**Sample Family Letter: MASC 2024 Convention**

 ***(ADVISORS: Copy this and insert it into your letter to parents/guardians along with additional information for your particular school or region. MASC recommends that you use your school letterhead)***

The 2024 Convention of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) promises to be a wonderful experience for student leaders from all over the state. The MASC Convention begins late afternoon of **Wednesday, February 28th ,**

 **continues on Thursday, February 29th and concludes at 11:30 a.m., on Friday, March 1st**

Delegations should plan on arrive starting at 3:00 p.m. when the on-site check-in will open. (Delegations that arrive before the on-site check-in will be escored to wait in a holding room). The convention program concludes at 11:30 a.m., on Friday. Delegation buses should plan on arriving between 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Many delegations order pizza from local businesses to put on the buses for lunch on the way home. Please note that delegations cannot eat in the hotel unless they order the food from the hotel.

As a delegate to this convention, your child will participate in:

* Electing the 2024-2025 officers of the Maryland Association of Student Councils
* Listening to a nationally recognized motivational speaker – Logan Taylor from[YB Normal?](https://ybnormal.org/)
* Partaking in exciting and meaningful leadership workshops
* Voting for the two finalist for the student member on the state board of education
* Taking stances on youth related bills from the Maryland General Assembly
* Legislative action during General Assemblies
* Supervised recreation each evening (including a dance, karaoke, photo booth, and other activities)

**Housing Information:**

Students and their advisors will be staying in theAshore Resort & Beach Club in Ocean City, Maryland, or at an overflow hotel, The Princess Royale down the street (shuttle service provided). **There will be one advisor from each school, with at least one advisor per 10 students in attendance**. Advisors will help ensure that delegates abide by the provisions of the convention enumerated in the *Delegate Contract*.

*STUDENTS WILL BE HOUSED WITH OTHER STUDENTS*

*OF THE SAME GENDER AND, IF POSSIBLE, FROM THE SAME SCHOOL OR REGION.*

*THERE WILL BE 4 STUDENTS TO A ROOM (or other arrangements following school system overnight policies)*

 *(Each room typically accommodates 4 students in 2 queen-size beds. The “overflow” hotel has a pull-out sofa bed allowing up to three students per room, one per bed.)*

**COST –** Cost is based on rooming 4 students per room and 2 advisors per room. There are school systems that have policies that require a different formula. Request for exceptions must be directed to Nicete Moodie, MASC Executive Director, and the fee will be adjusted accordingly. (School and/or Regional Advisors should add any adjusted fees to account for any different rooming requirements.)

* Delegate/MASC Ex.Bd. $315.00 *(four to a room)*
* Advisor $420.00 *(two to a room)*
* Private Advisor $525.00 *(limited availability)*

The above prices do not include transportation and other school/regional expenses. School and/or Regional Advisors should add additional information here regarding payment for participation, transportation, regional shirts, etc.

**Program Details:**

Dinner on Wednesday, three meals on Thursday, and breakfast on Friday are included in the cost of registration. In addition, all attendees will receive a convention tee-shirt. Your child may want to bring a few extra dollars to buy memorabilia during recreation times. In addition, MASC spirit wear is on sale. You may wish to purchase it on-line ahead of time and pick it up at the convention, saving shipping charges. Spirit ware usually sells-out, so purchasing it ahead of time is recommended. <https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/events/spirit-wear/>

Students are asked to dress casually during the conference and it must align with their school dress code. Additionally, students should pack lightly as they will be sharing a room with up to three additional people. Remember, students are representing your school!

**Hotel Details:**

The Ashore Resort & Beach Club will provide uniformed security at the event. The MASC Convention will be the only event at the hotel and convention center. Only students and adults with MASC nametags will be admitted onto the hotel property. There will also be host staff available to assist attendees.

An emergency plan is included in the convention program or a stand-alone document which can be found at <https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/convention/#registration_details>

Students may bring cell phones to the conference; however, we ask that they not use cell phones during all general and workshop sessions. Students should only use cell phones during meals and recreation times. In an emergency situation, if you are having trouble reaching your child, parents/guardians should call the hotel 410-524-3535. State that you have a message for a student attending the MASC Conference, but indicate that the message is an emergency. Let the hotel know the name of the student’s school and school advisor, and if known, regional (county) advisor. This information will help expedite the delivery of the message.

**Covid Procedures:**MASC is following CDC and Maryland Department of Health Guidelines for the Convention.

We want to remind all MASC participants that if you experience COVID symptoms prior to Convention, please follow [CDC guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (e.g., “People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people.”)

Masks will be available with the onsite nurse. If a student is experiencing symptoms, they can see the nurse to take a Rapid test. If a student tests positive, the nurse will notify the advisor and executive directors and that child will be placed in a separate room for isolation until the child’s parents can come and take them home. (Specific information from the Maryland Department of Health can be found [here](https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/testing/if-you-test-positive/#info).)

If exposed to COVID, all students and advisors will need to follow the steps from the Maryland Department of Health that can be found [here.](https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/answer-the-call/after-exposure-to-covid-19/) If someone tests positive, students who have been around that student need to wear a mask (N95 mask from the nurse) and start testing in five days.

*You and your child will need to complete and sign the MASC Participant Emergency Information Form, MASC Delegate Contract, and perhaps additional forms required by your child’s school/district.*

*All forms must be completed and then returned to school.*

*Do not email or mail any forms other than the school’s signed registration invoice.*

**We look forward to your child’s participation as a delegate to the 2024 MASC Convention!**