

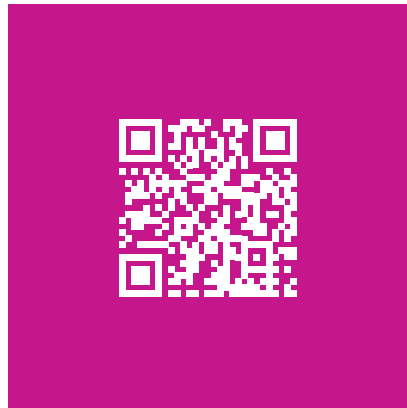


WHAT IF



**YOUNG PEOPLE RAN
THE GOVERNMENT?**

**AT YMCA YOUTH
IN GOVERNMENT,
THEY DO.**



WHAT IS YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT?

Youth in Government (YIG) is a hands-on civic learning program where students in grades 8–12 become legislators, lawyers, judges, lobbyists, the media, or cabinet members and spend four days running a state model government in the Capitol Complex.

YIG starts each fall when students join or form a delegation at their school. Delegations meet regularly to prepare for their program areas, learn about state government, and practice their presentation skills. In January, more than 1,200 Minnesota students gather in the Twin Cities for the YIG conference, where they elect their own leaders, debate their own ideas, and build a vision for a stronger state.

Young people in YIG aren't spectators; they lead, organize, speak, and make decisions. When needed, YMCA staff, teachers, and trained volunteers guide from the side and provide support.

But it's not all work. Students spend three nights at the Minneapolis Hilton and enjoy supervised meals in the skyways and fun evening activities including movies, trivia, bingo, crafts, karaoke, and a talent show.

WHAT PROGRAM AREAS CAN I CHOOSE FROM?

LEGISLATURE: Prepare bills on issues of their choosing, participate in committee hearings and floor debates, and vote on which bills should become law.

COURTS: Research cases and present arguments in a mock trial or appeals case. Judges preside at trial and make decisions regarding legal arguments and objections.

LOBBYING: Advocate for legislation on behalf of special interest groups.

MEDIA: Research and write a daily newspaper, news releases, and broadcasts using both print and digital formats.

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM: Research, present and debate a policy solution to a current national or international issue chosen by the student.

LEADERSHIP CORPS (8TH GRADE): Explore all YIG program areas by creating bills, arguing court cases, and writing media articles.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE?

YIG is an experience like no other. At YIG, you will:

- Talk about issues that are important to you.
- Learn to organize your ideas clearly and persuasively.
- Meet students from different racial, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.
- Build self-confidence and improve your public speaking skills.
- Gain skills that set you apart in college applications and job interviews.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

EARLY BIRD program registration (before Oct. 17) is \$479 and includes all meetings and resources for the 3+ month program season, three nights' lodging, transportation during the conference, overnight security, private meeting spaces at the hotel and State Capitol, and evening activities. After Oct. 17, program registration increases to \$499. Delegations may choose to add additional fees. Ask your delegation director for total program costs as well as how to apply for financial assistance.

Our program is open to students of all backgrounds, opinions, and regions of the state, and we meet 100% of demonstrated financial need. **IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO ATTENDING YIG, WE ARE COMMITTED TO GETTING YOU THERE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, GO TO [YMCAYOUTHVOICE.ORG](https://ymcayouthvoice.org)

No delegation at your school? Email michael.wall@ymcamn.org or call 612-263-9893 and we will help get one started or connect you with our statewide delegation!

IMPORTANT DATES 2023–2024*

- Registration Opens: September 26, 2023
- Early Bird Registration Ends: October 17, 2023
- LAUNCH Training Event: October 28, 2023
- Registration Closes: October 31, 2023
- Youth in Government Conference: January 4–7, 2024

*Delegations hold program meetings throughout the fall at a time and location of their choosing to prepare for the conference.