



70 YEARS
INSPIRING YOUTH

FUTURE LEADERS START HERE

For 70 years, California YMCA Youth & Government has provided middle and high school youth throughout California the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of issues affecting our state, nation and world.

Youth & Government programs are a platform for service learning, social responsibility and personal development. Participants develop critical thinking and public speaking skills that allow them to articulate and act upon their beliefs.

PROGRAM DELIVERABLES & OVERVIEW

California YMCA Youth & Government prides itself in providing quality educational and civic engagement programs that offer youth the following skills:

- ★ Leadership
- ★ Public speaking
- ★ Research & writing
- ★ Core values & team work
- ★ Critical thinking skills
- ★ Greater understanding of civic engagement and issues on statewide and national levels

Since 1948, California YMCA Youth & Government has provided outstanding statewide educational and social experiences for more than 100,000 middle and high school youth.

The mission of California YMCA Youth & Government is to build values-based leadership and civic engagement in California's youth to strengthen our democratic processes.



To start or join one of our programs,
call 916.287.9622 or visit www.calymca.org.

MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT

More than 3,300 youth participants or “delegates” representing 90 delegations across California convene to discuss major issues facing our state each year. The Model Legislature & Court (MLC) program brings together a cross-section of the state’s high school students for a six-month, learn-by-doing experience that teaches the values of democracy. Participants experience government firsthand and learn how to solve local and national problems through the democratic process.

The program includes two training conferences in and a culminating conference in Sacramento that allows participants the opportunity to put their training into action as they assume their given roles. During the culminating conference, participants take over the historic halls, chambers and offices of the California State Capitol, the state Supreme Court and the Governor’s Office. Legislation is debated and court cases are decided, as students apply skills they have gained in the program.

SPRING CONFERENCE

Spring Conference is an abbreviated version of our Model Legislature & Court program, showcasing two of the major program areas from the MLC during one weekend in May. Delegates participating in the National Issues Commission have the opportunity to write proposals focused on identifying creative solutions to national issues. Those who participate in the Legislature during Spring Conference have the opportunity to write bills on issues affecting the state and/or their local communities.

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL COMPETITION

California YMCA Youth & Government will launch a new program in the Fall of 2018: The California Judicial Competition. This new Appellate Moot Court competition will bring talented young leaders from across the state to participate in teams to present oral arguments and preside as justices. Participants will not only gain a deeper understanding of our legal system, but also their responsibility within the system.

CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The YMCA Conference On National Affairs (CONA), held at the beautiful YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in North Carolina, is a nationwide conference for high school students. At this conference, delegations from 34 states debate issues of national and international concern. Each year, California YMCA Youth & Government sends a team of 25 delegates to CONA, chosen from applicants who have participated in our Model Court & Legislature program. In addition to attending the conference, the California delegation participates in a training weekend and conference pre-trip allowing the team to learn more about each other and prepare for the competition. Delegates who are interested in participating may send an email to cona@calymca.org or log onto the resources section of our website.

NATIONAL JUDICIAL COMPETITION

The YMCA of the USA has partnered with the American Bar Association to conduct the National Judicial Competition (NJC). NJC is a nationwide conference for high school students, in which delegations from across the country participate in a Mock Trial-Appellate Court competition. Each year, California YMCA Youth & Government selects 20 to 30 delegates, who have applied and participated in our Model Legislature & Court, to compete at NJC. A training weekend is also included with this competition to help the students prepare. Interested delegates may send an email to njc@calymca.org or visit the resources section of our website.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Our Model United Nations (MUN) program serves close to 1,000 students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade from nearly 40 different statewide delegations. MUN gives youth participants the opportunity to take on roles of United Nations representatives, Committee Chairs and Presiding Officers as they simulate the proceedings of the official United Nations. By simulating the official United Nations, the MUN program teaches the participants about international policy, appreciating different cultures and working together to find creative solutions to global problems.

Each delegation selects one or more countries to research and represent during our two MUN conferences. In March, participants will attend a Northern or Southern California MUN Training Conference to not only learn more about the program area in which they will be participating (General Assembly, Non-Governmental Organizations, International Court of Justice) and will also receive training in areas such as public speaking, decision-making, cultural competency and evidence-based persuasion.

In April, all delegations come together for our annual Model United Nations Summit in Los Angeles. During the Summit, participants will represent their respective countries in the roles for which they have prepared during the Training Conferences. During the course of the conference, they will also have the opportunity to participate in interactive cultural experiences.

SECRETARIAT PROGRAM

The Secretariat program offers an intensive leadership development opportunity for high school participants of our Model Legislature & Court Program.

Secretariat participants provide mentorship and training to middle school delegates who are currently participating in the Model United Nations program. They provide direction to younger delegates on how to research

international topics, create resolutions for change and resolve conflicts. In turn, Secretariat participants receive guidance and mentorship from program volunteers to help strengthen their leadership skills.

INTERN PROGRAM

The Intern Program is an intensive three-year leadership training opportunity for college students who are alumni of the Model United Nations and/or Model Legislature & Court program. Interns are selected and trained in advanced leadership and the fundamentals of youth development.

The Intern Program consists of three different tiers. In their first year of the program interns work directly with 9th grade students, providing mentorship and training. Interns who complete the first year of the program are eligible to apply to return as second-year interns. These interns assist the program volunteers in the various Model Legislature & Court program areas. The third year interns are selected from the pool of second year interns. This group assists with the supervising and mentoring the first and second year interns.



WAYS TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Youth & Government Alumni Association provides access to a broad network of former participants and adult volunteers. This network allows Y&G alumni to reconnect with old friends and to bridge new professional relationships. To connect with us today, please contact tonya@calymca.org.



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

California YMCA Youth & Government relies on support from several sources to fund our ongoing programs. The following is a list of ways you can assist Y&G continue providing quality programs for our youth:

- ★ Individual Giving- by mail, online or through our Future Leaders Campaign
- ★ Tax Checkoff (contribute to Y&G when you file your California State Taxes)
- ★ Corporate Giving
- ★ Program Support
- ★ Matching Gifts
- ★ Planned Giving
- ★ Vehicle Donation
- ★ Amazon Smile
- ★ American Express "Members Give Program"

To learn more about ways you can help, please contact us at info@calymca.org or visit our website at www.calymca.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

California YMCA Youth & Government programs require the assistance of more than 400 volunteers annually throughout the state.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities in which to participate. These include: program support at conferences, delegation advisors (provide program content throughout the year), panel experts, logistics, food services, conference support, as well as Advisory or Board of Directors positions.

If you are interested in joining our Youth & Government family as a volunteer, please contact us at danielle@calymca.org.

CALIFORNIA YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT
1792 Tribute Road | Suite 480
Sacramento, CA 95815

www.calymca.org

