

Topic: Appropriate Conference Dress

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School: Cherry Creek High School, Colorado

The chapter advisors at the successful Cherry Creek chapter believe that dressing professionally on trips and at competitions helps their members make the transition from everyday life to the serious work of learning and competing.

Even on the bus to state conference or the plane to National CDC, jeans are not allowed. For theme park attendance or the dances, dressing casually is fine, but even in hotels, they know students will peg their behavior higher if they are dressed for the part. The requirement of good taste is always operational, even for casual dress.

Konrad says that the students don't complain about the chapter's rules because they are the established standard for the whole group. Nobody sticks out. Blood explains that when the chapter is respected in the school, entering students already know the expectations. When juniors see how the seniors behave, they follow that example.

Why is requiring professional dress important at conferences?

1. Even though casual Friday is becoming a business institution, companies are still impressed at interviews and at important business events with the way a candidate or employee looks. And when an impor-

tant meeting occurs, professional dress is still the business norm.

2. When kids dress to a higher standard, their behavior follows, and they become more focused. They rise to the occasion. Professional dress reminds them that they are representing their school and their chapter.

A few tips:

- Chuck Blood tells students to bring more clothes to conference than they think they will need, because they may have to change more often than they anticipated. They should also look at their whole day's schedule and make sure they are not caught without time to change.
- In cases where a dress code is not specific, length of skirt, for example, the guiding principle is, "When in doubt, don't."

Please remember:

- Adults must be role models of appropriate dress if the dress regulations are to work. Adults at a conference site should set the pace with tasteful, professional dress and demeanor.
- A quick visit to a mall will convince anyone that a sport coat and slacks ensemble with dress shoes is no more expensive than sneakers and jeans.