



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



**YMCA Texas Youth and Government
2018-2019 Annual Report**



The YMCA Texas Youth and Government program is celebrating its 72nd year of civics education programming. This year, nearly 3,000 middle and high school students registered for our program. More than 1,600 earned spots at our annual State Conferences in January and February, and 65 advanced to national summer events. We hosted our second Volunteer Appreciation Event and welcomed more than 100 distinguished guests to our VIP Luncheon. We also utilized our TEKS-aligned curriculum for each of our program sections for use during the 2019-2020 school year.

On behalf of YMCA Texas YG, thank you for the ongoing support that allows us to share our invaluable program and makes our accomplishments possible. Texas YG was able to teach the fundamentals of democracy to the next generation and provide a deeply meaningful experience for our student participants and hundreds of volunteers through your generosity.

The Y believes that lasting personal and social change only occurs when community members work together to invest in improving the quality of life for all. The Y is committed to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. As we nurture the leadership potential of every child and teen and support their unique youth development journey through holistic programming, including the YG program, we reflect often on the crucial part our supporters play and truly appreciate the collaboration and investment of partners like you.

Sincerely,

Angela Castilleja

Texas Youth and Government State Director

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800 N. Big Spring St.

Midland, TX 79701



Image is showing Grayson Winchester, Diomarellous Nsofor, Angela Castilleja, and staff from the YMCA State Alliance at the YMCA National Advocacy Days.

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Our Cause



YMCA Youth and Government (YG) is a nationwide, youth-led, civics engagement program for high school and middle school students. Our founder argued that “democracy must be learned by each generation.”

In their YG clubs at schools and YMCA branches across Texas, students learn about the mechanics of federal and state government. They review the activities of the courts, legislature, and executive branch as well as members of the public like the press and lobbyists. They compete at their local District Conferences in the fall as proposal authors, senators, representatives, press, attorneys, witnesses, and judges. Many advance to the State Conference in Austin where they participate in several exciting days of committee and chamber debate, mock trials and moot courts, elections, proposal discussion, and other educational and social activities. Outstanding students earn the opportunity to represent Texas YG at summer national conferences.

Texas Youth and Government Mission Statement:

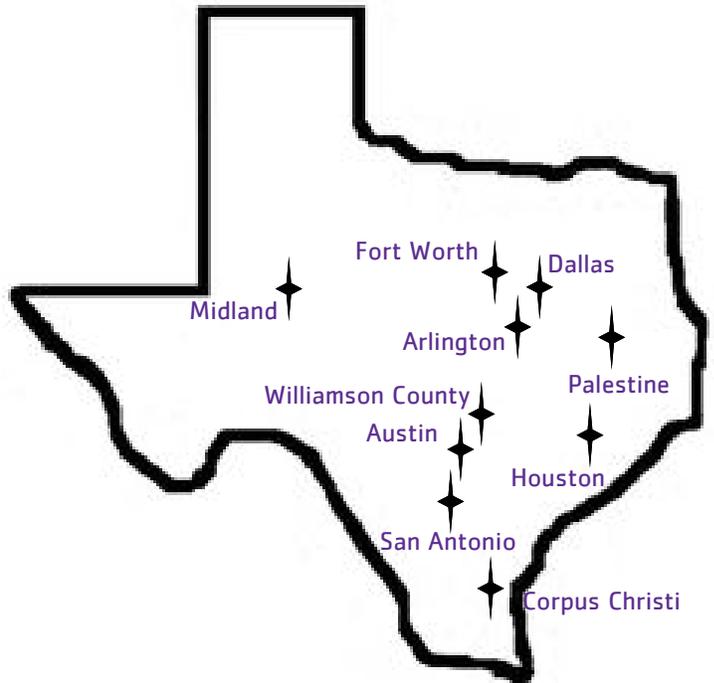
To help teenagers become responsible citizens and future leaders of our nation.

YMCA Mission Statement:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.



YMCA Associations Involved with YG



Texas YG clubs operate in a variety of ways:

- As a part of a school's UIL enhancement
- Incorporated into a school's classrooms and curriculum
- In combination with clubs such as World Affairs Council, Students Government, and/or Debate
- As stand-alone clubs at schools or YMCA branches

Our Sections

Legislative

Students in the Legislative section write, present, and debate bills. At conferences, bills are heard in a committee first, and some advance to be heard in the House/Senate chambers. Bills that pass both chambers go to the Youth Governor for consideration.

State Affairs Forum

Students in the State Affairs Forum section write, present, and debate proposals. At conferences, proposals are heard in a committee first, and some advance to a general assembly. Proposals describe students' non-legislative solutions to pressing issues, and students can use visual aids to make their case.

Judicial

Mock Trial students study a legal case and associated statutes and precedents. At conferences, attorneys alternatively adopt the roles of prosecution and defense to argue both sides with help from student witnesses.

