



Conversation Toward A Brighter Future

Project/Proposal Guidelines and Requirements

MJCH Mission Statement:

The MJCH conducts activities that promote mutual understanding and respect among people of different cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, and other distinctions; influence positive social change by transforming attitudes and perceptions towards greater acceptance, tolerance, and interaction among these groups; and ultimately remove barriers that hinder individuals and groups from realizing their aspirations and full potential.

1. Introduction of Project:

Our world is becoming increasingly pluralistic* and polarized*. We must learn to listen, respect, understand, and even at times forgive. We must develop a better understanding and appreciation for each other's struggles and shortcomings. If we can accomplish this goal, we can move forward as a society. It is up to the future leaders of this nation to discuss, research, and find positive solutions through meaningful and constructive dialogue.

2. Participants Involved:

Madison County high school and middle school students will have the opportunity to develop sustainable solutions for their school and community using the MJCH core values of Respect, Dignity, Understanding, and Forgiveness.

3. Research & Identification of Issue:

Students will research and identify an issue their school and develop a plan resulting in positive change results in both their school and other school settings. The project will require participants to think outside of comfort zones with respect to the MJCH core values of Respect, Dignity, Understanding and Forgiveness. The plans must be evaluated using measurable outcomes, are sustainable and capable of being replicated in other schools.

4. Team Building:

Students are encouraged to work in teams to complete the project. Strategies may include using social media outlets, after-school gatherings, school activities, etc. Project must creatively inspire peers to make a change.

5. Questions that must be answered during research:

- What issues do you see in your school when it comes to respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness?
- Where do these issues originate?
- Why do these issues occur?
- What can be done to change conditions?
- Why is it important to demonstrate respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness?
- What are the consequences for your school if students, teachers, administrators and staff fail to embrace respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness?
- What is your plan for addressing the identified issue in your school?
- Would evidence of respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness in your school result in a better future? How?

6. Written Project Proposal Requirements:

Cover Page

- Title of Project
- Name of School
- Contact Person

Project Abstract

- The project abstract should present a concise summary of the project. It should be no longer than a page and include the identified issue to be addressed, a brief description of the project, and its goals and objectives. Mention how the program will be evaluated to measure the success of the programs.

Statement of Issue

- The statement of issue should describe the problem that your team will attempt to address. Describe the population (high school or middle school) that will be served.

Project Description

- Describe the project and provide information on how it will be implemented. Include information on what will be accomplished and the desired outcome.

Definition of Terms*:

Pluralistic - society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups maintain and develop their traditional culture or special interest within the confines of a common civilization.

Polarization - opposing and extreme views of groups or interests.

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Revised Project Timeline- March 7, 2016

February 2016	Feb. 23, 2016- Summit for High School Students Feb. 25, 2016- Summit for Middle School Students
March 2016	Online Progress Report #1 Due to MJCH
April 2016	Online Progress Report #2 Due to MJCH
May 2016	May 2, 2016- High School and Middle School Proposal Submission Deadline May 3-5- Evaluation of High School Proposals May 6, 2016- High School MJCH Fellows Announced May 5-10- Evaluation of Middle School Proposals May 11, 2016- Middle School MJCH Fellows Announced May 12, 2016- High School Fellows Reception- 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon at the MJCH (teams will have 10 minutes to present summary of proposal to other schools) May 17, 2016- Middle School Fellows Reception- 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon at the MJCH (teams will have 10 minutes to present summary of proposal to other schools)
September 2016	Sept. 13-14, 2016- Fall Research Forum for Fellows
January 2017	Jan. 24, 2017- Progress Report/Share Session for High School Students Jan. 25, 2017- Progress Report/Share Session for Middle School Students
May 2017	May (TBA), 2017- Final Assessment/Report Due
January 2018	Jan. (TBA), 2018- Progress Reports
May 2018	May (TBA), 2018- Progress Reports

Potential \$5000 Funding

- Each school that attends the February Summit will receive a grant of \$500
- Each school that submits a proposal by the May 2, 2016 deadline will receive a grant of \$500
- A fellowship grant of \$3000 for project implementation will be issued August 2016. There is no pre-set number of fellows to attend. Fellowships given on participant's merit.
- Awarded schools must present a project update in January 2017 and a final assessment and report in May 2017. After presentation of detailed assessments, results, ongoing practices and key findings to other participants and the general public is completed, each school will receive a grant of \$1000 for year 2.

Project Expectations

- Representatives (a school sponsor and students) from participating schools are required to attend the first meeting scheduled in February 2016, regarding "Conversation toward a Brighter Future."
- The team MUST present their project to a panel of judges on May 9, 2016, at the MJCH Center
- The team and sponsors are required to attend the May reception. Parents and guests are welcome
- Schools selected MUST provide two (2) progress reports on project and its sustainability for the second year (January and May 2018).