



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION



Indiana YMCA Youth and
Government, 2020-2021

WHAT IS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT?

During 1936, the director of the New York State's Albany YMCA established the first YMCA Youth and Government program. Built on the motto, "Democracy must be learned by each generation," the national Youth and Government movement evolved to engage youth in experiential learning of government processes, generally through mock legislative, executive and judicial proceedings. Capitalizing on heavy volunteer support from individuals and organizations like the American Bar Association has been critical to the program's expansion, as separate statewide programs currently operate in every state and the District of Columbia, serving approximately 50,000 high school students.



In 1994, Indiana YMCA Youth and Government (INYaG) was reinvigorated after a fifteen-year hiatus. In 2001, the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis assumed coordination of the event. INYaG's mission has been to develop personal growth and encourage life-long, responsible citizenship by providing experiential learning for young people and providing public forums to recognize the abilities and capabilities of youth. INYaG programs have sought to develop and promote an understanding of local, state, national and international concerns; research, study and debate on public issues; exploration of careers in public service; interaction with adult and youth leaders involved in decision-making processes; an understanding of political systems and the forum they provide for the effective and peaceful resolution of issues and concerns; appreciation for the diversity of viewpoints on public issues and a concurrent respect for ideas, beliefs and the positions of others; and demonstration of citizenship responsibilities and leadership roles essential to the health of participatory democracy.

Through INYaG, Hoosier youth spend part of each year meeting in local delegations to discuss and debate issues that affect Indiana citizens and to propose relevant legislation. Local activities culminate in an annual statewide model-government program. Approximately 150 students participate annually from delegations that have represented Bloomington, Chesterton, Crown Point, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Hobart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Muncie/Yorktown, Terra Haute, Valparaiso, and Vincennes.

PROGRAM GOAL:

To develop young men and women who will be better citizens by being both knowledgeable and active in determining the future of our democracy

OBJETIVES:

- To provide training and experience in understanding the legislative process
- To develop critical thinking and analytical abilities
- To provide active participation in the legislative process
- To develop interpersonal communication skills
- To provide awareness of social issues and their possible solutions
- To provide opportunities to hear and respect varying viewpoints
- To encourage active participation in political and public affairs

ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Leadership training
- 2) Public speaking and critical writing workshops
- 3) Community activism, civic engagement, and applying political leverage
- 4) Academic enhancement through the development of research, reading, and writing skills

LEARN MORE

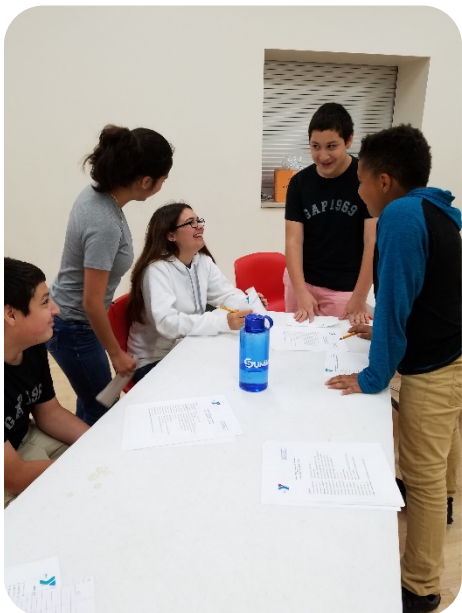
Learn first-hand how our state government works—not by watching, but by doing!

Each September for six months, more than 200 high school students throughout Indiana come together in YMCA Youth and Government, a program that develops teens, called “Delegates,” to learn the values of democracy and to be leaders in the democratic process.

Through delegation meetings, exciting weekend conferences, and the Model Legislature & Court, you can simulate how issues are discussed and how decisions are made in our state to create stronger, healthier, more connected communities.

DELEGATION MEETINGS

During weekly or bi-weekly meetings at your local Y/organization, you’ll discuss current issues in the state and gain hands-on experience in how the government works. You’ll work with other Delegates to write a bill, prepare briefs, select governmental positions to role-play, and run for elected offices. Your ultimate goal—to “take over” the State Capitol in Indianapolis for a weekend, where you’ll debate and present your bill at the Youth Assembly and Senate of the Indiana YMCA Model Government Conference.



