



WHAT DOES YOUTH & GOVERNMENT DO?



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Develops critical thinking skills
- Provides awareness of and engagement in social issues and their possible solutions
- Provides opportunities to hear and respect varying viewpoints
- Develops self confidence and self-expression
- Encourages interest and active participation in both political and public affairs

INTRODUCTION

Illinois YMCA Youth and Government has been the state's premier youth leadership and civic engagement program since 1949. This student-led program is based on the belief that **"Democracy Must Be Learned By Each Generation"** and teaches this premise through a Model Legislative and Judicial Program. Youth and Government creates a seven-month learn-by-doing experience that teaches the values of democracy by bringing together a cross-section of Illinois high school students. This program provides them with the opportunity to experience government first-hand and to learn how to solve community problems utilizing the democratic process as well as debate and discuss issues with their peers.

DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION

In 1950, Governor Adlai Stevenson wrote that Youth and Government was, "... an ideal foundation for citizenship training ... predicated on the sound proposition that experience is the best teacher." Students immerse themselves in the process and that inspires delegates to fulfill Youth and Government's motto that, that, **"Democracy Must Be Learned By Each Generation."**



Want to be a part of shaping tomorrow?
Make a difference?

Contact the Illinois YMCA
Youth and Government
Office today!

ILLINOIS YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

1315 Butterfield Road, Suite 218
Downers Grove, IL 60515

P: 630.833.9622

E: julie@ilymcayg.org



www.ilymcayg.org



SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

ILLINOIS YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

EMPOWERING YOUTH

Teens take on the roles of government by drafting legislation, train in judicial processes, learn proper parliamentary procedure, participate in debate on state issues, and develop public speaking and networking skills.

Students attend two regional Pre-Legislative training sessions in late fall. The program culminates in March at a three-day Assembly in Springfield, when all students come together to elect the Youth Officers, utilize the Capitol's facilities, debate bills in Committees and on the floor of the House and Senate, argue cases in the Supreme Court Building, conduct interviews and write articles for the newspaper, and produce newscasts.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

ROLES AND PARTICIPATION

In Youth and Government, teens can participate in a variety of ways:

- Legislators (serve in the House or Senate)
- Lobbyists
- Legislative Assistants
- Attorneys and Clerk-Bailiffs
- Media (Newspaper or Video)

"Youth and Government has impacted me by impressing the importance of my duties as a citizen into my daily life. I have a much greater respect for myself, my community, and my country after participating in Youth and Government."

- **Alexander Gunnerson** Speaker of the House

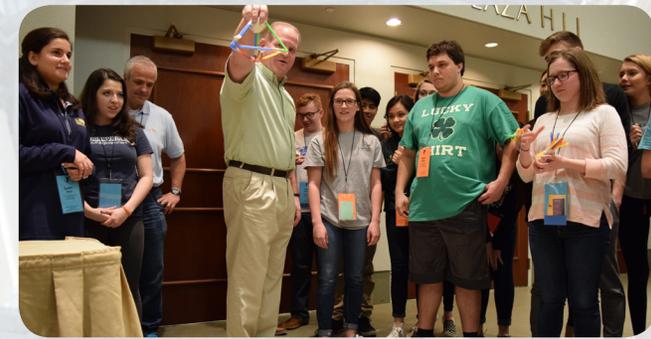
2016 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 950 students participated, representing 34 high schools or YMCAs.
- 542 Youth Legislators wrote 149 bills; 87 were passed and signed by the Youth Governor.
- 128 Youth Lobbyists supported those bills through testimony and writing position papers supporting the bills.
- 110 Youth Legislative Assistants participated in a State Issues Forum and assisted bill groups and oversaw elections.
- 62 teams of Youth Attorneys presented appellant briefs and oral arguments.
- The Youth and Government Press Corps produced a newspaper, **The Observer** both online and in print, and 2 nightly **Capitol News Update** television newscasts.
- Election of Youth Officials, including Youth Governor, Youth Chief Justice, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Presiding Officers and Executive Director of Lobbyists.

2016 YOUTH OFFICIALS



LEARN.
GROW.
THRIVE.



CHANGING THE WAY TO SEE THE WORLD

Youth and Government encourages teens to become engaged citizens and active members of society. Y&G alumni are more likely to:

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	Y&G ALUMNI	GENERAL POPULATION
Register to Vote	96%	66%
Vote in an election	87%	54%
Work on Community Issues	43%	17%
Member of a Board	15%	3%
College Degree	88%	25%

"...Not only does Youth & Government teach us how our system of government works; in addition, the program also teaches us how to become informed citizens and allows us to better understand what our government is doing in the capitol building and how it will affect us; and for that I would like to thank Youth & Government."

- **Spencer Peck**