



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FIND YOUR VOICE

MINNESOTA YMCA
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



MODEL ASSEMBLY SESSION

YMCA Youth in Government (YIG) is a youth development program emphasizing the YMCA's four core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

All are welcome. Financial assistance is available.

mnyig.org

Democracy Must Be Learned By Each Generation

ABOUT MODEL ASSEMBLY

Since 1946, Model Assembly has grown from a simple program featuring only a model legislature and a Youth Governor to an incredibly realistic and complex simulation of the Minnesota state government. Approximately 1,600 students in grades 8 – 12 take part in Model Assembly every January.

Model Assembly is an experience like no other. Each year, students come together and are inspired, connected, and empowered. They get involved with the processes of Minnesota government, learn about issues, meet new friends from all over the state, and have fun the whole time.

FAQs FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who runs the program?

Student officers who are elected during the previous program year run Model Assembly (MAS). YMCA staff members, teachers, alumni, and volunteers are always present to guide from the side and help things run effectively. Students are involved in the leadership of YIG programs in meaningful and hands-on ways.

How does conference preparation happen?

Local delegation meetings are the place where students write preparation materials for their program area, listen to speakers and practice their presentation skills. In November, delegates from all over the state come together for intensive training called LAUNCH to get ready for the January conference.

Where is Model Assembly?

Delegates live and work in the conference hotel in Minneapolis throughout the session.

The conference also utilizes the State Capitol Complex, including the State Capitol Building, Minnesota Judicial Center, State Office Building, and Minnesota Senate Building.

What is included in the state program fees?

Training and program preparation leading up to the conference, including the day-long LAUNCH training in November.

At the conference: 3 nights lodging, program transportation, security, meeting space rental, evening activities, supplies, program resources, and advisor costs.

Food is not included in program fees and is “on your own”.

What is included in the local delegation fees?

Local delegation expenses - these vary by group.

Transportation to and from LAUNCH in November.

Transportation to and from Model Assembly.

How do hotel rooms work?

Students make roommate requests to their local delegation directors and are assigned to rooms with two double beds and up to three other students of the same gender identity. Groups

of more than four per room are not allowed.

What is the role of adults?

Dedicated adult advisors help each local delegation organize, conduct trainings, raise funds, and prepare for Model Assembly. At the conference, adults are responsible for supervision, safety, and security.

How do the local delegations work?

A delegation is a group from a school, YMCA, or community group that is organized on the local level for participation in the program. Local delegations support and prepare youth for Model Assembly. Delegations can be of a variety of sizes and are led by youth and adults in partnership. All communication, financial arrangements, and preparation happen at the local delegation level.

What if I have more questions?

Contact your local Delegation Director to get your questions answered and to learn more about how to participate.

For more information, check out the website at mnyig.org

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED NOW?

- **Build skills for the real world**
- **Learn things you can't learn from a test – critical thinking, professional skills, and leadership**
- **Get exposed to students from other parts of the state who have different viewpoints**
- **Have powerful conversations on important issues in respectful and mind-opening ways**
- **Meet new people and make friendships that will last a lifetime**
- **Strengthen resumes and college applications**

CONFERENCE LIFE

CONFERENCE DATES

Thursday, January 9 - Sunday, January 12, 2020

LOCATIONS

Hilton Minneapolis

1001 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Minnesota Capitol Complex

State Capitol Building
Minnesota Judicial Center
State Office Building
Minnesota Senate Building

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00 AM	Wake up – Breakfast
9:00 AM	Program sessions
11:00 AM	Lunch in the skyways or off-site location
12:30 PM	Program sessions
5:30 PM	Dinner in the skyways
7:30 PM	Evening activities
10:30 PM	Delegation meetings and reflection
11:30 PM	Curfew

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Model Assembly delegates work hard each day of the program – and they get to play each evening.

