

**Mississippi Youth Hip Hop Festival**  
**Saturday, July 31**  
**MS Valley State University**  
**9:00 am to 6:00 pm**

**June 18, 2010**

Dear Ally for Youth Issues,

Thank you for your interest in the Youth Hip Hop Festival. The purpose of the event is to use hip hop to spark further discussion about youth concerns in Mississippi. It is our hope that these discussions will be the first step toward creating a positive youth-led movement around issues important to our youth.

Our event is taking place at Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, MS. MS Valley State University is located at 14000 Highway 82 West, Itta Bena, MS 38941. Registration begins at **9:00 am** and we ask that all participants be prompt. Light breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided during the day. The cost of the event is **FREE**.

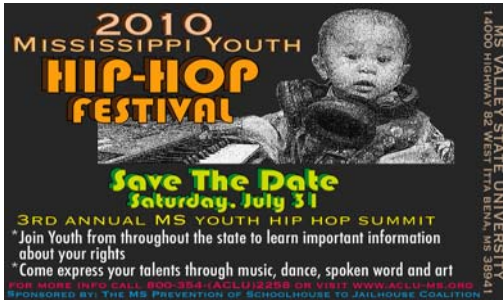
All young people attending **must** be pre-registered using the form that is included. We are asking that young people be sponsored by a youth group. **Limited** hotel rooms are available for Friday night (double occupancy) for participants traveling over two hours (145 miles).

***You must register to be considered for overnight accommodations.***

Our target ages for the Festival are **13 to 21**. **Adult Chaperones are required for all participants under the age of 18.**

Please contact the planning committee (**601-354-3408**) if you know of young people who would like to come but are not in this age range. We trust you, as a leader and someone who works with young people, will use your discretion about the appropriateness of this day for younger people.

As a planning committee we recognize that often the same youth benefit from most of the programming and leadership development in Mississippi. While we certainly encourage experienced leaders to attend the festival, we are asking for your help in



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recruiting **new faces and new minds**. It is our hope that we can reach young people who are often left out of traditional youth leadership experiences.

The planning committee is aware of negative stereotypes about hip hop, including (at times) the use of profanity and other derogatory language. We are committed, and so are our hip hop performers, to not using profanity in our venues. While we cannot guarantee that this language will not be used during the day, it is our hope that all participants and facilitators will be sensitive to this issue and will be conscious to limit the use of profanity and derogatory language.

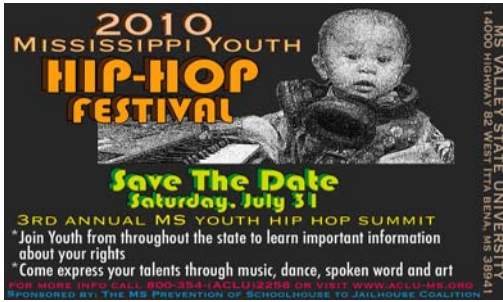
In addition, the entire event will be filmed and/or audio recorded. All participants should be aware that recording equipment will be present. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and The MS Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse, major sponsors of this event, may use footage in related promotional or educational materials.

We are excited that you and the young people in your youth group will be joining us for this day. Adult presence is necessary and welcomed, however we want this day to be youth led, youth focused, and a safe space for young people to speak out. As an ally to youth issues, we ask that you are mindful of your presence during this day and do your best to foster youth voice.

All questions about the event can be directed to the ACLU of Mississippi. The ACLU phone number is (601) 354-3408 and the fax number is (601) 355-6465. We are including copies of the registration form. Please make additional copies of the form as necessary, as only one participant can register per form.

Sincerely,

Members of the 2010 Hip Hop Festival Planning Committee



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## LEGAL DISCLAIMER

It is understood that the Hip Hop Festival is being offered to youth participants who are attending on a voluntary basis. The Festival is to take place at Mississippi Valley State University. Participants or attendees of this event are expected to act civilly to one another and to refrain from any type of violent or antagonistic behavior during the event. Any deviation from this code of conduct will result in that participant being advised of the problem and could result in removal from the event. Attendees or participants are expected to treat each other with respect and to act at all times in a peaceful manner. While the event encourages the expression of youth views and interests, it is important that each and every person at the event treat others and their property with the utmost respect and polite attitude.

The sponsors of the event wish to make known that by sponsoring this event, they are in no way undertaking any responsibility for or liability for the loss of property, damage to property, injury to any participants or staff or any other possible eventualities that cannot be presupposed at this time. This event is for the purpose of bringing youth together to express themselves freely in a supervised environment. There will be adult supervision, but the event is to be youth led and has been organized, in part, by youth.

By registering and/or attending the Hip Hop Festival, it is understood that all participants and attendees have been advised of these rules and release of liability and that they will adhere to the aforementioned code of conduct.