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WELCOME

Welcome to Missouri YMCA Youth In Government!

Thank you for your willingness to give your time and leadership to Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. This outstanding program could not exist without the support and dedication of our adult volunteers. Thank you for your commitment to our youth as they develop the life skills and leadership qualities that will help them succeed and do great things for our society.

This manual is designed to assist your efforts as an advisor to a Youth In Government delegation. It contains information for advisors and students that will help your delegation achieve the objectives of the program. Please keep this manual as your guide from year to year. Revisions and additions will be sent to you periodically to keep your manual up to date.

In addition to the information in this manual, supplemental materials may be obtained at designated training sessions and by visiting the YIG website at www.moyig.org. You can also contact your local YMCA for assistance or YIG State Office at (573) 635-6215. We are happy to assist you in your efforts to build a strong delegation.

Again, thank you for your dedication to Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. We look forward to working with you to provide this wonderful opportunity to our youth!

ABOUT YIG

OVERVIEW

Since 1949, Missouri YMCA Youth In Government (YIG) has provided students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and experience democracy. Based on the motto "Democracy Must Be Learned By Each Generation", YIG is a statewide educational program that involves over 700 Missouri youth each year in various programs. These include our Model Government Program (State Convention), Executive Branch Leadership Institute, YMCA Advocacy Day, and Conference on National Affairs.

EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS

Through Youth In Government, students are provided with an opportunity to engage in discussions and debates on many critical issues facing our state and society. They learn to respect other points of view, while at the same time advocating their position on an issue. They interact with fellow students from around the state, while also having invaluable contact with adult role models, leaders, and public policy makers.

For many, participation in YIG is an opportunity to develop as a leader. The program can help students make a career choice and approach this career with increased interest and confidence. Alumni of the program go on to do many great things in life. The most important thing is that they become active, engaged, and responsible citizens in the American democratic process.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government is to prepare students for responsible leadership in the American democratic process by providing guidance, training, and experience in the theory and practice of determining public policy.

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government is designed to:

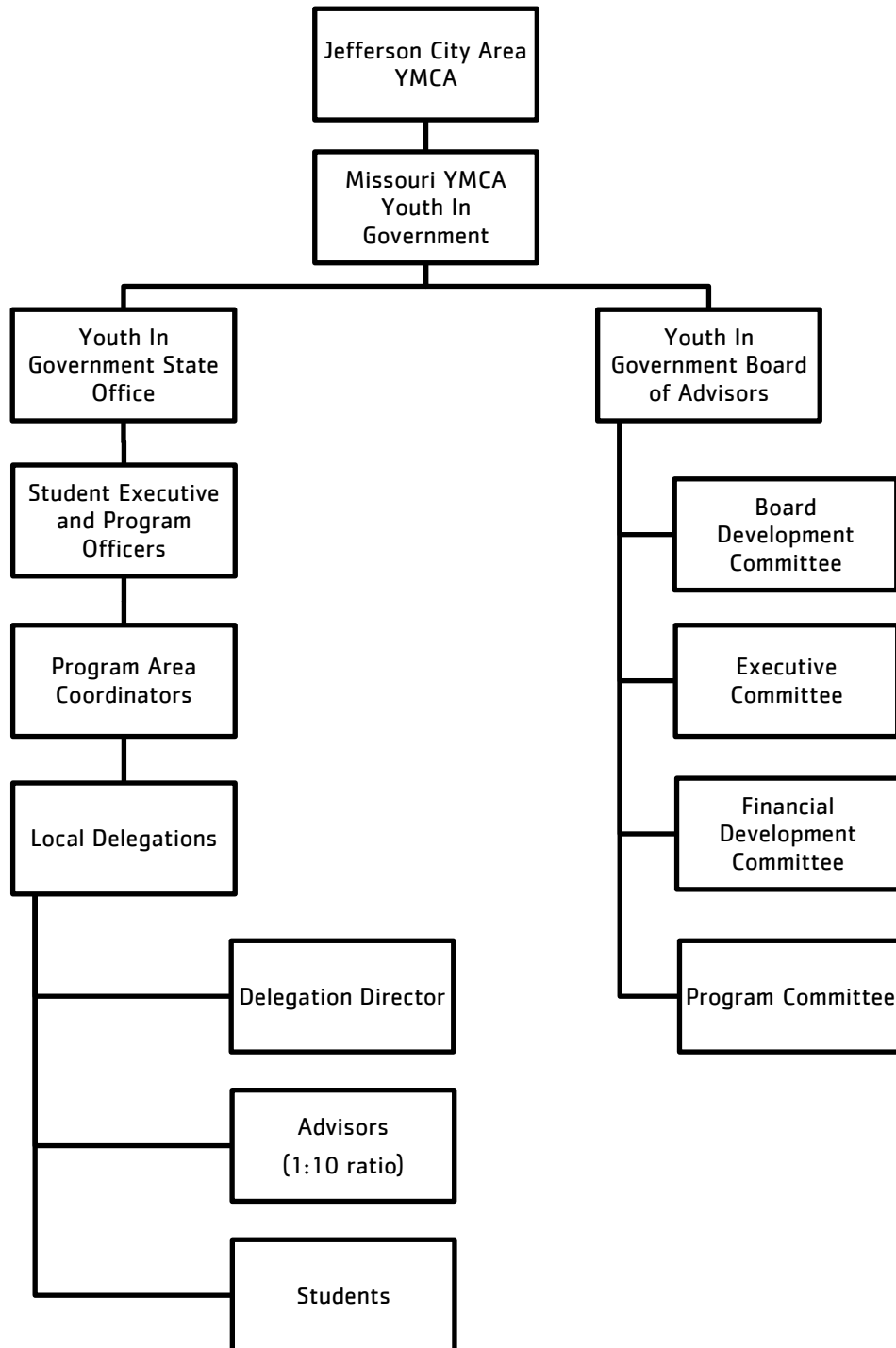
- Motivate young people into citizenship responsibilities.
- Provide opportunities for understanding state agencies and their functions.
- Expand awareness and knowledge of state problems.
- Increase the ability of young people to organize and express ideas clearly and persuasively.
- Stimulate tolerance and understanding of other points of view.
- Give young people an opportunity to express their concerns on state issues to governmental officials in a responsible and constructive way.

