

VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity for delegates to make a difference in their community and the YMCA while working with other delegates. All students are required to work the program-run fundraisers throughout the year. The money earned goes to offset the cost of the state fees and programming supplies.

Fundraising opportunities include:

- **Christmas Tree Sales** – Delegates help the Y-Service Club sell Christmas trees during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- **Pancake Breakfast** – Held mid-February at the Appleton YMCA, delegates will help with prep, service and clean up during the event.
- **Other opportunities** are created each year as determined by our student-run fundraising committee.

Volunteer opportunities also exist throughout the program.



To learn more about Youth in Government, contact:

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United Way Fox Cities



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SHAPING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW



Youth in Government
YMCA OF THE FOX CITIES

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire. Go forth and blaze your own path."
–St. Catherine of Siena

Learn more at ymcafoxcities.org

WHAT IS YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT?

Youth in Government was founded in the United States in 1936 in Albany, New York and is now a nation-wide YMCA program that is active in nearly 40 states. The mission of the YMCA Youth in Government Program is to help develop the next generation of thoughtful, committed and active citizens.

Youth in Government is a national YMCA program for youth in grades 7-12. The program enables young people to prepare for moral and political leadership through training in theory and practices of developing public policy.

The Youth in Government Program is a five month journey in stage government. Local delegations form in mid-October and students receive an introduction to the government process during a state convention held one weekend in March. This event models the political conventions process but is non-partisan. Participants research topics and prepare for presentations for the Model Government Conference at the State Capital. Through these events students will meet other individuals their age and learn how they can collectively make an impact.

The YMCA of the Fox Cities is the largest student-driven delegation in Wisconsin. Meetings, major decisions and fundraising ideas for the delegation are created and monitored by student-elected co-presidents with the help of adult advisors.

PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Youth in Government takes a hands-on approach to involving students in the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government. This includes media which gives students experience in sharing political news in a variety of forms of multimedia.

Assembly and Senate:

Delegates have the opportunity to pick their own bills to research, create and debate. Participants act as senators and representatives by choosing areas of interest that they feel need legislative attention in the state. Delegates then work together to research, sponsor, present and debate bills both in committees and within the actual Assembly and Senate Chambers.

Supreme Court:

Delegates select, prepare and appeal/respond to a case before the high court in the State Supreme Court. In addition, each youth lawyer will sit on the bench as a justice for at least one case in the Supreme Court.

Media:

Delegates research, write, create and edit a Model Government newspaper. The Fox Cities' delegates work on a delegation paper during local meetings. The Media publishes 3 to 5 editions during the session and are responsible for the computer-based layout and graphics. Delegates also work on a state Youth in Government Facebook page along with other social media posts.

TIME COMMITMENT

Youth in Government runs roughly from mid-October through mid-March. The Fox Cities delegation meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Appleton YMCA. All students who participate in Youth in Government are required to attend the majority of the meetings and to actively take part in fundraising and community service events.

Tuesday delegation meetings are important because they are the only time to:

- Research, develop and debate bills and case topics
- Prepare and practice public speaking skills in front of a group, which is critical to the success of each student's bill or case topic
- Sign up for fundraising and other special events
- Receive schedule updates, deadlines and other important information
- Form relationships with fellow delegates.

Fees:

The cost per delegate is \$400 which includes all materials, transportation and lodging for the Model Government weekend.

Financial assistance applications are available upon request.