



Montana Raise Your Voice Questions and Answers

Q. What is the purpose or mission of Montana Raise Your Voice?

A. The mission of Montana Raise Your Voice is to support Montana college student governments in building their capacity to serve their campuses through training, support, resources and a statewide network so that they can more effectively engage their student bodies. Montana Raise Your Voice works to convene students from every campus across the state at several workshops throughout the year. These workshops are designed to help students gain valuable leadership skills, network with peers and lobby government officials on issues important to student across the state. Raise Your Voice provides ongoing support to students through conference calls, emails and twice yearly site visits.

Q. Is there a fee for taking part in Montana Raise Your Voice events and activities?

A. There is typically a small registration fee associated with Raise Your Voice conferences and trainings. The fee helps cover expenses like facility use, food and staff time. RYV operates on a very small budget and tries to keep costs to a minimum and recognizes the limited resources students have. When available, a limited number of scholarships will be offered to schools to help cover travel expenses. This varies from year to year however and depends on grants the program receives.

Q. Do I have to be part of my student government to take part in Montana Raise Your Voice events?

A. No, you do not have to be part of student government to participate in the Raise Your Voice program. In fact, RYV encourages *any* student interested in becoming more civically involved on their campus and in their community to participate in RYV sponsored events.

Q. What are the expectations of student governments that partner with Montana Raise Your Voice?

- Representation from your campus during conference calls
- Campuses will help to recruit students to attend RYV events
- A campus representative will meet with the RYV coordinator twice a year during site-visits

- Campuses will work with the RYV coordinator to help plan conferences and trainings
- Campuses will post information regarding MTCC scholarships and awards
- Campuses will stay in regular contact with the RYV coordinator and keep RYV informed of campus issues

Q. What are the benefits to student governments that partner with Montana Raise Your Voice?

- **Statewide Coordinator:** To plan conferences and trainings based on the identified needs of each individual campus and to provide ongoing support through conference calls, emails and site-visits.
- **Institutional Memory:** To archive ideas and initiatives that are often lost when student governments transition.
- **Quality Student Training:** RYV provides high quality, low-cost trainings based on the needs of the students at each campus.
- **Statewide Conferences:** The two annual statewide conferences provide the opportunity for students to network with their peers, share resources and brainstorm ideas with other student government representatives and student leaders.
- **Democratic Participation:** RYV provides the opportunity for students to lobby the legislature during Day at the Statehouse and receive lobbying tips from professional local lobbyist.
- **Statewide Coalition:** MTCC and the RYV program is strategically positioned to generate public and private support for all student activities