The New York Youth and Government program is a Model State Legislature where hundreds of our state’s brightest 6th-8th graders will gather to debate the important legislative issues of their communities and state. Taking over the Assembly and Senate Chambers for a day to discuss their own ideas, students from around the state write bills and attempt to make them law, acting as Representatives and Senators in the actual Statehouse chambers.

This year YOUR SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION will be sending its first delegation to this conference. The conference will be held Thursday November 21, 2019 to Saturday November 23, 2019 and we will be staying at the Desmond Hotel in Albany NY. We will meet to leave at MEETING TIME AND PLACE and return at RETURN TIME AND DATE.

There will be a meeting DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING for students who wish to participate. If your student can’t make this meeting but still wishes to attend, the need to contact me, GROUP LEADER NAME & CONTACT INFO with at least one idea for legislation that would improve New York. Additionally, any parents who are interested in coming as Chaperones, the cost is the same as for the students and you can contact me at EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER.

To be considered for a spot in the delegation your student needs to turn the forms attached by FORM DEADLINE. The Forms attached that must be returned are:

* + Student Code of Conduct, Health, and Publicity Release
  + ANY OTHER FORMS REQUIRED BY YOUR SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION

At the conference Students will need two professional outfits as outlined in the dress code and two casual outfits. Also included in this packet is a copy of last year’s schedule and a worksheet on how to write a Bill.

There will be a limited number of spots in the delegation the first year, so students will be expected to demonstrate a willingness to work on their own time as well as a commitment to being servant leaders in their community. The cost for this conference will be CONFERENCE COST FOR YOUR GROUP each. Payment is to be made by PAYMENT METHOD to PAYMENT RECIEVER by PAYMENT DEADLINE. This will cover travel to and from the Capitol, all conference materials, and all five meals provided by the conference.

All students who participate will be serving as a Senator or Representative, debating bills and presenting one of their own. Students will work in groups of 8 or less to prepare their bill. If you would like to work with your student, you can begin by helping them to identify ideas for ways to improve New York’s state laws. There is a worksheet attached to help with their bill writing.

The legislation the students present is not expected to be tedious or extremely lengthy. While hundreds of ideas discussed first by the Youth Legislature have gone on to become law, the first priority is familiarizing your students with their rights and duties as citizens, as well as the importance of healthy and respectful debate on public issues. This program builds students confidence by showing them how important their voice can be, and how many other young people care about their communities. For more info please contact [dcaldwell@ymcanys.org](mailto:dcaldwell@ymcanys.org). You visit their website at [www.ymcanys.or/yag](http://www.ymcanys.or/yag).