

The Youth In Government Program

The Y's Youth in Government program is a national program that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model-government programs. Students from every corner of the U.S. have the opportunity to immerse themselves in experiential civic engagement and practice democracy. Teens from across every state meet in their local Youth in Government groups throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose legislation. The program culminates with teens serving as delegates at their state conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature.

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Youth In Government Purpose

To enhance the development of the American democratic process by enabling young Americans to prepare for moral and political leadership by providing guidance, training, and experience in the theory and practice of determining public policy;

- To provide leadership training to meet the needs of a democratic society.
- To provide an understanding and awareness of modern government.
- To provide opportunities for participation in the legislative process.
- To provide opportunities to become significantly involved in social issues.
- To develop self-confidence and self-expression.
- To provide opportunities to gain experience in political action.
- To sponsor an inter-association event and laboratory training on the democratic process of our country attractive to high school youth.
- To increase the ability of members to organize ideas clearly, concisely, and persuasively along with giving individuals experience in the art of speech making and debate.
- To enable the individual to learn to take defeat without discouragement as well as to learn to be tolerant of others' points of view.