



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



INDIANA YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Democracy must be learned
by each generation.

GET INVOLVED

Join Indiana YMCA Youth and Government (INYaG) and make lots of friends from all over Indiana! Earn community service hours for high school credit. Learn about the government in a stimulating environment full of moments for fun and socializing during elections. INYaG is an extraordinary experience!



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any student in Indiana grades 6-12 can participate. Please reach out to your local YMCA or the Indiana Alliance of YMCAs for more information.

Need information? Want to volunteer to help youth reach their full potential?

Contact:

Iesha Grove
State Director of Civic Engagement
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ACTIVITIES

- Leadership training
- Public speaking and critical writing workshops
- Community engagement, civic responsibility, and applying political leverage
- Academic enhancement through the development of research, reading, and writing skills



DELEGATION MEETINGS

During weekly or bi-weekly meetings youth discuss current issues in the state and gain firsthand experience in how the government works. Students work with other delegates to write a bill, an oral argument, select governmental positions to role-play, and run for elected offices. The H.S. students get to "take over" the State Capitol in Indianapolis for the 3-day conference. The M.S. students get to debate and present their bill at the 1-day conference that will be held in various cities across the state.



INYaG

Indiana YMCA Youth and Government or "INYaG" is a year-long experiential learning civic engagement program that uses mock government as a vehicle for teaching Hoosier students in grades 6-12 about democracy. The program develops youth who will be better citizens now by being both knowledgeable and active in determining the future of our democracy.

Participants:

- Develop understanding of local, state, national, and international concerns
- Research, study, and debate public issues
- Interact with adult and youth leaders involved in decision making processes
- Gain an understanding of political systems and the forum they provide for peaceful resolution of issues
- Actively participate in the legislative process
- Learn to appreciate the diversity of viewpoints to foster a respect for ideas and beliefs of others
- Develop critical thinking and analytical abilities
- Encouraged to actively participate in political and public affairs

Goal:

To develop youth who will be better citizens by being both knowledgeable and active in determining the future of our democracy.

ROLES FOR PARTICIPANTS

H.S. YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY: This is the signature and gateway program. Based on the Indiana General Assembly, the program strives to turn the ideas of Indiana youth into formal laws through bill writing, debating, and voting on legislation according to specific rules and procedures. All high school students in their first year of the program are strongly encouraged to participate in the Youth General Assembly.

H.S. YOUTH EXECUTIVE PROGRAM: Through the program, INYaG's delegate-elected student leaders provide youth voice to the development of the overall program and provide operational leadership during the occurrences, as well as peer leaders. These elected individuals serve as peer leaders among fellow delegates. Campaigns for the elected positions take place at the conference for the next year's leaders.

H.S. MODEL SUPREME COURT: While exposing high school students to the formal judicial process in Indiana, the program promotes leadership through use of practicing attorneys and law students who not only judge delegates, but also serve as mentors. The Model Supreme Court Program also promotes collaboration and compromise using teams of attorneys and teams of justices who work together to accomplish their goals. This is open to all high school students who have previously participated in the Youth General Assembly, as well as seniors in H.S.

H.S. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT: This is a legislative committee hearing where participants roleplay as state legislators, executive branch officials, and more.

Students participate in an investigation into a contemporary issue. They engage in research, seek out facts, and work on a team of peers to reach a consensus.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM: The Middle School Program is for students in grades 6-8. Students will get to experience the Legislative process. They will get to learn the parliamentary procedures, how to research and write bills, how to debate, as well as how to rank bills. The Middle School Conference is a one-day conference.



INYaG's MODEL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCES

Through INYaG, an increasing number of students and adult leaders spend part of each academic year meeting in local community and school based delegations to discuss and debate issues that affect Indiana citizens and propose relevant legislation. Upon completing the relevant curriculum and assignments related to their program area, the students' work culminates during the conferences. Delegates are given opportunities to apply the skills developed and knowledge learned over the course of the program. The conference is a comprehensive mock government event.

LEADERSHIP

Each student who participates in INYaG comes away with an amazing amount of knowledge about the governmental process. Another goal of the program is to develop these students' leadership skills. Students may be elected to the following roles throughout the INYaG year: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice, Senate President Pro Tempore, and Speaker Pro Tempore.