

Sister -to- Sister

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011 AT MARYVILLE COLLEGE

EXCITEMENT!

That's what happens when girls come together to share their ideas and opinions. And that is what's happening across the country at AAUW Sister-to-Sister Summits. These conferences give girls an opportunity to talk to each other about issues that affect their lives but are not always adequately addressed in school. Girls discuss the issues and create a Plan of Action to address their concerns. These Sister-to-Sister Summits are part of AAUW's *Initiative for Educational Equity*, focused on grades 7-12.

Why a Summit?

GIVE GIRLS A CHANCE TO BE HEARD.

For over 25 years, AAUW has provided research which suggests that adolescent girls often experience a significant decline in self-esteem, losing the strong voices they had as younger children. AAUW's *Growing Smart: What's Working for Girls in School*, showed that to thrive, girls need to be connected with caring adults, respected as central players, and empowered to realize their dreams.

Sister-to-Sister Summits give girls of all backgrounds an opportunity to discuss their frustrations, ideas, and dreams. What challenges do they face? What steps can they take to solve problems? What support do they need?

CHANGE A GIRL'S LIFE.

Girls articulate the messages they want to convey and the changes they want to make. Adult facilitators then help the girls transform their thoughts into a platform for action. The platform becomes an agenda for change in our schools and communities. By collaborating with local schools and organizations, we can help organize sustained responses to girls' needs.

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR 11TH BLOUNT COUNTY SUMMIT

- The all day Summit is designed to bring together **100 girls in 7th-12th grade** from all three Blount County school districts to explore issues they identify as adversely affecting their lives and learning.
- Research shows that, by sharing experiences with one another, girls **gain confidence** to support each other, change risky behaviors, and establish new goals and dreams.
- Girls will be given opportunities to develop their own ideas for **concrete solutions** as they work in **small groups of 10 or less**, with facilitators trained in dealing with sensitive issues.
- **Topics** for the discussion groups will be chosen from answers the girls provide to specific questions, such as "*What do you think are the three most important issues or struggles facing teens today?*"
- **Trained professionals**, such as LCSWs, guidance counselors, and teachers, help facilitate the event. Parents, students, and other community volunteers are also involved.
- The day includes other activities to empower girls and foster a sense of cooperation and **teamwork**.
- **A free lunch and snacks will be provided.** The luncheon will feature a keynote speaker to encourage girls to work hard, set goals, and follow their dreams.
- **The Summit is held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, and girls must stay for the entire day. To register, they complete a questionnaire, available from the contact person at each school. Parent permission is mandatory for attendance.

S2S WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN TENNESSEE AND WAS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED IN 2011 FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO GIRLS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.AAUW-MARYVILLE.ORG/S2S.HTM

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Sister to Sister

~ A Summit by, for, and about Girls ~



11th Annual Blount County Sister to Sister Summit *Thursday, November 3, 2011* at Maryville College

- ♀ The all-day Summit explores issues girls identify as important to their lives and learning.
- ♀ One hundred girls in grades 7-12 from all the school systems in Blount County come together.
- ♀ Girls develop their own ideas for realistic solutions as they work in small groups with facilitators trained in dealing with sensitive issues.
- ♀ Topics for the discussion groups are chosen by the girls themselves.
- ♀ Girls will develop the messages they want to convey, the services they need, and the changes they want to make in their schools and communities.
- ♀ The Summit encourages girls to strengthen their voices, sister to sister!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.aauw-maryville.org/s2s.htm>