Students in the Moot Court (Appeals) section study the same case as Mock Trial students with the assumption that one side has appealed an existing verdict. At conferences, they alternatively defend and challenge that verdict based on questions outlined in YG materials.

Student judges/justices deliver verdicts at the ends of rounds.

Media

Students in the Media section create articles, videos, and social media posts covering District and State Conference activities. During State Conference, they produce at least two newsletters, numerous blog posts, and continuous social media coverage on Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

TEKS Alignment

Our eight-lesson section curricula (Legislative, State Affairs Forum, Judicial, and Media) are TEKS- and TCCRS-aligned thanks to a generous grant from the Texas Bar Foundation. YG helps students meet state standards for U.S. Government, ELA and Reading, Social Studies, and Journalism.



A Year with YG



September 2018

Texas YG hosts its second annual Volunteer Appreciation Event at Threadgill's. Each January, the program benefits from the time of over 150 community volunteers who evaluate student performances during High School State Conference.



November 2018

Each of Texas YG's five Districts (Austin/San Antonio/Corpus Christi, Dallas/Palestine, Fort Worth/Arlington, Houston, and Midland) hosts its regional District Conference. Students take part in primary elections and practice their skills, competing for a spot at State Conference in early 2019.



January 2019

Texas YG welcomes 1,326 high school students to the 2018 State Conference January 23-27, 2019. The annual VIP Luncheon takes place January 25.



March 2019

Students Grayson Winchester (Ft. Worth) and Diomarvellous Nsofor (Houston) attend YMCA National Advocacy Days. As Youth Advocates, they help Y-USA advocate for for 21st Century Community Learning Centers to fund enriching out-of-school opportunities for school-aged children. They also advocated for pool safety



February 2019

499 middle school students attend the 2019 JYG State Conference February 22-24, 2019.



June/July 2019

In late June and early July, 24 outstanding high school students participate in the Conference on National Affairs in Black Mountain, NC after going through a rigorous selection process. They debate their proposals on issues of national and international importance with YG delegates from other states.

In late July, 40 students from the top four Mock Trial and top six Moot Court teams at State represent Texas YG at the National Judicial Competition in Chicago.



YG by the Numbers

Registered Students:

2,928

Students at

District Conferences:

1,449 High School

599 Middle School

Students at

State Conferences:

1,145 High School

499 Middle School

Austin/San Antonio/Corpus Christi

301 students attended Austin District Conference

277 student State Conference registrations

(160 HS, 17 MS)

Dallas/Palestine

1,147 students attended Dallas District Conference

883 student State Conference registrations

(502 HS, 381 MS)

Fort Worth/Arlington

352 students attended Fort Worth District Conference

289 student State Conference registrations

(206 HS, 83 MS)

Houston

216 students attended Houston District Conference

167 student State Conference registrations

(149 HS, 18 MS)

Midland

26 students attended Midland District Conference

28 student State Conference registrations (28 HS)



2019 State Conferences

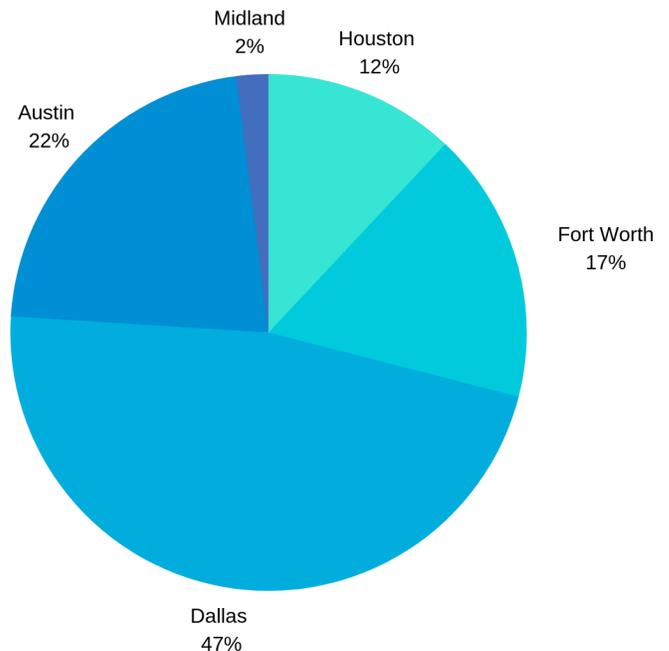


Every January and February, the High School and Middle School State Conferences are held at the Texas State Capitol. Activities also take place in government buildings like federal and state courthouses. The conferences represent the culmination of the YG program and bring together students from across the state. Students participate in Media (High School only), Judicial (High School only), Legislative, State Affairs Forum, and Governor’s Cabinet and Lobbyist sections. They earn recognition and the chance to move forward to the national level.

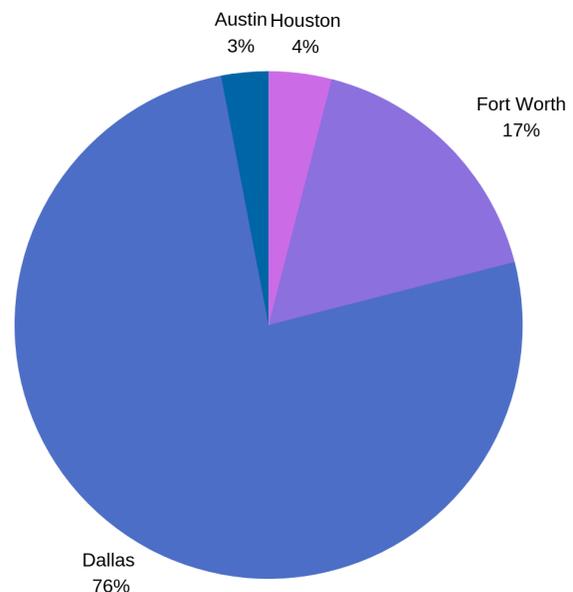
Students also elect their new slate of officers at State Conferences. The 2019–2020 High School officers represent every District!

In addition to serving more than 1,600 students over seven days, the State Office welcomed more than 200 club advisors/Y staff and 150 community volunteers who shared knowledge and time with our program.

2019 High School State Conference District Breakdown



2019 Middle School State Conference District Breakdown



National Successes

Conference on National Affairs

24 outstanding students from Houston, Dallas, Austin and Fort Worth represented Texas with skill and grace. Texas delegates came to CONA to present their proposals describing social problems and outlining related solutions in a series of increasingly competitive committee hearings and general sessions. The conference ended on an incredible high when Sharif Long, 2019 CONA Presiding Officer and 2017-2018 Texas Youth Governor, passed on the Presiding Officer torch to outgoing 2018-2019 Texas Youth Governor Aayush Dave. Congratulations to all students whose proposals advanced including Aayush, Chase Patterson, Nikash Harapanahalli, Alysha Orback, Alyssa Mills, Kate Schulle, Amaris-Lynn Joubert, Peyton Childs and Vivienne Gardner!



National Judicial Competition

40 Texas YG delegates attended the National Judicial Competition July 30-August 2 in Chicago. Four trial court and five appellate court teams representing four of our five Districts argued complex cases on self-defense in the instance of murder and the constitutionality of school suspension due to a tweet. They demonstrated their legal skills at the John Marshall Law School, Chicago Bar building, and Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse. The students from JBS Law Magnet won second place in the trial court competition! During our free time, the Texas delegation went on an architecture boat tour and visited Chicago landmarks like the Millennium Park Bean and Navy Pier. We also tried some tasty Chicago-style deep dish and enjoyed a classic Chicago improv show!

Our Impact



91% vs. 32%

YG students who report they will vote regularly vs. voter turnout among Texans ages 18-24 in 2016



90% vs. 35%

YG students who agree that it is important to participate in their communities vs. overall group participation rates among Texans



60% vs. 23%

YG students who are highly likely to volunteer vs. overall volunteerism rate among Texans

Data from the Texas YG 2018-2019 Program Impact Survey and the University of Texas at Austin
Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life



Our Students Say:

"I used to feel helpless to have any power in the government or in the problems of the world and Youth and Government showed me the tools I can use to make the change I want to see and taught me how to yield them. YG has fueled my passion for service and introduced me to many of my closest friends and people who'll be allies in the future."

Our Adult Supporters Say:

"Youth and Government has had a very positive impact on my students. I have seen students get out of their shell and challenge their critical thinking skills."

"Youth and Government has given my students an opportunity to meet people with different life experiences and views, and a voice to express who they are."



Getting Involved



Starting a YG Club in Your Community

First, contact the nearest District Director to discuss starting a club.

Austin District Director:

Missy Garcia, (512) 322-9622 x 357

Dallas District Director:

Jenna Struble, (214) 880-9622

Fort Worth District Director:

Lisa Gossard, (817) 573-7159

Houston District Director:

Sherry Bernard, (713) 726-1606

Midland District Director:

Jan Van Eman, janve@suddenlink.net

Next, find a sponsor for the club! This can be a teacher or a parent with a passion for mentoring students and drive to help the club to learn and grow as a team.

Start recruiting! Spread the word about your new club by word-of-mouth, flyers, and/or presentations. Clubs generally should have a minimum of 5-10 committed students before activities begin.

YMCA Texas Youth and Government Upcoming Events:

What: 2019 District Conferences

When: November 9, 2019 (Houston) and November 16, 2019 (Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Midland)

Where: Varies by District (consult Texas YG website)

What: 2020 High School State Conference

When: January 23-26, 2020

Where: Texas State Capitol, U.S. Federal Courthouse, Travis County Courthouse

What: 2020 VIP Luncheon

When: Friday, January 24, 2020

Where: Texas State Capitol

What: 2020 Middle School State Conference

When: February 21-23, 20

Where: Texas State Capitol



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