



TIPS & SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS

Mockingbird Youth Programs is a statewide coalition of powerful young people affected by foster care and/or homelessness. Through Chapters located across the state, Summit brings together young people who have experienced the child welfare system or our state's homeless youth response system first-hand so that they can present not just issues, but solutions - so that tomorrow's youth do not have to face the same challenges they have.

TIPS & SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS

- **Your role** is to listen, ask questions, and consider how you can partner with our youth advocates to turn policy proposals into tangible change. This can include sponsoring or championing specific proposals, providing resources to help further inform advocacy topics, and connecting young people to contacts in your network that could support young people in their advocacy efforts.
- **Please be encouraging to the young people.** Remember, they have been working hard on these proposals, and the issue may be deeply personal to them.
- **If you have a question you want to ask a young person about their personal experience, please ask for their permission.** It is important to respect their right to only share details they are comfortable relaying. Some of the ideas youth present at the Summit are based on traumatic experiences they have been through. Please be sensitive and mindful of always supporting the young people.
- **For many of our Chapter members,** this is their first Youth Leadership Summit. Since our top priority is the wellbeing, safety, and belonging of young people, we want to do all we can to help them feel supported and encouraged as they present. Please know that these young people developed and refined each of their Advocacy Topics—despite all obstacles and challenges. They have courageously and passionately worked on these topics, and we ask that you approach this space with sensitivity and compassion.
- **Summit chapter presenters represent the voices from chapter members across the state.** The members presenting today represent the collective voice of their entire chapter. They have diligently developed these ideas since early this year in chapter meetings to bring them to the Summit.