



## **Welcome to Delegates and Family of MassSTAR 2018!**

Congratulations on being chosen to represent your high school at the [2018 MassSTAR Citizenship Conference!](#) My name is Hind Aljarahi and I am a member of the Conference Planning Committee as well as the Board of Directors. I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the MassSTAR Family and to tell you a little bit more about the Conference and what we have planned for the weekend. This is the first of several letters you will receive over the coming weeks. Please make sure to open emails from MassSTAR, as they will be filled with great information for you to have a successful conference and begin to introduce you to the MassSTAR spirit!

### **Is this thing on? Communication check 123...**

This email is going out to both family and delegates, please check in with each other to make sure you both received it. If one of you did not receive the email it's probably because your email address is incorrectly documented in our database. If an email was not received, please click REPLY and let me know the name and the email address that did not receive this correspondence and I will correct it in our records. We want to make sure you are all well informed. (Make sure to check your spam.)

### **But what is it?**

The MassSTAR Citizenship Conference is an annual three-day event that brings together high school students from across Massachusetts to learn about leadership, volunteerism, civic engagement, and personal development. MassSTAR stands for Massachusetts Students Accepting Responsibility. Our curriculum for the weekend is based on the five points of that star, which form the pillars of our organization: Respect,

Responsibility, Collaboration, Initiative, and Intentionality. A detailed look at each pillar can be found at our website under this [link](#). Over the weeks leading up to the Conference, I encourage you to look at your high school, your community, and your broader environment. Consider the things that you think are successful in your community, and think about the changes you would like to see implemented to make your high school or your town a better place. Think about the backgrounds, environments, and experiences that you have been a part of and how they have impacted who you are. During the Conference, you'll hear from community leaders who have made an impact in their cities and towns. You'll meet outstanding young people from across the state who have successfully challenged themselves to change the lives of those around them. You'll participate in workshops that will broaden your perspectives and help to make you a stronger leader by building confidence in your ideas and your ability to make a positive impact on your world.

**Check out this great video on the MassSTAR Citizenship Conference [link](#).**

**Basically, you need to get up really early...**

This year's Conference will be held at Lasell College in Newton, MA. You will arrive on campus between 7:30 - 8:30 am on Friday, June 1st. I know it sounds daunting if you're not a morning person, but trust me, the good vibes and energy all around make waking up and running easy! The conference will conclude on Sunday, June 3rd around 4:30pm. For directions to Lasell's campus and for more information about Friday registration, [please visit the FAQ page on our website](#).

**Please be on the look out for our registration packet, it should be send out soon to you by our director of recruitment.**

**Tell us more about you! (anonymously)**

We greatly appreciate if you can take a moment to fill out our [Pre-Conference Survey](#). It's really short! We use this as a way to get to know our delegates better before you all arrive.

### **We are here for you, here is the 411...**

If you have any questions about the Conference, I will be happy to answer them! Feel free to connect with me at [hind.aljarahi@massyouthleadership.org](mailto:hind.aljarahi@massyouthleadership.org). We will be in touch with more information as we approach the Conference weekend, so please let us know if your email address changes. You should also expect to hear from your Conference Facilitator in the coming weeks, welcoming you to the Conference and providing more details about the weekend.

### **Networking starts here...**

I encourage you to Follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@MassYouthLead](https://twitter.com/MassYouthLead) and [@massyouthleadership](https://twitter.com/massyouthleadership) to get up-to-date information leading up to the Conference. We'll be sending out a link to the 2018 Facebook Page in an upcoming newsletter, so stay tuned for that!

Please feel free to be in touch if you have any questions, we are here to help you every step of the way. If I can't answer it, I will guide you to the person who can!

On behalf of the entire MassSTAR staff, we are looking forward to meeting you soon!

Warm regards,

### **Hind Aljarahi**

Director of Communications

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***We empower citizenship.***

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

-Martin Luther, King, Jr.