



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

YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT FACT SHEET

Y Youth and Government™, a program that dates back to the late 1930s, is a national program of the YMCA. It involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized model-government programs.

In Youth and Government programs, teens from across the state meet in their local clubs throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose possible legislation to make state government more efficient. The program culminates with the teens serving as delegates at their state conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature.

As a result of the program, young people learn about the democratic system and are trained in parliamentary procedure, legislative committee process, debate, press relations, and lobbying techniques. Delegates learn by doing and have the opportunity to try their hand at leadership in an open and receptive learning environment.

Program 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

Objectives:

- To provide training and experience in understanding the legislative process
- To develop critical thinking and analytical abilities
- To provide active participation in the legislative process
- To develop interpersonal communication skills
- To provide awareness of social issues and their possible solutions
- To provide opportunities to hear and respect varying viewpoints
- To encourage active participation in political and public affairs

Activities:

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