Examples of some of the free-time activities:

- Delegate Talent Show
- Carnival
- Movies
- Karaoke
- Leadership Candidate Forums
- Arts & Crafts
- Game Space
- Quiet Space for Schoolwork & Socializing

MEALS & FOOD

All meals are “on your own” during the conference. Students will have access to a variety of food options for meals in the Minneapolis skyway system or near the Capitol Complex.

Many bring snacks and light breakfast items to eat in their hotel rooms. Skyways, buses, and restaurant areas are supervised by adult advisors. We help students identify healthy food options at the restaurants we patronize.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Keeping students safe is our top priority. We gather YMCA staff, teachers, and volunteers to coach, support, and supervise students throughout our conferences.

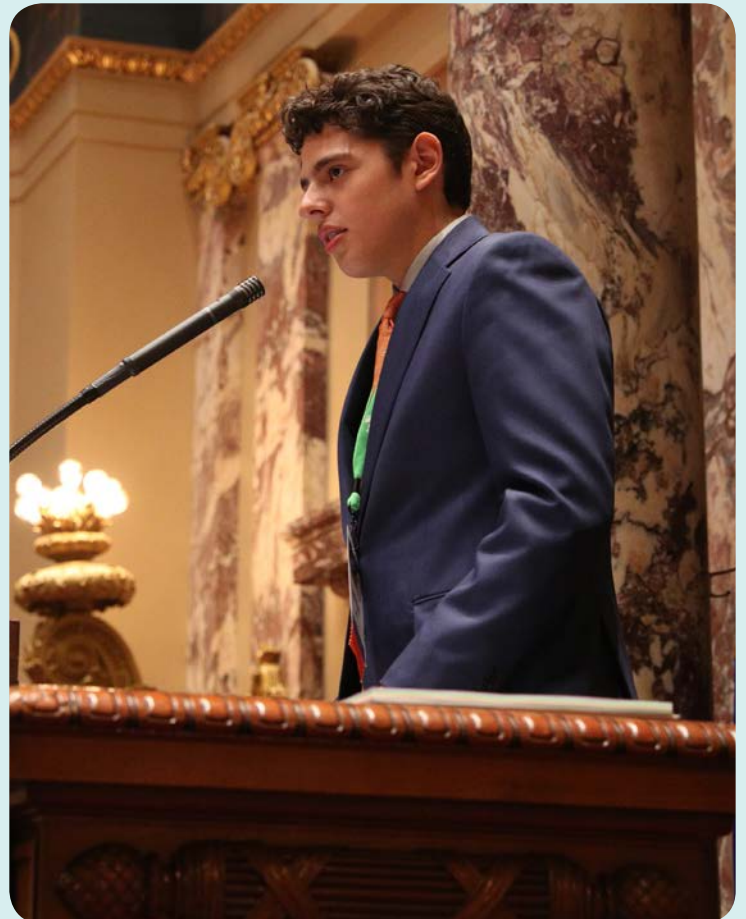
- All volunteers undergo criminal background checks prior to the conference
- We hire a security company to staff the sleeping room floors in our hotels each night
- Adult Advisors supervise skyways and restaurants during every meal period
- Each delegation conducts a group check-in meeting before bedtime and enforces curfew with room checks each night

CODE OF CONDUCT & DRESS CODE

YIG programs promote a trust-based Code of Conduct. We expect that all delegates will conduct themselves in a mature and respectful manner. The Code outlines expectations for conduct and possible consequences for not following those expectations.

During program hours, everyone is required to wear business attire. During evening activities and other personal time, students are allowed to dress more casually. We don't expect students to buy new clothes to attend conferences – the dress code has a wide range of what is considered “business” attire.

The full text of the Code of Conduct (including dress expectations) can be found on the website at mnyig.org



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE AT MODEL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Youth Representatives and Senators identify state issues important to them, their families, their schools, or their communities and write legislation to improve Minnesota. Delegates present their bills in committee hearings and on the respective House or Senate floor. Students work together to find solutions to some of Minnesota's biggest issues in a format that encourages respect and understanding.

