

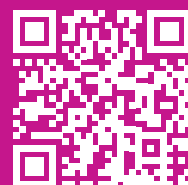


WHAT IF



YOUNG PEOPLE RAN
THE GOVERNMENT?

AT YMCA YOUTH
IN GOVERNMENT,
THEY DO.



WHAT IS YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT?

Youth in Government (YIG) is a hands-on civic learning program where students in grades 8-12 become legislators, lawyers, judges, lobbyists, the media, or cabinet members and spend four days running a state model government in the Capitol Complex.

YIG starts each fall when students join or form a delegation at their school. Delegations meet regularly to prepare for their program areas, learn about state government, and practice their presentation skills. In early January, more than 1,000 student delegates from across the state gather in the Twin Cities for the annual YIG conference, where they elect their own leaders, debate their own ideas, and build a vision for a stronger state.

Young people in YIG aren't spectators; they are leaders, organizers, speakers, and decision makers. When needed, YMCA staff members, teachers, YIG alumni, and trained volunteers are present to guide from the side and provide support.

But it's not all work. The conference includes three nights at the beautiful Minneapolis Hilton Hotel where student delegates enjoy supervised meals in the skyways and fun evening activities including movies, trivia, bingo, crafts, karaoke, and a talent show.



WHAT PROGRAM AREAS CAN I CHOOSE FROM?

LEGISLATURE: State senators and representatives prepare bills on issues of their choosing, participate in committee hearings and floor debates, and vote on which bills should become law.

COURTS: Lawyers research cases, prepare for court, and present arguments in a mock trial or appeals case. Judges preside at trial and make decisions regarding legal arguments and objections.

LOBBYING: Advocate for or against different legislative bills on behalf of the special interest groups you represent.

MEDIA: Research, report and write as you help put together a daily newspaper, news releases, and broadcasts using both print and digital formats.

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM: Research, present and advocate for a proposal you have prepared based on current national issues that interest you.

LEADERSHIP CORPS (OPEN ONLY TO 8TH GRADERS): Work in small groups to create bills, argue court cases, write media articles, and gain exposure to all the YIG program areas.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN YIG?

- Talk about issues that are important to you.
- Learn to organize your ideas clearly and persuasively.
- Meet students from different racial, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.
- Build self-confidence and improve your public speaking skills.
- Gain skills that set you apart in job interviews or on college applications.

YIG is an experience like no other. You will spend four days with other people interested in government and our society, exploring ideas, making new friends, and building the skills to take action.

"YIG makes me feel like I belong somewhere. It has given me self-confidence. I have met my best friends through the program. It has inspired me to be a better person."

—Fiona, 11th grader

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

Program registration is \$479 and includes all meetings and resources for the 3+ month program season, three nights' lodging, and all transportation during the conference, overnight security, hotel and Capitol meeting spaces, and evening activities. Local delegations may choose to add additional fees.

YIG is open to students of all backgrounds, opinions and regions of the state. We offer need-based scholarships to reduce registration costs. **IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO ATTENDING YIG, WE ARE COMMITTED TO GETTING YOU THERE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YMCA YOUTH VOICE.ORG

No delegation at your school?

Email michael.wall@ymcamn.org or call 612-263-9893 and we will help get one started! For more details about YIG and other YMCA Center for Youth Voice programs, visit ymcayouthvoice.org.

IMPORTANT DATES 2022-2023*

- Registration Opens: September, 27, 2022
- Launch Online Convocation: November 5, 2022
- Registration Closes: November 15, 2022
- Youth in Government Conference: January 5-8, 2023

*In addition, each delegation will hold regular program meetings throughout the fall to prepare for the conference. Meeting times and locations will vary by school.

WHY YIG? BECAUSE DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION.