Volunteer FAQs

*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 District Court: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m., or 8:30 a.m-5:30 p.m.
* Friday County Court: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m., or 8:30 a.m-5:30 p.m.
* Friday Appellate Court: 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m., or 8:30 a.m-5:30 p.m.
* Friday General Conference: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., or 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
* Saturday District Court: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 1:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m., or 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
* Saturday County Court: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., or 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
* Saturday Appellate Court: 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 12:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m., or 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
* Saturday General Conference: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., or 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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

*Q: Do I need a background check?*

A: All community Volunteers 18+, Y Staff, Club Advisors, and College Staff must complete a background check.

*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 email volunteers in the months before State Conferences with any additional information about the training.

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

A: Please see our [Volunteer Opportunities](https://ymcatexasyg.org/get-involved/volunteer/) page for descriptions of volunteer roles within each section.

*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 a minimum of 3 shifts, and Club Advisors might 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](https://ymcatexasyg.org/resource-portal/find-my-delegation/) tool to find clubs near you, and contact the appropriate [District Director](https://ymcatexasyg.org/about/staff/) 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](https://ymcatexasyg.org/registration/volunteer/) and meet our volunteer criteria and background check.

*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.

If you have any questions that were not answered please contact TXYG@austinymca.org with any additional questions.