one teacher to attend this two day conference is \$250. Teachers may also incur additional expenses if an overnight stay is needed. Cost for a hotel room for one evening is \$100. Below is a list of sponsorship levels. The Michigan Council for the Social Studies hopes you will be able to support education in your community through one of them.

Teacher Sponsorship Levels

Platinum \$350

Gold \$250

Silver \$100

Bronze \$50

Benefits of Sponsorship include:

- Recognition of your business in the on-site program on the teacher sponsorship page
- Certificate of appreciation for your business to display
- All sponsorships are tax deductible as the Michigan Council for the Social Studies is a 501c3 non-profit
- Investment in your local community and its students by supporting teacher learning

Deadline for Submission: October 16, 2015

FORM FOR TEACHER SPONSORSHIP

Name of Teacher: _____

School and District: _____

Teacher contact information:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of the Supporting Business (as you would like to be recognized):

Business contact information:

address: _____

phone: _____

email: _____

Contact Person from Business:

Amount Contributed/Level of Sponsorship: _____

Please make checks payable to MCSS

Send this form along with check to:

Amy Bloom - Michigan Council for the Social Studies
Oakland Schools
2111 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

If you have questions, please contact Amy Bloom at Amy.Bloom@Oakland.k12.mi.us or (248) 209-2005.