

Ways to Participate

Assembly and Senate...participants act as Senators or Representatives. They choose areas of interest that they feel need legislative attention. Delegates work together to research, sponsor, present and debate bills in committees and within the actual Assembly and Senate chambers.



Supreme Court...select, prepare and appeal or respond to a case before the high court in the actual chamber at the Capitol building. Much preparation and research will go into each case. In addition, each youth lawyer will sit on the bench as a judge or justice for at least one case in the Supreme Court.

Press Corps...research, write, create, and edit a Model Government newspaper and DVD. The newspaper staff publishes 3-4 editions during the session and are responsible for the computer based layout and graphics. The newspaper has an Editor In Chief.

Youth Officers...for the program are elected by participants in each program area at "Pre-Gov." Youth officers preside in the Model Legislature, Court, and Press Corps and lead the executive branch and support program areas during the Model Session. Officer positions include: Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Editor In Chief, Secretary of State, President of the Senate, Speaker of the Assembly (2), Chief Clerk, Reading Clerk and Floor Leader of each House.

How Can You Become Part Of Youth In Government?

Youth In Government delegations may be organized in any local YMCA of high school in Wisconsin. If you are interested, contact your local YMCA.

Stevens Point Area YMCA Youth In Government 2009-2010 All Students Grades 7-12

Introductory Meeting:
Sunday, October 4th @ 6pm

Fall General Meetings:
Sunday, October 18th @ 6pm

Sunday, November 1st @ 6pm

Sunday, November 15th @ 6pm

Sunday, November 29th @ 6pm

Sunday, December 13th @ 6pm

Jamie Linzmeier, Teen Director
Stevens Point Area YMCA
1000 Division Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 342-2980 ext. 326
jlinzmeier@spymca.org

Stevens Point Area YMCA

Y YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



Wisconsin YMCA's

Model Government Program

TEENS GRADES 7-12



**Find out what it's
like to be a
lawmaker!**

www.wyig.org

WISCONSIN YMCA's YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Purpose

The purpose of the Youth In Government program is to encourage life-long responsible citizenship through the study of public issues, debate of public policy, writing of legislation and an experience in the State Government Process. Youth In Government (YIG) programs also provide the opportunity for self-fulfillment and lasting friendships, and dramatize to the community the active leadership potential of our high school youth.

Nationally, this educational training experience began in 1936 and now takes place in some 38 states. The first Wisconsin Youth Legislature was held in 1952, and the first Model Court and Press Corps convened in 1990. Delegates to Youth Legislature have written numerous bills that are now actual state laws. Youth Delegates have gone on to become actual legislators, lobbyists, state and community leaders.



Objectives

The objectives of the Wisconsin YMCA Youth In Government program have been designed to promote:

- ***Awareness** of State issues.
- ***Interaction** among high school students from varying background around common concerns.
- ***Understanding** of government processes through active participation in model state government.
- ***Communication** of youth concerns to state government leaders.
- ***Participation** in national and international YMCA Youth In Government programs.



How do I get started?

Youth In Government clubs or groups are formed in local YMCA and high schools throughout the state and are referred to as delegations. With adult advisors, students or youth delegates, from grades 7-12, research and discuss state issues. They prepare draft legislation, cases and legal opinions and develop positions they believe offer viable solutions. Research and consultation with business, government and community leaders is conducted by local delegations in an effort to produce effective legislation and positions.



Pre-Government Convention

Sunday, January 10, 2010

The "Pre-Gov" is held in February of each year after local Youth In Government delegations have been formed. Delegations to the convention elect youth officers for the Model Executive, Legislative, Judicial, and Press Corps Session. "Pre-Gov" resembles the political party conventions of our two-party system. The day includes nominating speeches, candidate forums, networking and committee hearings. Countless pieces of campaign literature are distributed to the delegates. Elections occur by individual ballot, and the results are announced at the end of the day. "Pre-Gov" is held each year in Stevens Point.

Model Government Session

February 12-14, 2010

The Wisconsin YMCA Youth In Government Annual Model Government is held **February 12-14, 2010**. The State Capitol in Madison is the scene of this exciting three day event.

At the Capitol in Madison:

*Youth Representatives and Senators actually go through the legislative process by debating, amending, tabling, passing or defeating bills.

*Press Corps students prepare, edit and distribute a student run newspaper and create a DVD of the weekend for future recruitment opportunities.

*The Youth Supreme Court hears appeals of cases heard by lower courts. Delegates serves as youth lawyers, appellants and respondents and rotate sitting on the court.

*The Youth Governor sets the stage of the Sessions through the State of the State Address and by signing or vetoing legislation. The Youth Legislature may override the Governors veto by a 2/3 majority.