MOTTO, VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

- Motto: Democracy must be learned by each generation.
- Vision: Youth In Government will inspire a passion for democracy.
- Mission: Youth In Government actively engages youth in the responsibilities of democratic leadership.
- Values: Youth In Government believes in the YMCA core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility.

YIG ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Below is the overall structure of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, a program of the Jefferson City Area YMCA.



MODEL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Legislators debating bills in both the House and Senate chambers. The Governor threatening a veto. Reporters acting on a hot tip to break a big story. Supreme Court Judges considering arguments from youth attorneys during a mock trial.

Government as usual? Not quite. They are all students participating in the Missouri YMCA Youth In Government (YIG) State Convention held each November/December at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. It is the culmination of months of preparation by Youth In Government delegations which have been meeting all fall to prepare for the three-day mock government session.

This experience is designed to familiarize students with the decision-making process at the state level. Since 1949, YIG has provided students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and experience democracy. The YIG Model Government Program is a student-driven simulation of state government and political activities, which involves over 700 Missouri youth in grades 8-12. Beginning in the fall of each year, students come together in their local delegations to choose their roles and register appropriately with YIG. Throughout the fall, students work in their local delegations to prepare for the State Convention by completing the required work for each program area. All of this training and preparation culminates with the annual State Convention.

The program is most active from August to December, with meetings held regularly to prepare for the State Convention. It is essential that participants attend all of the events required of them in order to have a true YIG experience.

DELEGATION MEETINGS

The local delegation forms the basis for all other YIG activities. This is where students have the greatest opportunity for participation and education. The number of meetings will vary from delegation to delegation. Meetings may include training in specific programs, election of officers, mock debate or practice trials, preparation for elections, fundraising, guest speakers, and other activities. Each delegation should elect a delegation leader, with larger delegations possibly electing two leaders. Also, experienced students should serve as mentors to students who are new to YIG.