Humphrey House & Stassen Senate	Grades 9 & 10
Sibley House & Ramsey Senate	Grades 9 & 10
Sanford House & Knutson Senate	Grades 11 & 12

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM

Delegates prepare, present, and discuss important national issues with their peers in a forum that is focused on productive, respectful debate. Each student prepares a proposal on a topic relevant to current events.

National Issues Forum	Grades 10, 11, & 12
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LEADERSHIP CORPS

Students are introduced to each aspect of Model Assembly, have a chance to learn about the workings of state government, and participate in skill-building and leadership development activities. Students work in small groups, spend the weekend creating bills, arguing court cases, writing media articles, and getting exposure to all the program areas in order to kick off their Model Assembly careers.

Leadership Corps	Grade 8
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JUDICIAL BRANCH

Court members prepare for hearings and make arguments before Youth Judges or Justices. Each student has the opportunity to argue both sides of their assigned case and will have an opportunity to serve on the bench.

Appellate Program – Youth lawyers make legal claims on issues related to citizen rights and responsibilities and application of constitutional law.

Court of Appeals	Grades 9 & 10
Supreme Court	Grades 11 & 12

Trial Program – Students make legal arguments in civil or criminal cases – to determine guilt or innocence or establish legal facts and models the experiences of lawyers and judges in real-life court hearings.

Trial Court	Grades 9 & 10
District Court	Grades 11 & 12

“YIG makes me feel like I belong somewhere. It has given me self-confidence. It gives me something I can be truly passionate about. I have met my best friends through the program. It has taught me how to be a leader and a good follower.”





“I’ve become much more comfortable speaking up about my thoughts and opinions, especially when they differ from those around me. I have become much more self-sufficient and confident in my abilities.”

OTHER MODEL ASSEMBLY OPPORTUNITIES

These positions are available to students after participating in their first conference. Students must apply during or immediately after the conference and be selected by the Elected Officers to assist in leading the various program areas for the following year. Officials attend a few prep sessions to meet their peers and learn about their specific roles.

Lobbyists

Lobbyists provide testimony, draft bills to assist Youth Legislators, and represent one of more than 50 different organizations and corporations for which they concentrate their lobbying efforts – working together to support or oppose potential laws.

Lobbyists

Appointed by Elected Officers

Media

Media participants are responsible for reporting, producing, or publishing on several news platforms each day – via TV Station, Radio Station, Newspaper, and Digital Media. They interact with all areas of Model Assembly and report their findings to all students and advisors at the conference – along with parents, donors, and alumni outside the conference.

Media Program Areas

Appointed by Elected Officers

Executive Branch

This branch consists of the Governors’ Staff and Cabinet, as well as the Secretary of State’s office. The Youth Governor and Lt. Governor identify officials to help advance their legislative and leadership agendas. The Youth Secretary of State’s staff tracks pending legislation and conducts conference elections for the next year’s youth leaders.

Governor/Lt. Governor Staff

Appointed by Elected Officers

Secretary of State Staff

Appointed by Elected Officers

MODEL ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP ROLES

Youth leadership is the core of Model Assembly programs. The program is conducted and led almost entirely by students. Participants have opportunities to serve as up-front leaders elected by their peers or as officials who are appointed to help carry out program functions.

Elected Officers – These leadership positions are determined at the end of the conference the preceding year. Students who are elected make a year-round commitment to Model Assembly and to the students they serve. Candidates stand for election for one of about 20 leadership roles for the following year’s conference.

Appointed Officials – These students are in specialty roles selected by the Elected Officers to assist in leading the various program areas. Leading up to Model Assembly, students attend various trainings where they prepare for and learn about their specific roles. Application for these roles concludes shortly after Model Assembly adjourns.



“YIG changed my life and was the best experience I ever had.”

