



## ACTIVITIES

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



## DELEGATION MEETINGS

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

## GET INVOLVED

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. Indiana YMCA Youth and Government is an extraordinary experience!

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Any student in Indiana grades 7th through 12th can participate. Register through your local YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne at [fwymca.org/iyag](http://fwymca.org/iyag). Branches include the Central Branch YMCA, Jackson R. Lehman Family YMCA, Jorgensen Family YMCA, Parkview Family YMCA, and the Renaissance Pointe YMCA.



**Need Information? Want to volunteer to help youth reach their full potential?**

### Contact:

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**ALLEN COUNTY**  
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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION



**Indiana**  
**YMCA Youth & Government**  
**2021-2022**





## INYaG DETAILS

The YMCA INYaG program is a statewide educational program for students in 7th–12th grade. It teaches the values of democracy and global social awareness while developing citizen leaders. Youth experience government first-hand and learn how to solve community problems through the democratic process.

### Participants:

- Develop understanding of local, state, national, and international concerns
- Research, study, and debate public issues
- Interact with adult and youth leaders involved in decision making processes
- Gain an understanding of political systems and the forum they provide for peaceful resolution of issues
- Actively participate in the legislative process
- Learn to appreciate the diversity of viewpoints to foster a respect for ideas and beliefs of others
- Develop critical thinking and analytical abilities
- Encouraged to actively participate in political and public affairs

### 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.

## ROLES FOR PARTICIPANTS

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:** Students research a topic that is important to them, write and propose a bill for consideration by the House & Senate, and argue their bill in front of their peers in the Indiana State House.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH:** Consists of the Youth Governor and his or her Cabinet. Cabinet members write Position Papers on topics of interest to the Governor, testify at Committee meetings, and lobby for the Governor's top bills.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH:** Students are exposed to the judicial process and can participate as an attorney or be elected to serve as a judge on the Supreme Court. Youth learn how to examine a court case, and then choose and defend a position.

**PAGE:** Gives 7th grade students an opportunity to receive 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 reporters.

**NEWS MEDIA:** Student journalists research and write articles, post to a blog, use various social media to update people about the program, and updates on bills. Will keep other participants up-to-date at each event and throughout the entire program year.



### KEY EVENTS OF THE YMCA INY&G PROGRAM:

#### Model Government Conference (MGC)

INYaG's culminating event, intended to display the season-long work of INYaG delegates from around Indiana. Youth engage in experiential learning of government processes through mock legislative, executive, and judicial proceedings at the Indiana State House

#### National Judicial Conference (NJC)

Provides opportunities to meet youth from across the country who share a passion for Youth and Government and the judicial system. The competition takes place at the John Marshall Law School, the Chicago Bar, and the Federal Courthouse.

#### National Conference on National Affairs (CONA)

Helps participants understand the federal government process, conduct research, and prepare mock legal documents in areas of national and international significance.

## LEADERSHIP

Each student who participates in Youth & Government comes away with an amazing amount of knowledge about the governmental process. A main goal of the program is to develop these students' leadership skills as well.

Students may be elected into the following roles throughout the INYaG year: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice, Co-Editor In Chief, President & Speaker Pro Tempore, Floor Leader, Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain.