

COLORADO YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

- High school students gain knowledge of governmental organization and structure through participation in some of its processes.
- Increase understanding and appreciation of the legislative processes through participating in committees, debating on the floor of the House and Senate, and receiving leadership training from those resource persons who are members of the various state departments.
- Expand high school student's interest in and knowledge of the current problems of the state of Colorado.
- Contribute to an awareness of the effect of personal interest and activity on governmental operations.
- See the importance and significance of high school students in the betterment of their community.
- Know the governmental agencies that exist to perform various services.
- Increase the ability of high school student participants to organize ideas clearly and concisely and to present them persuasively.
- Provide additional opportunities to develop the skill of public speaking.
- Foster relationships that make it possible to better understand other perspectives.
- Help develop the ability to take victory with humility and defeat without discouragement.
- Stimulate the knack of learning from an opponent.
- Inspire the use of the YMCA's core values - caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility - as the fundamentals in the evaluation of discussions, decisions, or acts.
 - ✓ CARING – Youth in Government provides a *caring* atmosphere that supports and at times challenges students' beliefs and provides a platform for their voices to be heard by other teens, adults, and elected officials.
 - ✓ HONESTY – Delegates are asked to conduct research into current topics and write model legislation (bills). Intellectual *honesty* and a strong sense of academic ethics are critical to the YIG process of research and debate.
 - ✓ RESPECT – YIG delegates will be presented with arguments and positions that are at times contrary to their own feelings and beliefs. Teens learn to confront those ideas head on in a *respectful* manner without the need for personal attacks on the presenter.
 - ✓ RESPONSIBILITY – Delegates are expected to take *responsibility* for their actions during the program, including adhering to the code of conduct and the dress code, and arriving promptly for all activities.