



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

FUTURE LEADERS START HERE

Youth & Government

Since 1948, California YMCA Youth & Government has provided outstanding statewide educational and social experiences for more than 70,000 middle and high school youth. The program is run through partnering YMCAs throughout the state as well as local schools and youth organizations.

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

PROGRAM DELIVERABLES & OVERVIEW

California YMCA Youth & Government prides itself in providing quality educational and civic engagement programs that offer youth with the following skills to help them transition and succeed with ease from middle school all the way through college graduation:

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

To start or join one of our programs, visit www.ymca.net to find a participating YMCA.

For over 65 years, California YMCA Youth & Government has offered our Model Legislature & Court (MLC) program to high school students. Currently, the MLC is serving more than 2,800 participants from over 85 delegations across the state. In 2001, California YMCA Youth & Government expanded to offer a Model United Nations (MUN) program to middle school students. The MUN program is currently serving more than 700 participants from over 40 delegations across the state. Our Intern program is geared towards recent high school graduates who wish to continue their educational advancement as well as hone mentoring skills.



MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT

Our Model Court & Legislature (MLC) program is entering its 67th year and serves over 2,800 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders from 90 local delegations throughout the state to discuss the major issues facing California. Delegates have the opportunity to write proposals focused on identifying creative solutions to statewide issues. This program spans a six-month period of time and includes Training & Election conferences at Camp Roberts in Paso Robles and culminates with our premiere MLC event in Sacramento each February. In Sacramento, the State government moves over and our delegates take over the historic halls, chambers, and offices of our State Capitol, Supreme Court, and Governor's Office. Legislation will be debated, court cases decided and next year's Youth Governor will be elected at the closing joint session. During the six month MLC program, students not only learn about civic engagement but also receive training in areas such as public speaking, decision-making, research and writing skills, and evidence-based persuasion.

MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT 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 April. 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 have the opportunity to write bills on issues affecting the state and/or their local communities. As Spring Conference is smaller than our full MLC Program, delegates have more opportunities to speak and debate. However, there are still opportunities to run for a variety of leadership positions. In addition to all of the wonderful programming provided, delegates have the opportunity to participate in many of the weekend's social activities such as swimming, singing karaoke and dancing the night away.

Spring Conference is open to grades 9 to 12. While you don't need to be a previous participant to attend Spring Conference, we ask that all seniors are previous participants.

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 e-mail 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 Court & Legislature, to compete at NJC. A training weekend is also included with this competition to help the students prepare. Interested delegates may send an e-mail to njc@calymca.org or visit the resources section of our website.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Our Model United Nations (MUN) program is entering its 14th year and serves over 700 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from 42 different delegations across the State. Delegations select one or more countries (depending on delegation size) to research and represent at our two MUN conferences. In March, participants attend the MUN Training Conference, held at Camp Roberts Army National Guard Base. While there, participants will not only learn more about the program area in which they will be participating (General Assembly, Non-Governmental Organizations, International Court of Justice, etc.), they will also receive training in areas such as public speaking, decision-making, cultural competency, and evidence-based persuasion.

In April, everyone meets 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 prepared during the Training Conference (Economic and Social Council, Security Council, etc.). During the course of the conference, they will also have the opportunity to participate in various cultural experiences. Each year, MUN is fortunate to have 5 to 10 foreign dignitaries come for our Saturday night banquet. These foreign dignitaries also sit with the delegations representing their countries and answer questions pertaining to their country.

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 problems.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat Program is an intensive leadership development program for high school aged students. The Secretariat is the administrative arm of the United Nations. They provide mentorship and training to the middle-school aged participants. Their responsibilities include teaching Delegates how to research international topics, create resolutions for change, and resolve conflicts.

Most of the participants of the Secretariat program are recruited from the Model Legislature & Court (MLC), however participation is not mandatory. During the course of the program year, adult program volunteers evaluate the Secretariat and provide feedback and guidance to help strengthen their leadership skills. The Secretariat program is considered a part of California YMCA Y&G's Volunteer Development Program. Secretariat Program alumni with strong evaluations receive priority placement as program volunteers.

INTERNSHIPS

The Intern Program provides "hands on" leadership training to college-aged students. Model Legislature & Court participants can apply at the end of their senior year in high school. Selected interns are trained in 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. Program volunteers and delegation advisors recruit highly from Intern alumni.

To start or join one of our programs, call 916.287.9622 or visit www.ymca.net to find a participating YMCA.



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 alumni@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 info@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 annual campaign initiative)
- Corporate giving
- Specific program support
- Matching gifts
- Planned giving
- Vehicle donation
- 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.

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