

YMCA MICHIGAN YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

For Youth Development

For Healthy Living

For Social Responsibility

2010-2011 PROGRAM YEAR



HIGH SCHOOL





"There is absolutely no better way to teach youth about the operations and procedures of our state government than Youth in Government."

Tyler, Caro HS



"MYIG has opened my mind to a variety of career selections involving law."

Erin, Bronson HS

Program in Brief

There are two ways to learn about government. The first is to read textbooks about what others have done. The second way is to take that theoretical knowledge and apply it in an actual government setting.

The State Y.M.C.A. Youth In Government program provides about 1,600 high school students with a unique opportunity to become acting state legislators, lobbyists, lawyers, committee chairs, etc. In essence the students will simulate all phases and positions that the actual state government calls for. These students are challenged with many of the issues our real legislators must face in their elected offices.

Youth from throughout the state are selected as delegates from student councils, government classes or YMCA'S and spend months researching for the event. These students then may go through an election process for leadership positions in the House and Senate as well as the executive branch. They work in chambers to introduce, debate and vote on proposed legislative bills which have been written by the youth legislators in their hometowns.

The fall training conference is held each year after local Youth in Government groups and delegations have been formed. Delegates to the conference elect youth officers for the model executive, legislative and judicial session. Nominating speeches, balloons, and countless pieces of campaign literature are distributed to the delegates. Elections occur by individual ballot.

Other programs that students may participate in are: the National Youth Governor's Conference in Washington D.C. where they meet with the President, Cabinet Officers, Congressmen, Supreme Court Justices, etc., the ABA National Mock Trial Competition in August where the winning mock trial team will compete against teams from all over the nation, and the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs in Black Mt., North Carolina.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING



Dear Friends:

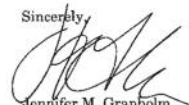
It is my privilege to welcome you to the Y.M.C.A. Youth in Government Program. As Governor of the State of Michigan and as Honorary Chair for this program, I am excited to contribute to this time of learning and exploration of the fundamental American ideal of democracy.

Over the years, Youth in Government has proved to be an excellent learning opportunity for its participants. One of the best ways to learn a skill is through first-hand experience, and Youth in Government provides just that. To walk through the hallowed halls of our beautiful State Capitol and to sit in the House and Senate Chambers and debate legislation you have created will, I'm sure, prove to be a memorable experience.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "You must become the change you wish to see in the world." As participants in Youth in Government, you have seized an incredible opportunity to become part of our governmental process. I know you will use this experience as you seek to be a positive influence in your community and in our State - what awesome power you hold to make a difference.

Again, welcome. Please accept my gratitude for your participation in Youth and Government and my best wishes for your future success. I look forward to seeing the ways in which you will change our world!

Sincerely,


Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor





"Being in youth in government helped me voice my opinion on the topics that are most important to me."

Scott, Grayling HS



Educational Organizations that Support Michigan Youth in Government

- Michigan Education Association
- Michigan Department of Education
- AFT Michigan
- Michigan Association of School Boards
- Michigan Association of School Administrators
- Michigan Association of School Principals
- Detroit Federation of Teachers
- Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan
- Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools

Michigan Youth in Government Promotes the Michigan Social Studies Curriculum Expectations

Students' engagement with government through MYIG will expose them to the Core Democratic Values of: Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Truth. Additionally, they will be exposed to the Constitutional Principles of: Representative Government, Individual Rights, and Separation of Powers (at the state level.)

Students' Social Studies proficiencies will improve through direct experiences with:

- Gathering and Understanding Information (bill writing)
- Analyzing Issues (debate within committees)
- Drawing and Justifying Conclusions (debate on the House and Senate floor)
- Organizing and Communicating Information (lobbying their position effectively)
- Learning and Considering Issues Collaboratively (forming legislative alliances)
- Acting Ethically (respecting the opinions of others during debate)

"I used to think government was something that would be best left to someone else, but after Youth in Government I realize that you can't leave it up to anyone else. It is up to us to take a stand and take action."

Jaclyn, L'Anse HS





"The biggest thing I have learned in Michigan Youth in Government is that youth have voices and opinions worth hearing."

Tamara, Lakeview HS

The Purpose and How it is Achieved

Youth In Government educates students in leadership and the democratic process. District fall training conferences in September and October orient youth delegates about the program. Youth lawyers in the model judicial program work with actual lawyers in their hometowns preparing their cases for trials in Lansing. In March & April the Youth In Government program meets in the legislative chambers of the state capitol and the courtrooms in Lansing where scaled-down versions of actual sessions of the legislature and court are conducted. Committees meet, debate is held, and bills are signed into model law.

"Michigan Youth in Government is a great experience, and an honor to be a part of. Being able to debate bills in the actual House chambers only make the YIG experience more enjoyable."

Sara, Grayling HS



Ways to Participate

SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES... research and present bills which are debated in committee and within the actual House and Senate chambers in Lansing.

