Oregon YMCA Youth and Government is a program of the Family YMCA of Marion & Polk Counties. It started in Oregon in 1947 as an activity of the YMCA Hi-Y Program. Since the 1960’s, it has operated through the schools with teacher advisors organizing delegations in high schools from all over the state.

The program is a three-day intensive educational experience unlike any other. It allows students to practice parliamentary procedure and actively participate in a mock legislative process instead of just reading about it in a textbook.

The program begins in the schools in September with students identifying issues they will use as the subject matter of their measures. They work in teams of two or three to draft the "perfect measure."

The students then meet on a Saturday in January to elect their officers, committee chairs and Youth Governor candidates and practice their parliamentary skills.

Continues next page
In February all the hard work starts paying off. The officers chosen in January meet on a Wednesday in Salem for an in-depth team building and leadership training led by YMCA professionals and volunteers.

The legislative conference officially starts on Thursday with events held at Willamette University and the State Capitol where the students select their Youth Governor and hear an official “welcome” from some of Oregon’s elected state officials.

Committees meet Thursday afternoon to work on their measures and select those that will go to the House and Senate. On Friday all of the students convene as Senators and Representatives on the floors of the Oregon Senate and House to debate the measures that survived in committees.

On Saturday the delegates start early and work hard to wrap up the debate of all the measures. They then adjourn mid-afternoon following a “State of the Program” address from their Youth Governor and head for home.

PRE-LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee Chairs, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and Secretary of State Candidates are selected at the Pre-Legislative Assembly, affectionately referred to as "Pre-Leg." Here students receive valuable training in measure presentation and debate. This all day Saturday event is a vital part of preparing for our mock session at the conference.

This year, Pre-Leg will be held at a location to be announced on January 11, 2020.

The House and Senate will be divided based on overall enrollment and is subject change. Final division will be released in January 2020.

REGISTRATION Closes

DECEMBER 31, 2019

Program registration is available online. Please be sure to find all registration links needed through the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties website. Visit the Youth & Government page for a link to register. http://theyonline.org/youth-government/

Additional forms are included in this newsletter and will require signatures from students, parents or guardians and/or advisors. These forms should be returned to delegation advisors or via PDF to Marisa Fink at YMCA of Douglas County, 1151 NW Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, OR 97471

LODGING

Rooms and Conference facilities have been reserved at:

Comfort Suites
630 Hawthorne St.
Salem, OR

- Students: Up to five per room
- Adults: Up to two per room
- Amenities include:
  - Pool
  - Fitness center
  - Breakfast
  - Conference Rooms

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 15, 2019
- Registration Opens

December 15, 2019
- All Financial Aid applications due

December 15, 2019
- Early Bird Registration closes

December 30, 2019
- Registration closes

December 30, 2019
- Bills and Declarations of Candidacy due

January 11, 2020
- Pre-Legislative Assembly

February 6-8, 2020
- Annual Y&G Conference

April 1, 2020
- YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs Applications due
SOCIAL MEDIA

Be sure to check out our Oregon State YMCA Youth & Government Facebook page for updates and news.

Please feel free to submit pictures, stories, and videos to mfink@ymcaofdouglascounty.org that you would like to have added to our page.

This year we are asking students who are running for office to submit short campaign videos and/or photos with a message to post on Facebook so that delegates from other schools may get to know them better.

DRESS CODE

Students, please remember that you are representing yourself in a professional manner. We urge you to wear jackets & ties, dress pants, skirts, blouses and dresses. No jeans, tank tops, T-shirts, etc. will be allowed on the floor of the House or Senate.

