



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## What is Y&G all about?

The YMCA Youth & Government motto is "Democracy must be learned by each generation." Every person can make a difference. Youth & Government helps participants acquire skills to take into the future:

- Public speaking/communications
- Greater understanding of democratic process
- Enhanced leadership skills
- Application of moral and ethical values to life decisions

As a YMCA program, Youth & Government focuses on: the core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, civic engagement, and fun.

# YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

## Who can participate?

High school students in grades 9-12. A limited numbers of middle school students serve as legislative pages. Adult Advisors can be YMCA staff, teachers or volunteers. Alumni of the program may volunteer to serve in various ways.

## How much time does it take?

Youth & Government delegations meet at the local level every one or two weeks after school or in the evening beginning soon after school starts. Meetings are usually 30-90 minutes long. All delegates participate in all-day state Pre-Legislative Conferences on three Saturdays over the course of the program year. The Model Government Conference is held in early spring over three days from Thursday morning until Saturday afternoon, usually in Boston. Officers attend leadership training the Wednesday before the conference begins. All participants are expected to complete any missed school work.

## What do delegates do in Y&G?

There are many ways to participate in Youth & Government. Delegates choose one of the following areas:

- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch: Approx. 50 delegates
- Executive Branch: Approx. 10 delegates
- Press Corps: Approx. 15 delegates
- Lobbyist Corps – Approx. 10 delegates
  - The Legislative Branch is for students who are interested in debate, writing, and the law-making process. Roles include:
    - Representative
    - Senator
  - The Judicial Branch is for students who are interested in the law, arguing, grappling with moral issues, and writing. Roles include:
    - Attorney
    - Attorney General
    - Assistant Attorneys General
    - Associate Justices
    - Chief Justice
  - The Executive Branch is for students who want to exercise leadership qualities. Roles include:
    - Governor: elected in junior year to serve in senior year.
    - Lt. Governor: elected in junior year to serve in senior year.
    - Cabinet: Eight members appointed by the Governor and Lt. Governor.
  - The Press Corps is for students who like to research, write and report the news. A Youth & Government newspaper, The Beacon, is published by the Press Corps.
  - The Lobbying Corps, new this year, is for students who like to influence others to their point of view and advocate for positions.

## Informational Night

**When: Wednesday, October 26**

**Where: East Bridgewater YMCA**

**Time: 5:00pm**

**We will have snacks and drinks available!**

**Please call with questions!**

**Our Youth & Government Program starts in September, 2011.** If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Nichole Hay at 508-378-3913 or [nhay@oldcolonymca.org](mailto:nhay@oldcolonymca.org).

**OLD COLONY YMCA – EAST BRIDGEWATER FAMILY BRANCH**

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