



YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

YMCA OF THE EAST BAY

YMCA of the East Bay's Youth & Government (Y&G) has provided middle and high school students with an experiential leadership learning and development program by modeling United Nations and California's legislature and courts. Our Y&G prides itself in providing quality educational and civic engagement programming that offer our student "delegates" with the following skills to help them transition and succeed with ease from high school through college graduation:

- Leadership skills
- Public speaking
- Research and writing skills
- Core values and teamwork
- Study skills
- Critical thinking skills

MODEL LEGISLATURE AND COURT (GRADES 9th-12th) is a 6-month, learn-by-doing experience that brings together high school students from across the state to learn the value of democracy. Students have the opportunity to write bills, become attorneys, serve on the State Assembly, and more program areas as they participate in this statewide program. The program will include a conference at the state capitol to give delegates the opportunity to put their training into action as they assume their given roles. Legislation is debated and court cases are decided as delegates apply skills they have gained.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS (GRADES 6th-8th) gives middle school students the opportunity to discuss international issues, discover other cultures, and develop life-enhancing skills. The 4-month program culminates when delegates from around the state convene for the Model United Nations Summit. There, delegates represent assigned countries as ambassadors and work to solve global issues with the skills they have acquired.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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ENROLLMENT AND COSTS

Go to www.ygeastbay.org/application to enroll in the program.

After enrollment, you will be provided with instructions to make payment through our YMCA membership system.

PROGRAM FEE

Check our website for this year's program fee. The program fee for the 6-month program covers:

- Conference registration fees
- Conference transportation
- Conference lodging
- Delegation apparel
- Delegation dinner
- Program Staff expenses
- Volunteer expenses
- Admin expenses

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available and is based on the student's family income and size. A sliding scale is used with the maximum amount offered at 80%. Additional financial aid is offered by the state Y&G office, which can bring total fees covered to 100% for qualifying applicants. Submit an application by going to www.ygeastbay.org/aid.

LATE FEE

A late fee of \$35 will be applied if installments are paid after the deadline. Failure to pay the required program fees before a conference will result in the student not attending the conference or planned activities for Youth and Government.

REFUND POLICY

Once a payment/draft date has passed, the fee is no longer refundable. Payments paid are non-refundable/non-transferable in the event the student does not complete the program or attend any of the conferences. Refunds must be requested, in writing, 7 days prior to a payment/draft in order for all future payments to be refunded or canceled.

DELEGATIONS AND MEETINGS

CURRENT DELEGATIONS

MLC (9th-12th)

Albany

Berkeley

Diablo Valley - Serving Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda
Fremont
Oakland
San Ramon Valley: Valle Lobo

MUN (6th-8th)

Berkeley - Serving Berkeley, Oakland, Albany, and nearby areas
Diablo Valley - Serving Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and nearby areas
Pittsburg - Serving Pittsburg, Antioch, Bay Point, and nearby areas

MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULES

Delegations generally meet in rooms at high schools or local community centers. Delegations meet once a week in the afternoon or evening hours (3pm and later). Due to holidays and space availability, there may be weeks where the delegations do not meet. To see the most up-to-date meeting locations, days, and times, please visit www.ygeastbay.org

MLC (9th-12th) WEEKLY MEETINGS

Delegations are run by a delegate-led team of officers that meet weekly to plan the evening's agendas. Here is a sample of what an agenda looks like:

1. Invocation- Words of wisdom given by the Chaplain to set the positive tone for the meeting.
2. Family Groups- Delegates are placed into smaller groups where they develop close relationships, discuss needs, get information, and ask questions about the program.
3. Committees- Delegates lead break out groups to plan service-learning projects, research bill ideas, create fundraising strategies, etc.
4. Officer/Advisor Time- This is the time when officers and or advisors deliver important information and remind delegates of due dates, deadlines, and other information.
5. Benediction- Our Chaplain ends the meetings with further deep thoughts leaving delegates with something to think about after the meeting.