LAWYERS... research civil and criminal cases for mock trials in Lansing courts.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS/LEADERSHIP TEAM... qualify through the process of regional primaries at fall conference followed by state-wide elections at the spring conference in Lansing. These youth leaders include governor, lieutenant governor, speaker and other constitutional officers.

LOBBYISTS... participate in this key "third house" by influencing and educating youth legislators on key issues and the passage and/or defeat of bills.

PRESS CORPS... members write and edit a newspaper and film closed circuit TV news programs covering daily events at the state convention.

PAGES... are responsible for communication as well as serving as liaisons between all branches of government.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM... gives freshmen and first year sophomores a chance to learn important leadership skills needed to get involved in the regular youth legislature and to enhance their future lives.

MOCK TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURT... teams prepare a case for trial with the help of local coaches/attorneys. The trials take place during the spring conferences.

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM... delegates research and debate issues of national and/or international importance.



"Before taking part in MYIG, I truly never understood the workings of the House and Senate, or how a bill becomes a law. That now has all changed, and as a result, I feel incredibly more inclined to get involved in state and local government."

Kyle, Goodrich HS



MYIG Advisory Board

The purpose of the Board of Directors is to assist the fiscal health of the program and to provide assistance in its organization, development and operation. The board meets four times each year to review and advise on the program. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the following persons who serve on the board and give their support and assistance to us throughout the year.

Jennifer Granholm, Governor of Michigan

John Cherry, *Lt. Governor of Michigan*

Regina Bell, *Policy Division, Gov. Jennifer Granholm*

A. Reginald Best, *Schoolcraft College*

Becky Best, *Citizens Insurance Company*

Mike Bishop, *Senate Majority Leader*

Ed Blews, *Board Chair, Assn. of Independent Colleges
& Universities of Michigan*

Tim Bowlin, *Director, House Business Office*

Brian Broderick, *Michigan Assn. of Non-Public Schools*

Cameron Brown, *Michigan Senate*

John Brown, *Jackson National Life*

Evelyn Calogero, *Cooley Law School*

Mark Cook, *Blue Cross Blue Shield*

Andy Dillon, *Speaker of the House*

Kevin Elsenheimer, *House Minority Leader*

E. Thomas Fitzgerald, *Judge, Court of Appeals*

Mike Flanagan, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Colin Ford, *Michigan State Medical Society*

Sean Gehle, *Ascension Health System*

David Hildenbrand, *Michigan House of Representatives*

Lindsay Huddleston, *Wal-Mart Inc.*

Mike Johnston, *Michigan Manufacturers Association*

Wayne Kuipers, *Michigan Senate*

Rick Lantz, *Delta Dental Plan of Michigan*

Barbara Lezotte, *Lezotte, Miller Public Relations*

Tim Melton, *Michigan House of Representatives*

Carol Morey Viventi, *Secretary of the Senate*

Kelly Muldoon, *MYIG Alumni Association*

Brian Peters, *Past YIG Chair,*

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Mike Prusi, *Senate Minority Leader*

Eric Rule, *Michigan Retailers Association*

Ed Sarpolus, *Michigan Education Association*


Martha Scott, *Michigan Senate*

Mark Stadt, *DTE Energy*

Buzz Thomas, *Michigan Senate*


Tom Webb, *Michigan Council for Social Studies*

Cathy Wilson, *Consumer's Energy*



"MYIG teaches confidence and how to speak your mind. It also teaches how to respectfully disagree with people."

Claire, Okemos HS



"I have learned so much about our state and the problems we are facing. Being here makes me want to try to help fix the problems so we can become a better Michigan. MYIG really helps the youth face the reality of Michigan, and makes us realize that someday soon it's going to be our turn to fix it, and YIG teaches us how to do so."

Holly, White Pigeon HS





"This is my fifth year with the program, and many political lessons and critical thinking skills I have gained are priceless."

Maria, Dow HS



"Opening and debating bills on the House floor is one experience I will keep with me for the rest of my life."

Joey, Hastings HS



MYIG Schedule 2010-2011

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2010

Local High Schools & YMCA's Recruit Students For Youth in Government

OCTOBER 12, 2010

*Southwest District and Southeast District
Fall Training Conference
Causeway Bay Hotel*

OCTOBER 14, 2010

*UP Fall Training Conference
Marquette, MI*

NOVEMBER 2, 2010

*Central District Fall Training Conference
Mt Pleasant, MI*

MARCH 16-20, 2011

*63rd Model Youth Legislature/Court/NIF
Lansing, MI*

MARCH 30 - April 3, 2011

*63rd Model Youth Legislature/Court/NIF
Lansing, MI*

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2011

*National Youth Governor's Conference
Washington D.C.*

*YMCA Conference On National Affairs (CONA)
Black Mountain, NC*

ABA National Mock Trial Competition

Conference Fees

FALL CONFERENCE

Students = \$20
(No cost to advisors)

SPRING CONFERENCE

Students = \$345
Advisors = \$370 double, \$525 single



"This experience has helped me become more confident in myself and my opinions. That is something that I will now always have."

Jordan, Union City HS



"Before arriving at the capitol, I didn't realize that I had a passion for politics and debate. After leaving this city and returning to my humdrum routine, I would like to strive to make a difference in my city and state."