OTHER EXPERIENCES

MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)

This program creates a working replica of the United Nations. Students can participate in a model General Assembly, International Court of Justice, Economic and Social Council, Security Council, Human Rights Council, or Conference Media. While focusing on role-playing an “adopted” country, participants exercise the arts of compromise and diplomacy to attempt to solve pressing global problems.

- Open to students in grades 7-12
- Model UN takes place in late March/Early April each year
- Registration begins in December

NATIONAL JUDICIAL COMPETITION (NJC)

NJC is a chance for YIG participants to expand on the legal issues they explore in Minnesota’s state session and to meet fantastic delegates from other states. This five-day conference takes place during late July in Chicago and includes time for fun group activities before the actual trials begin.

- Open to students in grades 10 - 12
- Applications for NJC are due in February
- Participation in MAS or MUN is required to apply

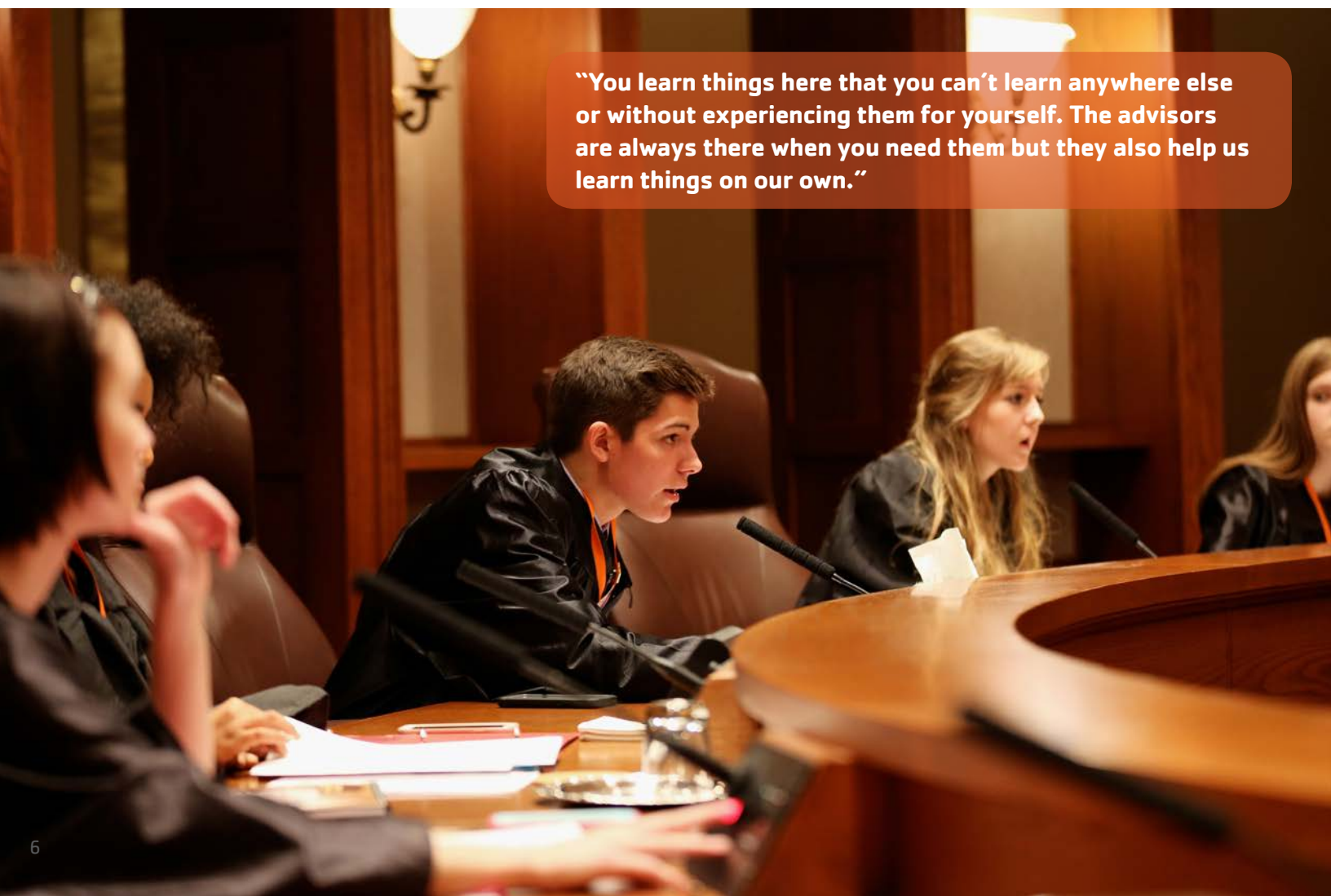
YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS (CONA)