COMMITTEE CHAIR CANDIDATES

The maximum number of committee chair candidates allowed from any delegation is five. If you have Secretary of State or Speaker/President candidates who also wish to be considered for a committee chair position, they may run in addition to the four designated committee chair candidates (for a maximum of six). Committee chair candidates will be evaluated on their use of parliamentary procedure when running a committee at Pre-Leg. Please be prepared for Pre-Leg by practicing parliamentary procedure at your club meetings or practice groups.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct reminds students that all school policies (including zero tolerance policies) are in effect during all Youth and Government program activities. It also outlines what the YMCA Youth & Government program expects during the conference including appropriate dress, participation and behavior. Advisors, students and parents, please review this carefully during registration. All rules will remain the same in regard to no cell phone use on the floor of the House or Senate.

MEASURE SUBMISSION

Students are required to submit their measures to their advisors for final review and approval. The measures will then be forwarded on to YMCA staff for processing and preparation. It is important that all measures submitted are correctly formatted and ready for publishing. You can find measure instructions on our website http://theyonline.org/youth-government/
campaign speeches

all candidates that have filed for elected offices are required to give a campaign speech at pre-leg. the maximum length of the speeches is as follows:

secretary of state: 4 minutes
president of the senate: 3 minutes
speaker of the house: 3 minutes
other house/senate: 2 minutes

thank you to our sponsors:

willamette university
Michael and Judy Hall

oregon state capitol foundation
Declaration of Candidacy 2020

Name ___________________________________________ Grade ______________

School/YMCA/Club ____________________________________________________________________________

E-Mail ___________________________________________ Phone (____) __________________________

I HEREBY DECLARE MY CANDIDACY FOR THE OFFICE BELOW (check one):

(If running for Secretary of State, Speaker or President and you wish to run for committee chair if not elected, please check Committee Chair option also. Candidates for Secretary of State, Speaker, President, Clerk and Committee Chair must have at least one year prior experience as a legislator in Oregon YMCA Youth and Government).

Secretary of State _____ Committee Chair (optional)

President of the Senate _____ Committee Chair (optional)

Speaker of the House _____ Committee Chair (optional)

Secretary of the Senate _____

Chief Clerk of the House _____

Reading Clerk (House or Senate) _____

Sgt.-at-Arms (House or Senate) _____

Committee Chair _____

Biographical information

Please submit responses to the following on a separate piece of paper. Limit your responses to one page, Verdana font, size 10. Please provide a photograph of yourself to accompany this declaration which will be published in the candidate pamphlet.

- Previous Youth Legislature experience
- School activities (committees, clubs, leadership, relevant course work, etc.)
- Civic activities (church, YMCA, Service groups, etc.)
- Reasons for seeking office

I have read the qualifications and duties of the office which I am seeking, and if elected, will prepare myself to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability. I will attend the Pre-Legislative Assembly and the Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.

_______________________________________________  ______________________________________
Signature of Candidate                         Date

The above candidate meets all of the qualifications and responsibilities as outlined in "Qualifications and Responsibilities of Officers". This candidate will attend the Pre-Legislative Assembly and the Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.

_______________________________________________  ___________________________________
Signature of Advisor                        Date
QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

SECRETARY OF STATE (YOUTH GOVERNOR ELECT)

Qualifications:
Maturity, judgement, knowledge of public affairs and public speaking, solid organizational skills. Must have attended at least one prior Youth Legislature session.

2020 responsibilities as Secretary of State:
• Serve as Youth Governor in the event the Youth Governor is unable to do so.
• Assist the Youth Governor as requested.
• Record and track all progress of measures submitted to the Youth Governor.
• Take the lead on preparing all thank you letters and ensuring that all students have had the opportunity to sign the letters.
• Serve as ex-officio member of the Oregon YMCA Youth and Government Program Committee for 2020-21.
• Attend the National Conference of YMCA Youth Governors in the summer of 2020

2020 responsibilities as Youth Governor:
• Serve as a role model for program participants.
• Attend Pre-Leg to run respective elections.
• Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
• Supervise the election for the next Secretary of State at 2020 Conference.
• Be familiar with the content of all proposed legislation.
• Give the inaugural address to the Opening Joint Session.
• Give the final address at the Closing Joint Session explaining his/her action on all measures received.
• Serve as Toastmaster and be responsible for inspirational message (poem, music, reading, etc.) for Youth Governor’s Banquet.
• Compose an invitation to program alumni to attend the YG Banquet.
• Review and either sign or veto each bill passed by the Legislature.
• Give a report to the Program Committee at the Program Committee Meeting the following month of YMCA Youth and Government Conference.
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Qualifications:
Poise, mental alertness, thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure, a high degree of ability as a presiding officer. Must have attended at least one prior Youth Legislature.