TWO CONFERENCES

Before your trip to Indianapolis, you’ll prepare and train for your debate, as you join other Delegates from throughout the state during a relaxed and fun regional organization meeting. You’ll conduct committee sessions and model legislative sessions. If you’re elected the Youth Governor of Indiana, you’ll even preside over the entire conference.



MODEL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

All your work and fun as a Delegate peaks when you convene at the State Capitol. You’ll present and debate your bill and work with your friends to implement solutions through the legislative and judicial processes.

Join Indiana YMCA Youth and Government and make thousands of new friends from all over Indiana!

Earn community service hours for high school credit. Learn about the government in a stimulating environment full of moments for fun and socializing during elections. Come see what makes social opportunities. Indiana YMCA Youth and Government is an extraordinary experience!

“The reality of a student presenting a bill in the House or Senate Chambers cannot be recreated in a classroom setting. This program provides youth and teachers real life experience that for some is a once in a lifetime learning opportunity.”

ROLES FOR PARTICIPANTS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Student Representatives and Senators elect their leadership, research current events, and write all the bills for this year's program. For these legislators, the Youth in Government experience culminates by debating their bills in the Maine House and Senate floors and seeking signature by the Youth Governor.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Each year, the Youth in Government experience holds the race for next year's Youth Governor. Candidates create platforms and advocate their qualifications during the Conference Debate and through "grassroots" campaigning. Once elected, the Youth Governor becomes the leader and face of the Program for the following year. The Youth Governor hand-selects his/her student Cabinet who are there to advise and work with our Youth Governor to pass the package of bills they have developed.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Court program is an opportunity for students to be exposed to the judicial process. They can participate as an attorney or even be elected to serve as a judge on the Supreme Court. Students learn how to examine a court case, and then choose and defend a position. Participants must have at least one year of experience in Youth and Government or have the permission of the State Director.

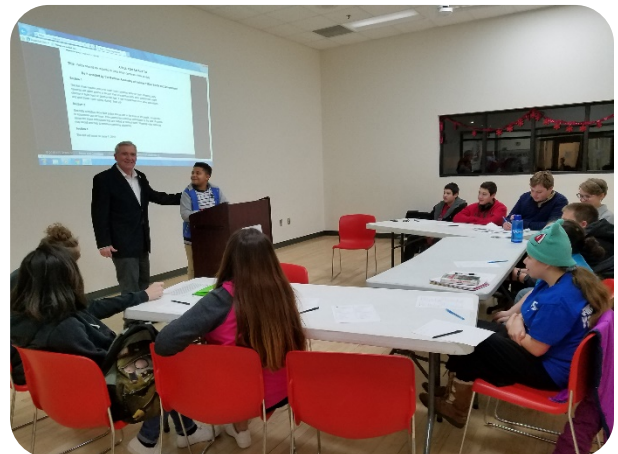
PAGE PROGRAM

The Page program is designed to give 8th grade students an opportunity to learn about the Youth & Government Program and have exposure to all of the program areas. Pages serve as aides to the governor, runners between the House & Senate, assistants in

the Supreme Court and lend assistance to the reporters.

MEDIA

Media can be considered the fourth branch of government. Student journalists research and write articles, post to a blog, use various social media to update people about the program and updates on bills. We also ask them keep the rest of the participants up-to-date at each event and throughout the entire program year.



Get Involved

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any student in Indiana grades 7th through 12th can participate. All you need to do is register through your local YMCA. We welcome you to visit our website www.indianayg.org

COST PER PERSON

While Participating in local delegations may be free or low cost, the cost for attending the annual Model Government Conference is usually \$400.

Registration costs for MGC cover:

- Lodging
- Accommodations
- Conference fees
- Most meals
- T-shirt
- Related events
- Transportation
- Celebration Banquet

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payments can be made to your local YMCA during weekly meetings.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Y membership is open to everyone. Financial assistance is available, thanks to the generosity of donors

REFUND POLICY

If a delegate stops attending the program at any time, that delegate will be responsible only for the non-refundable direct costs incurred After the New Year.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Call or email
Francisco Townsend
Director of Community & Global Engagement
YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne
(P) 260-918-2150
Francisco_townsend@fwymca.org

