Indiana Youth Group Suggestions for Kiwanis International
For working with LGBTQ Youth and Families

Youth Event Forms

- Box for legal name
- Box for preferred name
  - use this name for all role-call lists and name badges
- Boxes for “Male”, “Female”, and “Trans*”
- Write-in Box for Preferred Gender Pronouns (PGP) with “he, him, his”; “she, her, hers”; “chosen gender-neutral pronouns” etc.
  - Add this info to all participant name badges as well to avoid assumptions: “PGP= ________________”
- Youth-signed & dated agreement on form stating Kiwanis rules on public displays of affection (PDAs) and agreement not to engage in any romantic / sexual (may want to use “intimate” instead) activity during event, even with current significant other
- Please remember NO double standards for hetero youth – whatever PDAs you allow for hetero youth you must also allow for same-sex and trans* couples

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Each year at the National Gathering for the National Association of Gay Straight Alliance Networks, we ask all participants, youth and adult, to sign a similar form asking all to refrain from any romantic activity. We ask this to maintain a completely platonic, professional, coworker-like atmosphere; so that all, especially the youth, can focus on the hard work and learning that needs to happen in that short time, versus who is attracted to whom and who has broken up with whom. It really cuts down on a lot of drama. It’s enforced by saying that anyone breaking the agreement will be sent home early at their parent/guardians’ expense. ---

- Youth-signed & dated agreement on form stating to respect diversity of all participants based on race, religion, country of origin, age level, socio-economic, physical ability, etc... PLUS romantic/sexual orientation and gender identity and expression
Basic ideas

- What frontal anatomy a person has is their business; hopefully no one is going to go around and check everyone; so if they say they’re a boy, they’re a boy, or if they say they’re a girl they’re a girl... and deserve to be respected as such, even if the youth has been at the even before as a different sex.
- If you’ve had the youth to sign the “no romance” paragraph on the form, you’re not expecting the youth to date each other or be intimate during the event anyway, then what reason would there be to have to let a parent know that their youth is rooming with an LGBTQ youth?

Bathrooms / Showers

- Find a facility with separate curtained showers versus a big open room with multiple showers
- in private conversation, get trans* youth’s own input if they prefer showering at a separate time, or with birth sex or transition sex
  - a lot depends on how far they’ve transitioned and if they “pass”
- If possible provide gender neutral bathroom options (e.g. family bathroom or unisex/wheelchair accessible)

Housing

- Again you’re not asking everyone to list their romantic/sexual orientations
- You’re asking them not to be romantic, so rooming with an LGBTQ youth should not be a problem...period
- For trans* youth, have a private conversation with them explaining that you want to be completely supportive, and where would they feel more comfortable and safe rooming
  - Maybe they have a group of friends from previous events
  - Again a lot depends on how far they’ve transitioned and if they’re “passing”

If parents are NOT supportive of their trans* youth’s preferred gender pronouns and housing request, and are asking Kiwanis to stick with birth sex information:

- Have a private meeting with parents and off-spring and give both sides ample opportunity to express their reasoning
- Try to reach a compromise keeping trans* youth emotional and physical well-being in mind
- If that can’t be done at all, be sure trans* youth knows they’ve been heard and respected, but that legally you have to follow parent’s wishes, if youth is under 18 years of age.