



YMCA Youth and Government

“Democracy must be learned by each generation in order for it to survive.”

What is it?

YMCA Texas Youth & Government is a statewide civic education and leadership development program in which YMCAs, schools, and community organizations involve students in hands-on learning experiences. Students meet regularly during the fall semester and compete at District Conference in November and at State Conference in January.

Participating Schools

- Akins High, Austin ISD
- Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, Austin ISD
- Austin High, Austin ISD
- Bastrop High, Bastrop ISD
- Cedar Creek High, Bastrop ISD
- Del Valle High, Del Valle ISD
- Hays YMCA (homeschool students)
- Hyde Park, Private
- Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA), Austin ISD
- Springs YMCA
- St. Andrew's, Private

Areas of Participation

- Legislature - write a bill addressing a current state issue
- Judicial Mock Trial - part of a five-person attorney team as attorney or witness
- Media - newspaper reporter, photographer, broadcaster, or cyber media
- State Affairs Forum - write proposal on set list of topics

Benefits to Students

- Build “real life” skills – debate, public speaking, conflict resolution, relationship-building
- Debate issues of local, state, and national scope and better understand how issues affect them, their families, and their communities
- Strengthens character & builds self-esteem
- Become active leaders and responsible citizens
- Meet students from across the state and interact with peers on academic and social levels
- Resume builder as part of national YMCA Youth & Government program with same standards and guidelines.

Benefits to School

- “Ready made” group of student leaders
- Connect with teachers and students from around the state
- Help prepare next generation for their roles and responsibilities
- Psychology, Sociology, and US Government Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) met
- Experiential learning for teachers and students through District and State Conference participation
- Build connections and collaborations with government officials

From the YMCA

- Assistance to teacher/sponsors from YMCA staff and YMCA volunteers
- Financial Assistance if any student is in need
- Teacher/sponsor given YMCA of Austin membership

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