LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER ROLES

Legislative committee volunteers play an important role in assisting the Legislative delegates during the State Conferences. Each volunteer role plays a vital part in providing delegates with a quality experience.

Hearing Committee Room Monitors

Depending on volunteer numbers, monitors can stay in one committee for the duration of a session or float between committees as needed. Committee monitors play a crucial role in supporting the Legislative delegates. Since Youth and Government is a youth-led program, all proceedings are facilitated and managed by the Chair/Clerk team in charge. Monitors should not interfere with proceedings unless a serious character violation or risk arises. Examples:

- Delegates sleeping or repeatedly talking, if not addressed by the Chair / Sergeant at Arms
- Delegates’ inappropriate use of electronic equipment, if not addressed by the Chair / Sergeant at Arms
- Delegates not respecting the rules of the facility or the facility itself
- Any instance of bullying, racism, sexism, etc.—anything that violates the core values of the YMCA
- Out of control committee room..... monitors are urged to speak to the Chair privately first, encouraging him or her to maintain decorum and offering to assist if needed
- **Committee is running too slowly and in danger of not debating all bills on its docket. Please report to the Legislative Office!**

In all instances, it is imperative that the monitor remain calm but firm and not humiliate delegates in any way. Monitors need to handle situations discreetly and with respect. Monitors should set an example of professionalism for the delegates. It is best if they attempt to communicate with the Chair and Clerk only between the debating of bills.

If a situation or question arises that the monitor does not know how to handle, he or she should send a runner from the committee room to the Legislative Office (upper floor foyer in Arbor area) for assistance. Either a delegate or another adult in the room can serve as a runner.

All monitors must take a proactive stance toward keeping our delegates safe by making sure that any adults in the room have appropriate identification such as building-issued ID, conference badges, or visitor passes. In addition, monitors must note exits and any facility postings that may need to be utilized in case of emergency. If a monitor is in doubt, he or she should seek Legislative Section Leaders or Conference Staff. Again, monitors should send runners for the purpose of seeking assistance so that the committee room is not unattended.

Please note that the **Youth Sergeants at Arms** will check on committees throughout the morning. Monitors can also request for the Sergeants at Arms to contact the Legislative Office if there is a need for further assistance.

Hearing Committee Chair/Clerk Team Evaluators

These monitors have more extensive experience in YG Legislative debate. As committee team (Chair/Clerk) evaluators, they will rotate in and out of committees to evaluate Chair/Clerk teams. They should pick up an evaluator packet from the Legislative Office and then observe as many committee Chair/Clerk teams as possible during the committee session. When a committee team evaluator is present in a committee, he or she may at times assist the committee room monitor in assessing situations that might call for interference from the Legislative Office.

Evaluators should turn completed evaluation forms in to the adult program section leaders in the Legislative Office at the end of the committee session. Delegates should never be allowed to see these forms.

Hearing committee Chair/Clerk team evaluators must attempt to score consistently. Nevertheless, the Legislative Office will drop the highest and lowest score for each committee team prior to averaging the scores.

Hearing committee Chair/Clerk team evaluators will have detailed evaluation forms and rubrics. Point priority is given to knowledge of YG parliamentary procedure, leadership of committee, encouragement of participation, and professionalism.
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER ROLES

**Hearing Committee Delegate Evaluators**
Committee delegate evaluators are asked to stay in their assigned committee until the session has ended.

- Since evaluators stay in one committee, they will have the opportunity to observe students continuously. In addition to helping monitor, delegate evaluators observe performance and select one or two delegates from their committee as outstanding performers. Monitors will fill out a provided form about outstanding delegates and return it to the adults in the Legislative Office at the end of the committee session.
- The State Office will consider committee evaluators’ selections (along with the student and program section leaders’ nominations from floor debate) when naming the Distinguished Delegates from each chamber and the Outstanding Statesman from each chamber. Additionally, the State Office will recognize outstanding committee debaters at the 2018 State Conferences and will base recognition on committee evaluators’ selections. The State Office understands that many students who may not have a chance to speak up in chamber deserve recognition for their performance in committee.
- Criteria for recognition include but are not limited to quality of debate, preparedness, and behavior reflecting values of YMCA (caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility).
- In addition to selecting the committee’s outstanding debater or debaters, evaluators in House and Hyde House committees should write down one or two House or Hyde House bills that were debated exceptionally well in their committees. These would include well-written bills with a well-prepared author and a subject that provoked interest and quality debate from the committee’s delegates. Evaluators should list their choices on the same form provided for nominating the best debaters from the committee(s).