

# New York State YMCA Middle School Youth And Government

## How do we get started?

The YMCA Youth And Government Program is designed to allow students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade to gain a basic understanding of their State Legislature. We design the process with the goal of being accessible for all students and maximizing the efforts and time of all adults involved. Every group is different, and the Y staff will work with you to help create a plan that works for you specifically, but the entire process falls into three basic steps. Each group needs only to identify the students, help them write their bills, then prepare them for the conference.

You can easily have a successful group with 3 basic steps, each of which can be its own meeting. However, you can continue to add benefit and value to the experience by expanding or having more as you see fit. If you choose to use the 3 meeting model and you start at the beginning of the year, then each meeting corresponds to the start of a new month (September, October, November) leading up to the conference.

For all of these meetings we have scripts and materials we are happy to share with you, but Y staff are trained and ready to come help lead these meetings if you would prefer.

### Step 1: Interest Meeting - Choose Your Group (September)

Once you have decided who to offer the chance to, many groups will have a meeting where they explain the program and encourage these students to participate. A Y staff member is always happy to help with these meetings by being present to speak at them, and/or by helping prepare for them.

### Step 2: Bill Writing Workshop - Write Your Bills (October)

Much like the Interest meeting, this is a chance for the students to go through a process that teaches them how to write a Bill from start to finish. Y Staff are happy to come and conduct these meetings, and you can schedule them any time. Additionally, the materials and script for this meeting can be found in the Writing a Youth And Government Bill Handout available at <http://www.ymcanys.org/middle-school-bill-writing/>

### Step 3: Parliamentary Procedure & Debate Training - Prepare Your Team (November)

Once the Bills and Registration are submitted, you can turn your focus to preparing for the specifics of the conference. This includes Parliamentary Procedure, Speech Writing, and Public Speaking. This training helps students through the process of each of these three and prepares them for debate at the actual conference.

2019 State Assembly Dates: Thursday November 21st –Saturday November 23rd

Location: The Desmond Hotel, Albany NY

Registration: Submit registration, bills, and payment. Due October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Cost: Through donations and the Alliance of New York State YMCAs support, we are able to offer a reduced fee for all participants.

Fees: Students \$275.00

Adults (Shared Room with one other adult) \$275.00

Adults (Private Room) \$400.00

\*Delegations receive a free Adult registration for every 15 students.

Meals: All meals are provided during the conference. This includes Thursday Dinner; Friday Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner; and Saturday Breakfast.

Forms: All forms available at: <http://www.ymcanys.org/middle-school-resources/>

Financial Aid <http://www.ymcanys.org/yag/financial-aid/>