

What is the TWIST CONFERENCE?

Teen Women Inspiring Strength Together

Young women today face a variety of difficult issues that can have devastating effects on their lives. Dating violence, stalking, eating disorders, cutting, abstinence, pregnancy, and date rape drugs are some of the issues that take bullying and peer pressure to dangerous extremes.

Teachers, parents, and other adults in the lives of teens often don't have all of the information to discuss a wide variety of issues. And teens often don't listen to teachers or parents' advice on very personal issues.

The YWCA, Clarkston High School, Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), Asotin High School, Lewiston High School, Tammany Alternative School, Sacajawea Jr. High and Jenifer Jr. High organizes a Young Women's Conference annually to give teen girls the information and tools they need to deal with a variety of these issues in positive ways. The girls will learn tools that build independence and self-respect. Local youth workers will conduct workshops on various topics of interest to young women.

While we can't invite all girls, we hope that the "ripple effects" will touch almost all of the girls indirectly. Our goal is to get a cross-section of the student body (girls from every social group) in the hopes that they will take what they learn at the conference back to their groups and spread the positive message throughout the school. Thus even girls who aren't able to attend the conference can benefit from it. Having a cross-section of girls also gives them a chance to work together, form a bond and realize that they have more in common than they think. They come to realize that as a gender they have similar struggles and great strengths and need to support each other in achieving their goals.

For more information contact:
Nellie Frost - Children's Advocate, ywca
208.743.1535 or nellief@lewiston.com