STATE CONVENTION

At the three-day YIG State Convention in Jefferson City, students create their version of state government under the guidelines of the Missouri Constitution. Legislators meet in committees and in the House and Senate chambers to debate legislation. Attorneys try their cases before student judges and engage in a moot trial competition. The entire event is covered by a student newspaper and a student television news program. Participants also engage in campaigns and elections for officers who will serve during the following year.

Beginning in 2008, YIG began offering two State Conventions to accommodate more students in the program. The Lewis State Convention is usually the second Thursday through Saturday in November. The Clark State Convention is usually held the first Thursday through Saturday in December. Each delegation only attends one State Convention. By offering two State Conventions, YIG now has the ability to include even more youth in our Model Government Program.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

PROGRAM AREAS

The Model Government Program is for anyone who wants to experience the responsibility of governing Missouri for a few days, together with hundreds of other students from across the state. Whether you are interested in law, politics, or the press, there is a role for you in YIG. Every student plays an important role, participating in one of these program areas:

- **Civic Leadership Institute:** All 8th grade students participate in this program area. They learn about and experience state government through various activities, such as bill writing, committee hearings, trying a case, and much more.
- **Executive Branch:** Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General fulfill the duties of their offices after being elected at the previous State Convention.
- **Judicial:** Students are exposed to the Missouri judicial process from participation in trials as attorneys and witnesses, and develop leadership skills through mentoring and serving as Judges in those trials. Students conduct mock trials before student judges, who after hearing the cases, issue decisions on each trial.
- **Legislative:** Senators and Representatives write, debate, and vote on legislation in committee hearings and in chambers, before sending passed legislation onto the Governor to be signed or vetoed.
- **News Media:** In Print Press, students develop story ideas, conduct interviews, and publish a multiple issue newspaper during the convention. In Video News, students cover events at the convention, develop stories, and broadcast a news show multiple times throughout the convention.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government has established the following set of requirements for participants in the program:

1. Participants must be students in grades 8 – 12.
2. Participants must be active in a YIG delegation at their school or local YMCA.
3. Participants may only serve in one program area and must file a timely application for participation in the desired program area.
4. All 8th grade students must participate in the Civic Leadership Institute.
5. Each participant must submit appropriate program assignments by the stated deadline. Failure to do so will result in the participant being dropped from YIG.
6. Participants must be properly registered, with completed Participation Agreements and Medical forms, and have paid all fees in full before the stated deadlines in order to attend the State Convention.
7. Students who are seniors and have not participated in a prior YIG State Convention will not be accepted into the program unless space is available.

SAMPLE STATE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

This sample schedule represents a typical State Convention. Exact times and locations may change from year to year.

Thursday		
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Registration	Atrium, HOTEL
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Student Program Training	HOTEL
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Go to Capitol Steps	
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	YIG Picture	Capitol Steps, CAPITOL
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Opening Joint Session	House Chamber, CAPITOL
3:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	In Programs and Dinner (on own)	
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Attorney General Trial	HOTEL
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Return to Hotel	
9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Meet the Candidates	HOTEL
10:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Delegation Meetings	HOTEL
11:00 p.m.	Mandatory in Rooms with YIG News Nightside	HOTEL and Channel 14
11:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Work rooms open ONLY for students with written approval from Advisor and Program Coordinator	HOTEL

Friday		
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (on your own)	
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	YIG News Dayside	Atrium and Channel 14
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Go to Program	
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Joint Session for Governor Candidate Speeches	House Chamber, CAPITOL
9:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	In Program	CAPITOL and HOTEL

	Lunch and Dinner (on your own)	
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Break and change clothes	HOTEL
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Evening Activities High Schools at Hotel 8 th graders at YMCA	HOTEL and YMCA
10:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Delegation Meetings	HOTEL
11:00 p.m.	Mandatory in Rooms with YIG News Nightside	HOTEL and Channel 14
11:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Work rooms open ONLY for students with written approval from Advisor and Program Coordinator	HOTEL

Saturday		
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (on your own)	
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	YIG News Dayside	Atrium and Channel 14
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Elections	Truman Ballroom, HOTEL
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Go to Program	
9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	In Program	CAPITOL and HOTEL
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Return to Hotel	
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Closing Session and Luncheon	HOTEL
2:00 p.m.	State Convention Adjourns	