MUN (6th-8th) WEEKLY MEETINGS

MUN meetings are run by trained adult advisors. They involve curriculum to help teach delegates about global affairs, geopolitics, and systems of government. Within their delegations, delegates research, debate and establish policies, treaties and resolutions. Their main focuses are international issues, including disputes between countries, peacekeeping efforts, border crisis, stabilizing financial markets and dealing with hunger, disease and poverty.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct will be enforced from the time we leave the YMCA until the time that we return. NO EXCEPTIONS. Any delegate found violating the Code of Conduct is subject to the penalties described, including being sent home at their parent's expense. Please remember, there will be no alcohol, drugs, tobacco

products, sex, or weapons at the conference. In addition, any action that breaks a state law or a hotel regulation, such as vandalism, theft, assault, etc. is also considered a breach of the Code of Conduct. Finally, please be sure to adhere to the "No Innocent Bystanders" rule in the Code of Conduct. For more in-depth descriptions, please review the Code of Conduct that all delegates and parents were required to sign as a condition of participation. Remember, participating in this program is a privilege, and we need to adhere to its rules.

MLC (9th-12th) STATEWIDE CONFERENCES

MLC (9th-12th) TRAINING & ELECTIONS CONFERENCES

The Training & Elections conferences are designed to give delegates the skills and knowledge to prepare themselves for their conference in Sacramento. They learn soft skills, get information and training on the program areas and elect leadership roles. The weekends also provide fun social activities for delegate interactions. Detailed information will be provided two (2) weeks prior to each conference.

To see the most up-to-date conference locations and dates, please visit www.ygeastbay.org

MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT CONFERENCE (9th-12th)

The Model Legislature & Court conference is the final event of the program. Through the 4 days, delegates will emulate various roles of our state government and court systems to set up a model California. The weekends also provide fun social activities for delegate interactions. Detailed information will be provided two (2) weeks prior to the conference.

HOUSING

Delegations will be housed in hotels in the convention center areas. Delegates are assigned four (4) to a room to minimize cost. The rooms will either have one king-size bed or two queen-size beds. We do our best to assign these rooms equally among the genders. Roll away beds are not always available so we ask those who may have an air mattress or sleeping pad to bring them along for comfort of those in single bed rooms.

The amount of single vs. double rooms are not known until we arrive at each conference. We do our best to accommodate all special requests.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from all conferences are by chartered bus. Bus pick up and drop off locations and times vary between conferences. Information will be made available two (2) weeks prior to each conference of the delegation web page.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

For our safety and wellness, Youth & Government provides trained volunteers known as Safety & Wellness Advisors (SWA). These individuals provide us services

such as security and medical attention. They create program boundaries, provide additional supervision, and handle minor medical needs.

During the evenings, the SWA enlists the help of the delegation advisors to perform duties to monitor delegate activity. This includes but not limited to floor duties at hotels, crosswalk monitors, elevator monitors, culinary assistance, etc. SWA are housed at every hotel where there are Youth & Government delegations. The more we look out for each other, the safer everyone will be.

MUN (6th-8th) STATEWIDE CONFERENCES

MUN (6th-8th) TRAINING CONFERENCE & MODEL UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT

In addition to weekly delegation meetings, students will participate in larger statewide events with middle schoolers from other YMCAs across the state. Delegates can expect a curriculum that includes a thorough orientation of the overall MUN program and its program areas, as well as workshops that focus on culture acceptance, public speaking, and leadership skills. Delegates also receive an introduction to the staff, role training, and a chance to meet other middle school students outside of their local area.

When attending the Model United Nations Summit, ambassadors take on the roles of their country's UN representatives, committee chairs, and presiding officers. They get to put their research and newfound knowledge to work as they perform their roles and explore how the United Nations is run. In this unique experience, they deal with international issues that affect our world. Delegates leave this experience with greater knowledge of the world around them and social skills that they can use for life!

To see the most up-to-date conference locations and dates, please visit www.ygeastbay.org

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