



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT

California YMCA Youth & Government

Issues & Activism

During the 70th Model Legislature and Court (MLC), Issues and Activism will be introduced to all delegates in the program. Issues and Activism was developed by a team of delegates, program staff volunteers and core staff over the past year to enhance programming at all Youth & Government conferences.

What To Expect?

- New opportunities for delegate engagement and civic activism
- A redesign of political parties with a greater connection to relevant issues for delegates
- Political parties will seek to be more connected to entirety of the program

Introducing the Parties

Issues & Activism will introduce six standing political parties that will exist and evolve year after year (instead of introducing new parties each year). The parties are: Avocado, Gold, Grizzly, Poppy, Redwood and Trout. The names of each party are related to themes in California. Parties will be identified on the delegate's badge at each conference.

Political Ideology Compass

Prior to T&E I, all delegates will complete a Political Ideology Compass (PIC) to gauge their stance on political issues and attitudes about the role of government. Delegates with similar political ideologies will be clustered together into a political party.

More information on how to complete the PIC will be provided to delegations before T&E I. For the 70th MLC, delegates are not permitted to switch parties once assigned or remain unaffiliated.

What Does Each Party Do?

At T&E I, each party will be responsible for creating a party platform and selecting a Youth Governor candidate to represent their party. Only delegates assigned to the party are eligible to attend and vote during these sessions.

-Platform Convention: Delegates in each party will gather during a Platform Convention to select the policy priorities for their political party to work on for that program year. All delegates will be provided an opportunity to debate and discuss the issues going on the platform.

-Youth Governor Primary: Delegates in each party will gather to select a Youth Governor candidate to represent their party. A debate among all candidates in the party will be held to help delegates learn more about the candidate's stance on issues.

Forum (freshmen) delegates will only participate in the Youth Governor Primary during T&E I.

Changing the world, one leader at a time.

Party Leadership

Last year, delegates were selected to serve as Party Chairs for this upcoming year and have been instrumental in the planning of the new program.

<u>Party</u>	<u>Party Chair</u>
Avocado	Hannah Rouland (Fremont/Newark)
Gold	Gabi Cirne Lima (Berkeley)
Grizzly	Robby Ackles (SDSC/Magdalena Ecke)
Poppy	Isabel Musselman (Culver Palms Family)
Redwood	Alicia Abramson (Palisades Malibu)
Trout	Jake Calderia (Central Coast)

Each Party Chair will select a Chief of Staff for their party. The Chief of Staff will select a Deputy Chief of Staff. Six additional Director roles in each party will be selected by application at T&E I. The six appointed Directors will focus on Policy, Legislative Affairs, Non-Legislative Affairs, Communications, Campaigns and Membership.

New Program Area

Issues and Activism will become a new program area option for delegates. Each party will have space for 34 additional delegates (in addition to party leadership already selected). Delegates in each party will be responsible for enacting the party platform set during the platform conventions at T&E I.

During T&E I, all delegates will be given the opportunity to request Issues and Activism as their program area. If selected by their party, delegates will be assigned to that party (and Issues and Activism as their program area) for T&E II and Sacramento. Each party will be limited to no more than 4 delegates from the same delegation (leadership does not count towards limit).

Please note that the top 6 Youth Governor candidates that move on from T&E1 will all be members of the Issues and Activism program area for the 70th MLC.

What about Activism?

To bring Youth & Government into the real world, Issues and Activism seeks to foster local activism. The program will be the seed at the local level. Each party will develop frameworks for civic engagement that delegates can take action with at the local and state level.

More Questions?

The program staff for Issues and Activism are working on additional handouts and documents to support the launch of the program. Advisors will learn more specifics about Issues and Activism during Advisor and Volunteer Training in September.

However, anyone can submit questions or feedback on the program to activism@calymca.org and look for updates in future MLC bulletins.

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