

# YOUTH & GOVERNMENT™

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

## How the Youth and Government Program Works

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The Youth and Government program is available to government classes in schools, home-school students, Teen Court Programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs and anyone working with teens.

The program begins in the fall. Young people and volunteers throughout the State, meet as individual delegations to discuss issues facing Indiana, as well as ways to implement their solutions through the legislative and judicial processes.

The teen delegates write bills, prepare briefs, select governmental positions to role-play, attend a statewide training conference, and run for various elected offices. The program reaches its peak in Indianapolis at the State House with the convening of the three day Model Legislature & Court. There, "real" government moves over and the teen delegates "take over", using the historic halls, chambers, and offices of our State Capitol and Supreme Court.

Indiana YMCA Youth & Government is operated through the efforts of many local YMCA officials as well as volunteers from state government. A State Director oversees the program in conjunction with an Advisory Board.

Indiana YMCA Youth & Government  
615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 200  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 266-9622 \* Fax: (317) 266-2845  
[www.indymca.org](http://www.indymca.org)

Mission: To ensure that leadership, democracy, and the YMCA Core Values of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility are learned by each generation.

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## MOTTO

“Democracy must be learned by each generation.”

## MISSION

The mission of Indiana YMCA Youth and Government program is to ensure that leadership, democracy, and the YMCA Core Values of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility are learned by each generation.

## VISION

“The foundation for this effort has been and will continue to be the preparation and participation in the Model Legislature/Court.

We will develop programs that expand, extend, and enhance this purpose, being ever mindful that our programs will involve youth that reflect the diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic, and cultural populace of Indiana.

Expansion will come in the form of introducing new program models and extending the current program to populations not being served or now served in a limited way. Broadening the cultural and socio-economic base of the programs will be key characteristics of our growth.

We will balance risk with innovation and retain the hands-on approach and quality that has makes the program successful.”

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