Responsibilities:
- Serve as a role model for program participants.
- Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
- Preside over all sessions of the Youth Senate and Senate docket committee in accordance with the Standing Rules of Procedure.
- Arrange for inspirational message (poem, music, reading, etc.) at the opening of each session.
- Work with legislative committees.
- Preside at joint sessions of the Legislature.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Qualifications:
Poise, mental alertness, thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure, a high degree of ability as a presiding officer. Must have attended at least one prior Youth Legislature.

Responsibilities:
- Serve as a role model for program participants.
- Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
- Preside over all sessions of the Youth House of Representatives and House docket committee in accordance with the Standing Rules of Procedure.
- Arrange for inspirational message (poem, music, reading, etc.) at the opening of each session.
- Work with legislative committees.
- Serve as Toastmaster and preside over Thursday night program/dinner.

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OR SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Qualifications:
Solid organizational and reading skills. Must have attended at least one prior Youth Legislature.

Responsibilities:
- Serve as a role model for program participants.
- Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
- Custodian of all official documents of the House or Senate.
- Receive and place legislation on the official docket as it comes out of committee or from the other chamber of the Legislature.
- Assist the presiding officer as requested.
READING CLERK OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE

Qualifications:
Outstanding reader and speaker with good organizational skills.

Responsibilities:
- Serve as a role model for program participants.
- Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
- Read measures to the legislators as requested.
- Take roll calls.
- Read aloud items brought before the Legislature as requested.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE

Qualifications:
Good people skills and capable of handling large groups of persons in a mature manner. Willingness and ability to enforce rules of the House or Senate.

Responsibilities:
- Serve as a role model for program participants.
- Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
- Maintain order in the House or Senate and at all official legislative gatherings.
- Aid and assist in directing all alternates, observers, and visitors to the galleries.
- Permit only persons bearing appropriate floor passes to be on the floor of the House or Senate.
- Assist the Page Advisor with the supervision of the pages, as requested.
- Participate in the joint sessions.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Qualifications:
Experienced at presiding over meetings and capable of handling large discussion groups in a mature manner. Must have attended at least one prior Youth Legislature. Willingness and ability to use Standing Rules of Procedure in committee sessions.

Responsibilities:
- Serve as a role model for program participants.
- Attend Wednesday Workshop for Legislative Leaders.
- Preside over all committee meetings in accordance with the Standing Rules of Procedure.
- Report to the House and Senate regarding committee action taken.
- Attend House/Senate docket committee meetings.
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT FACT SHEET

Y Youth and Government™, a program that dates back to the late 1930s, is a national program of the YMCA. It involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized model-government programs.

In Youth and Government programs, teens from across the state meet in their local clubs throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose possible legislation to make state government more efficient. The program culminates with the teens serving as delegates at their state conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature.

As a result of the program, young people learn about the democratic system and are trained in parliamentary procedure, legislative committee process, debate, press relations, and lobbying techniques. Delegates learn by doing and have the opportunity to try their hand at leadership in an open and receptive learning environment.

**Program 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

**Objectives:**
- To provide training and experience in understanding the legislative process
- To develop critical thinking and analytical abilities
- To provide active participation in the legislative process
- To develop interpersonal communication skills
- To provide awareness of social issues and their possible solutions
- To provide opportunities to hear and respect varying viewpoints
- To encourage active participation in political and public affairs

**Activities:**
1. Leadership training
2. Public speaking and critical writing workshops
3. Community activism, civic engagement, and applying political leverage
4. Academic enhancement through the development of research, reading, and writing skills