William, Dr. Martin Luther King HS



How You Can Become a Part of Youth In Government

Each spring/fall, local schools and YMCA's select from their members those who are most interested in learning leadership skills and government. Any school or YMCA can participate by contacting the YIG state office.



"The name of the game is compromise, and it was by far my biggest challenge. I can no longer take lightly the jobs of state legislators."

Jasmine,
Cranbrook Kingswood School HS



Who to Contact

For more information contact the state office. Upon request, materials will be sent showing how you can get your students involved in this nationally recognized program.

STATE OFFICE:

Brent Veysey - Executive Director
Fran Bregger - Assistant Director
Gayle Brokaw - Program Director
Sharon Chapel - MJP Director
Jennifer Henry - Alumni Director

Michigan Youth In Government
P.O. Box 65
Quincy, MI 49082

Phone: (517) 639-4480 ■ Fax: (517) 639-3525
E-mail: myig@charter.net ■ Web site: myig.org

Investors In The Youth Of Michigan

We are pleased to acknowledge the following sponsors who generously supported the 2010-2011 program.

DIAMOND LEVEL

Advance America	2
Amway Inc.	12
Assn. of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan	13
Citizens Insurance Company	21
Dean Trailways of Michigan	7
DTE Energy Foundation.....	19
Jackson National Life Insurance.....	16
Lezotte Miller Public Relations	2
Michigan Health and Hospital Assn.	14
Michigan Manufacturers Association	27
Rollin Gerstacker Foundation.....	14
Thomas M Cooley Law School.	11
WalMart.....	1

PLATINUM LEVEL

ArvinMeritor	29
Brian Peters	5
Edward & Debra Blews	5
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan	29
Causeway Bay Hotel	10
Consumers' Energy	21
Delta Dental Plan of Michigan.....	26
Easttown Distributors	1
The Fetzer Institute	12
General Wine & Liquor	1
Hasselbring-Clark.....	4
The Herbert & Elsa Ponting Foundation	16
Michigan Department of Education	28
Michigan Education Association	26
Michigan House of Representatives.....	28
Michigan Retailers Foundation.....	27
Michigan Senate	28
Michigan State Medical Society	22
Speaker Andy Dillon.....	1
State Bar of Michigan Appellate Practice Section.....	3
U.A.W. Internat'l Union.	26

GOLD LEVEL

Ascension Health System	8
Cliffs Natural Resources.....	16
Cook Family Foundation.	2

GOLD LEVEL

Detroit Federation of Teachers.....	16
Dominos Pizza.....	7
Grace McDonald	5
Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman	2
Haworth, Inc.	16
Health Alliance Plan	4
Michigan Assn. of Non-Public Schools.....	2
Michigan Municipal League Foundation.....	5
Michigan Townships Association.....	5
Public Sector Consultants	9
Schoolcraft College	1
Semco Energy	9
Senator Martha Scott.....	8
St. John Providence Health System.....	2
Upper Peninsula Power Co.	17

SILVER LEVEL

California Youth & Government	1
College For Creative Studies.....	13
Garth E. Brokaw	1
Sean D Gehle.....	3
Infinisource	5
Johnson & Johnson	7
Kellogg Community College	12
Michigan Assn. of School Administrators	24
Michigan Dental Association.....	4
Michigan Ed. Special Services Assn.	5
Michigan Electric Cooperative Assn.	5
Michigan State University	5
MSU College of Law	2
Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley & Associates, Inc.	21
Oakland University	12
Sean Gehle	3
Steve & Joan McLain.....	17
T-Shirt Alley.....	7
Two Men and a Truck International Inc. ...	12
We Energy Corp. Foundation	3
Western Michigan University	13

BRONZE LEVEL

Allegiance Health	3
AFT Michigan.....	25
Barb Lezotte	1
Becky Best.....	1
Capitol Services Inc.	7
Chad Noble.....	1
Chuck Hadden.....	3
Clarenceville High School	10
Fletch's Inc.	4
Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.	3
Hospital Council of East Cent. MI.....	3
Hungry Howie's Pizza	1
James & Carol Goetz	8
Kate Miller.....	1
Marquette YMCA	1
Michigan Assn. of School Boards	23
Mid Michigan Community College	12
Mt. Pleasant High School.....	10
Nell Kuhnmuensch.	1
Portage Northern High School.....	10
Representative Eileen Kowell.....	1
Representative Gabe Leland	1
Representative Kevin Elsenheimer.....	1
Representative Richard Ball	2
Senator Buzz Thomas.	4
Senator Deborah Cherry.....	12
Senator Dennis Olshove	9
Senator Gilda Jacobs	9
Senator Jason Allen	1
Senator Patricia Birkholz	12
Senator Raymond Basham	12
St. Clair County Community College.....	12
The University of Michigan.....	13

**Numbers indicate number of years of sponsorship.*

"As an exchange student I understood the benefits and advantages of the American governmental system, and I really hope that this experience will help me to make a lot of good changes for people in my country."

Oleg, Elk Rapids HS