More than 600 participants from about 40 states are selected to attend the conference where they debate issues of national and international importance. The 12-day trip happens in early July at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly. The Minnesota delegation takes an exciting post-conference trip to various east coast cities, which have included Washington, DC, and New York City. This is an amazing opportunity to have conversations on a national scale, meet students from around the country, and have a life-changing experience.

- Open to students in grades 10 - 12
- Applications for National Affairs are due in February
- Participation in MAS or MUN is required to apply

For more information check out the website

mnyig.org



“You learn things here that you can’t learn anywhere else or without experiencing them for yourself. The advisors are always there when you need them but they also help us learn things on our own.”



“I feel like YIG has really recharged me. I feel motivated and ready to take action in my own community.”

HOW TO REGISTER

- Register online at mnyig.org
- Registration is a 2-step process and is not complete until second step is finished by the student
- Each delegation has a different program fee – see the local Delegation Director for specifics
- Each registration must be accompanied by the required deposit. The completed registration process, along with the deposit, will secure your place at Model Assembly.

PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

- **Program Deposit** Due at registration
- **½ of Remaining Fee** Drawn on Credit Card November 5, 2019
- **Final Balance** Drawn on Credit Card December 3, 2019
- **Cancellations may be made until December 2**, when all fees and rosters are final. The deposit is not refundable at any time. Once a payment date has passed, that amount is non-refundable and non-transferrable, but any future fees due will be waived.
- **All fees are due December 3** unless you have a pre-approved payment plan established. If you have questions about payment plan policies, please contact your local Delegation Director. The Delegation Director will work on this with the State Office.
- Cancellations must be in writing and are submitted to the local Delegation Director.
- If a delegate has a significant discipline issue or violation of the Code of Conduct, we reserve the right to dismiss the delegate, without refund, for the remainder of the session.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

- The YMCA is committed to providing access to all who wish to participate in our programs. Need-based financial assistance is available giving those who are eligible between 10% and 50% off. We raise funds through the Annual Fund to help make that possible. Financial Assistance is granted on first-come, first-served basis. Please visit mnyig.org for an application. Apply to your local delegation director by **December 2**. Incomplete applications will be returned.
- **Some requesting Financial Assistance may not be able to complete their registrations online. Please check with your Delegation Director for more information.**

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with disabilities requiring an accommodation or some special need program leaders should be aware of, please contact the local Delegation Director. The Delegation Director will work with the YIG State Office related to the request. This information enables us to better meet the needs of students within available resources. For students requiring special accommodations, decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.



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snapchat username: mnymcayig



IMPORTANT DATES 2019 – 2020**

REGISTRATION OPENS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2019

Priority Registration Deadline	October 22, 2019
LAUNCH Training Event	November 2, 2019
Delegate Materials Deadline #1	November 5, 2019
Registration Closes	December 2, 2019
Delegate Materials Deadline #2	December 6, 2019
Model Assembly Session	January 9 – 12, 2020

**** Each group has its own schedule of local prep meetings in addition to these dates. Please check with your local Delegation Director for more info on local delegation meeting calendars.**

GET INVOLVED

Youth in Government State Office

1801 University Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 823.1381

Email the State Office: yig@ymcamn.org

Visit us online at mnyig.org



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