



## ACTIVITIES

- Leadership training
- Public speaking and critical writing workshops
- Community activism, civic engagement, 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 hands-on experience in how the government works. Students work with other Delegates to write a bill, prepare briefs, select governmental positions to role-play, and run for elected offices. The ultimate goal—to “take over” the State Capitol in Indianapolis for a weekend, where youth debate and present their bill at the Youth General Assembly during an annual statewide Model Government Conference.

## GET INVOLVED

Join Indiana YMCA Youth and Government (INYaG) and make thousands of new 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. IINYaG is an extraordinary experience!



## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Any student in Indiana grades 7th through 12th 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:**

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION



**Indiana YMCA  
Youth and Government  
2021-2022**



## INYaG DETAILS

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 7th through 12th graders about democracy. The program develops young men and women 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 young men and women who will be better citizens by being both knowledgeable and active in determining the future of our democracy.

## ROLES FOR PARTICIPANTS

**YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** INYaG’s 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 INYaG must participate in the Youth General Assembly.

**YOUTH EXECUTIVE PROGRAM** Through the program, INYaG’s delegate-elected student leaders provide youth voice to development of the overall program and provide operational leadership during the annual MGC. These elected individuals also represent INYaG at national events and serve as peer leaders among fellow delegates. The program is open to any duly elected delegate.

**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 MSC also promotes collaboration and compromise using teams of attorneys and teams of justices who together to accomplish their goals. The MSC is open to all high school students who have previously participated in the Youth General Assembly.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM:** The goal of the program is to give middle school delegates an opportunity to experience different components of the high school program, allowing them to form an insider opinion to guide their own choices of program during subsequent years. The program balances group activities with individual leadership development. The Middle School Program is mandatory for all 7th graders and 8th graders who are participating in the MGC for the first time. Returning 8th graders who have previously participated in the Middle School Program may participate in the Youth General Assembly.



## INYAG’S MODEL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

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 to propose relevant legislation. Upon completing the relevant curricula and assignments related to their particular program area, students’ work culminates in the annual Model Government Conference (MGC)—during which delegates are afforded opportunities to apply the skills developed and knowledge learned over the course of the program. The MGC is the state’s most comprehensive mock government event.

## LEADERSHIP

Each student who participates in INYaG comes away with an amazing amount of knowledge about the governmental process.

A main goal of the program is to develop these students’ leadership skills as well.

Students may be elected into the following roles throughout the INYaG year: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice, Senate President Pro Tempore, House Speaker Pro Tempore,