



## Volunteer FAQs

*Q: I have [registered](#) as an interested volunteer. When can I expect to be contacted about signing up for specific shifts?*

A: The State Office will contact volunteers for the High School State Conference about signing up for preferred shifts and section(s) in November and December. The State Office will contact Middle School (JuniorYG) State Conference volunteers in January. In the meantime, if any of the information you input when you registered changes (i.e. no longer able to volunteer, want to volunteer in a different section, etc.), please email the State Office at [Mikayla.Mutscher@austinyymca.org](mailto:Mikayla.Mutscher@austinyymca.org).

*Q: I am worried about the time commitment of volunteering. What are volunteer shift lengths like?*

A: Generally, there are half-day and full day shifts available. **The State Office provides lunch for full-day volunteers.** Approximate shift times for the High School State Conference are below.

♣ **Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., or 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

♣ **Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., or 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Conference Locations include the Renaissance Hotel, State Capitol, and Travis County Courthouse.

*Q: Do I need a background check?*

A: All Y Staff, Club Advisors, and College Staff staying overnight in the hotel must complete a background check. All other Adult Volunteers need only complete the [application](#) and agree to abide by the relevant portions of the Texas Youth and Government [Code of Conduct](#).

*Q: Do volunteers receive training?*

A: Volunteers are required to participate in an online training and/or a mandatory volunteer orientation before their shift(s) at the State Conferences. The State Office will publicize training opportunities on our [website](#) and [social media platforms](#) and in our [newsletter](#) in the months before State Conferences.

*Q: In which section should I sign up to volunteer?*

A: Please see our [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page for descriptions of volunteer roles within each section. Additional section-specific tools for volunteers are available in the [Resource Portal](#) under the "Volunteers" toggle.

*Q: Will lodging for Adult Volunteers be provided?*

A: Lodging is only provided for Y Staff, Club Advisors, and College Staff attending the entire State Conference, not for Adult Volunteers working half- or full-day shifts.

*Q: Do I need to have background knowledge in the legal field (attorney, law school student, paralegal, etc.) to volunteer in the Judicial section as an evaluator?*

A: No! We welcome any volunteer willing to learn 😊 however, volunteers with legal backgrounds may find it easier to evaluate mock trial teams.

*Q: Do I need a background in print or broadcast media to volunteer in the Media section?*

A: Though volunteers with journalism backgrounds are preferred volunteers for our Media section, we again welcome any volunteer willing to learn!



*Q: I am an alum of Texas Youth and Government. Can I volunteer?*

A: To maintain the fairness and integrity of the program, we ask that recent high school alumni sit out at least one program cycle before registering to volunteer at the High School State Conference. We value your experience. However, we want to ensure that current students see recent high school graduates as experienced YG alums and not as their peers. New alumni (i.e. college freshmen) may volunteer at our Middle School (JuniorYG) State Conference or visit the State Conferences to see what YG is up to.

*Q: I am a Club Advisor. Will I be able to observe my students at the State Conference(s)?*

A: Yes! We do ask Club Advisors to volunteer for certain shifts, and Club Advisors may not get to observe all their students' State Conference activities. However, we also keep in mind that it is important for you to observe and support your students' participation. We will work with you to balance volunteer needs with student schedules.

*Q: I would like to get more involved as a volunteer, beyond the State Conferences. Can I help advise a club or start a new one?*

A: Yes! Use our [Find My Delegation](#) tool to find clubs near you, and contact the appropriate [District Director](#) to ask about getting involved with a new or existing club. Make sure you're receiving our [newsletter](#) to learn about volunteer appreciation events and additional volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

*Q: Can I simply show up to the State Conference and volunteer?*

A: No. We appreciate your willingness to help, but volunteer positions and shift times are coordinated in advance of the State Conferences with registrants who have filled out our [Volunteer Registration Form](#) and meet our volunteer criteria.

*Q: Can College Staff volunteers stay in rooms with their former Youth and Government delegations?*

A: No. Volunteers are not allowed to interact one-on-one or room with program participants at any time. Any volunteers who do not abide by this policy will be asked to leave the State Conference.