



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 General Assembly during an annual statewide 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/iyaq. Branches include the Central Branch YMCA, Jackson R. Lehman Family YMCA, Jorgensen Family YMCA, Parkview Family YMCA, Renaissance Pointe YMCA, and Whitley County Family 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
 2022-2023**



INYaG DETAILS

Indiana YMCA Youth and Government or “INYaG” 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

YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY: INYaG’s signature and gateway program. Based on the Indiana General Assembly, the program strives to turn the ideas of Indiana youth into formal laws through bill-writing, debating, and voting on legislation according to specific rules and procedures. All high school students in their first year of INYaG must participate in the Youth General Assembly.

YOUTH EXECUTIVE PROGRAM: Through the program, INYaG’s delegate-elected student leaders provide youth voice to development of the overall program and provide operational leadership during the annual MGC. These elected individuals also represent INYaG at national events and serve as peer leaders among fellow delegates. The program is open to any duly elected delegate.

MODEL SUPREME COURT: While exposing high school students to the formal judicial process in Indiana, the program promotes leadership through use of practicing attorneys and law students who not only judge delegates, but also serve as mentors. The MSC also promotes collaboration and compromise using teams of attorneys and teams of justices who work together to accomplish their goals. The MSC is open to all high school students who have previously participated in the Youth General Assembly.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM: The goal of the program is to give middle school delegates an opportunity to experience different components of the high school program, allowing them to form an insider opinion to guide their own choices of programs during subsequent years. The program balances group activities with individual leadership development. The Middle School Program is mandatory for all 7th graders and 8th graders who are participating in the MGC for the first time. Returning 8th graders who have previously participated in the Middle School Program may participate in the Youth General Assembly.



KEY EVENTS OF THE YMCA INYaG 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, Senate President Pro Tempore, or House Speaker Pro Tempore.