



We encourage all alumni to stay involved with Texas Y&G upon completing the program. There are number of ways to stay engaged whether you are a recent high school graduate, college student or established community member! Below are some ways alumni can stay connected to YMCA Texas Youth and Government, however please note that certain roles require you meet the criteria.

## Ways to Stay Engaged

- **Connect with us:** Join Youth and Government on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#), and sign up for our Newsletter and [Blog](#)!
- Visit the [Conferences](#): Watch our current students in action and observe how Texas Youth and Government has evolved.
- Volunteer: Become a [conference volunteer](#)\*, [start](#) or support a club.
- **Stay in touch:** Share your experience with Youth and Government with us and let us know what you're doing today.
- **Contribute:** Donate to or fundraise for Texas Youth and Government and help us achieve our motto – "Democracy must be learned by each generation."

## Alumni Conference Volunteers

\*Note about alumni volunteering:

**Recent High School Graduates:** To maintain the fairness and integrity of the program, we ask that recent high school alumni sit out **at least** one program cycle year before registering to volunteer at the High School State Conference. So, this would mean that college freshman would not be eligible to volunteer at either the High School or Middle School State Conferences. We value your experience and willingness to help; however, we want to ensure that recent high school graduates are seen as experienced Y&G alumni and not as peers to current program participants.

**College Students** (Sophomores-Seniors) Alumni in college do have an opportunity to volunteer in a limited capacity; that capacity/responsibility will grow as you become upperclassmen. See more details below.

- If you are a college sophomore, you may be considered to volunteer at the High School State Conference as a General Conference Volunteer. You will not be assigned as evaluators in any section to ensure Y&G alumni are seen as knowledge experts and not peers. However, if there are vacancies due to last-minute changes, the section leader may select you to fill the spot; you may also help section leaders in some other capacity.
- Another volunteer opportunity for college sophomores may be at the Middle School State Conference, where you may serve as an evaluator in sections or help section leaders in some other capacity. This is a great conference to serve as mentors to our middle school students.





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- If you are a college junior or senior, you may be considered to volunteer at either the High School or Middle School State Conferences. You can sign up for specific sections as evaluators or fill the volunteer role of your choice.
- Please understand that only registered participants, Y Staff and Advisors who have paid the conference fees can participate in conference social activities and banquet.

**College Staff:** These are Y&G Alums selected to volunteer for the 3 day High School State Conference, or 2 day Middle School State Conference. Our college staff is primarily comprised of juniors or seniors in college, but the State Director may consider sophomores on an individual basis. Eight spots are available each year at the State Conferences. Students will be offered hotel accommodations and meals in exchange for their volunteer efforts during the conference they are selected for. College staff will be housed 4 students to a room, and will be supervised by an adult staffer, section leader or the State Director. They will be assigned to various volunteer roles throughout the conference and may select volunteer areas of interest. However, they will be mainly be assigned to roles where there is the greatest need, which includes within specific sections, coordinating evening activities or serving as office assistants. The Texas Youth and Government State Director will select college staff after review of each volunteer application.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q: Can Y&G Alumni volunteer at the High School State Conference?
  - A: Yes, if you are a sophomore, junior or senior applying as general conference, college staff or are an older alum. Please see our [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page for information on each section you may volunteer in and what to expect in each section. For Volunteer Resources, please visit our [Resource Portal](#) and click on the "Volunteers" section.
- Q: Can Y&G Alumni stay at the conference hotel?
  - A: Only Y&G College Staff will be approved to stay in conference hotel. A specific number of rooms have been reserved for conference participants, staff, advisors, volunteers, and parent block rooms. Alums who are not college staff and/or section leaders will need to make their own accommodations offsite.
- Q: Do I need a background check?
  - A: Only Y&G College Staff staying in the hotel will be required to have a background check. All other general conference volunteers need only meet the application criteria.
- Q: How long will my volunteer shift be?
  - A: Volunteer shifts are divided into morning, afternoon, or all day shifts. Each section does have its own times; a shift samples are below.
    - **Legislative Section Volunteer shifts:**
      - Friday 6:30pm-10pm (college staff only at Renaissance Hotel)
      - Saturday 8:30am-1pm and/or 12:30-4:30pm (Hotel/Capitol)
    - **State Affairs Forum Volunteer shifts:**
      - Friday 6:30pm-10pm (college staff only at Renaissance Hotel)
      - Saturday 9am-12pm and/or 12:30pm-5pm (Hotel/Capitol)
    - **Judicial Section Volunteer shifts:**
      - Friday 8:30am-1pm and/or 12:30pm-5pm (downtown locations)
      - Saturday 8:30am-1pm and/or 12:30pm-5pm (downtown locations)
    - **General Conference Volunteer shifts:**





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- Thursday 11:30am-4:30pm (Renaissance Hotel);
  - Friday 1pm-5pm and/or 5pm-8pm, 8pm-12am (Renaissance Hotel)
  - Saturday 7:00am-9:30am, 9am-1pm, 11am-2pm, 1pm-5pm, 4:30pm-5:30pm, 5pm-8pm, (downtown locations) 8pm-12am (Hotel)
  - Sunday 8am-11am (Renaissance Hotel)
- Q: Do volunteers receive training?
    - A: Volunteers will be required to participate in an online training and/or a mandatory volunteer orientation before your shift at the conference.
  - Q: Can alumni just show up to the State Conference and be assigned a volunteer position?
    - A: No. Volunteer positions and times are coordinated in advance of the conference with those who have filled out our [Volunteer Registration](#) form and meet our volunteer criteria.
  - Q: Can alumni volunteers stay in rooms with their former Youth and Government Delegation?
    - A: No. No volunteers are allowed to be one-on-one or room with program participants at any time and you will be asked to leave the conference if this occurs.
  - Q: Can District Directors invite Y&G alum to either State Conferences as part of their conference staff?
    - A: Yes, District Directors can invite Y&G alumni who meet the criteria, which means they are college sophomores, juniors or seniors to help with their delegation. A background check is required to be on file with the District Director. Alumni who attend with a district will not be considered registered State Conference volunteers with an application on file. Alumni traveling with Districts are District Delegation volunteers.
  - Q: Can Alumni stay in hotel rooms with their parents attending the State Conference?
    - A: Yes you will be considered a conference visitor and will follow our visitor guidelines, unless you sign up with the State Office as volunteer.

