

Learn • Lead • Serve

Find out more about the PA Youth and Government Program Online!

PA YAG Video Press Corps Tumblr Blog:
<http://payagpress.tumblr.com>

PA YAG Website
<http://www.ymcapa.org>



Youth & Government Club Advisor BUTLER YMCA

339 North Washington Street
Butler, PA 16001
P 724 287 4733
www.bcfymca.org

2017-18 Youth and Government Information (Sept-May):

2017/2018 Student Program Fee Structure

Early Bird Payment:	\$325
due by November 30, 2017	
Regular Payment:	\$360
due by December 30, 2017	
Late Payment:	\$385
due by March 2, 2018	

Fees cover all State YMCA of Pennsylvania Youth and Government activities, including Elections Convention, Pre-Legislative Session, and the Model Government Convention. If you attend all three events, you will receive three breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and three nights in a hotel (quad occupancy), access to our online resources, and all conference materials. Additionally, if you are elected to an office in your club or the state leadership, you will get to attend Servant Leaders Training in October (three days, two nights). The fee does not include transportation costs to attend the events .

Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. You can apply at <http://www.ymcapa.org>. (Assistance is given through a state-wide assistance program, not the local YMCA)

Attendance:

If a delegate misses too many meetings or does not attend an event prior to Model Convention, the delegate will not be permitted to attend Model Convention. Refunds will not be given for a delegate's lack of attendance.

**Meetings are held every Monday at the
Butler YMCA from 6:00pm-8:00pm.**



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Youth & Government

Education and Leadership



BUTLER YMCA DELEGATION

YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Pennsylvania's Youth and Government Program is part of a nationwide YMCA program that organizes clubs in local YMCAs or high schools. This program provides students with a challenging and unique academic experience in which they learn about governmental workings and identify social issues and local problems. The students become engaged in public speaking, research, and debate as they write legislation to address important issues.

On the state level, students conduct election conventions and mock sessions that lead up to a Model Legislative Convention at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa. For three days students conduct a model government where their bills and leadership skills are put to use as the experiment with the legislative process. Bills passed into law are shared with Pennsylvania's lawmakers.

Who is in Youth and Government?

Membership is open to all students in grades 7 through 12, with each club led by an adult advisor. Students interested in law, public policy, journalism, economics, history, current events, civic engagement, etc. would all find this club valuable and stimulating.



Three Y.A.G. members posing for a picture in the Harrisburg State Capitol

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the Pennsylvania YMCA Youth and Government Program is to promote:

- an enriching educational experience focused on hands-on learning and experimentation
- an awareness of state issues, social problems, and possible solutions
- a peer to peer exploration and interchange of ideas with respect to differing viewpoints and commitment to honest research and debate
- the development of leadership, communication, and public speaking skills
- an opportunity for personal growth and development with a focus on moral and ethical decision making in the public policy arena
- an understanding of formal and informal government structures including judicial, legislative, executive, administrative, lobbying, and press functions



PROGRAM FUNCTIONS

Servant Leaders Training –A weekend just for club elected officers. They attend workshops to help them prepare to lead delegates in the upcoming year.

Elections Convention – Students elect their state officers for the program year. Students give speeches and vote for program leaders. Students also participate in workshops to give them the tools to prepare for the rest of the year.

PROGRAM FUNCTIONS

Pre Legislative Session – This event is the final preparation prior to the Model Legislative Weekend. Primaries for the top positions in the state will be held, students will also attend workshops that prepare them for their roles at Model, and get one final opportunity to hone their debate skills outside of their club.

Model Legislative Weekend – This event is the final culminating event for the year. All of the students from across the state will gather in Harrisburg for three days of student run government. The convention begins with the youth governor's **press conference**. The **cabinet** then plans, refines and implements strategies according to goals set forth in the governor's platform. House and senate **committees** begin their work, determining which bills will be brought before student **assemblies** where representatives and senators debate, amend, and possibly pass bills. **Reporters** from the **press corps** scramble throughout the capitol gathering news for their daily newspaper and YouTube channel. **Lobbyists** also canvas the capitol to influence legislation.

PUTTING IDEAS INTO ACTION!