

Youth in City Government

The purpose of this program is to increase high school student's knowledge about their local government and the role it plays in their daily lives. It is neither as lengthy, nor as big as the other major **YMCA** events, but is equally as important.

Montgomery's Youth in City Program is the oldest in the state. During a week in the winter, Montgomery's Downtown Optimist Club, in cooperation with the Montgomery Britton YMCA, sponsors Youth in City as a part of **Optimist International Youth Appreciation Week**. Students in grades 7-12 from all over the city gather in City Hall for a day to debate the city ordinances they prepared. This program is very similar to Youth Legislature, except it is on a citywide level rather than a statewide level. Officers are elected at the opening meeting, held earlier in the week. A Youth Mayor and 8 City Councilmen preside over the day. The morning and early afternoon are spent debating. The late afternoon is filled with the Youth Mayor's election and guest speakers. The election is held immediately after lunch, so those votes may be tallied during the guest speakers. Usual guest speakers are the Mayor and City Councilmen. Others just drop by to watch the youth in action. After the announcement of the Youth Mayor's election, the new Youth Mayor adjourns. It is an important learning experience for all youth to have.

Schedule

Monday, January 25, 2010

6:30pm – 8:00pm

@ Goodtimes YMCA

2325 Mill Ridge Dr, Montgomery, AL 36117

AND

Friday, January 29, 2010

8:30am – 3:00pm

@ Montgomery City Hall

103 N Perry St, Montgomery, AL 36104

AGENDA

Ordinances are due by **Tuesday, January 19.** All ordinances must be submitted through the online ordinance submission tool found at www.studentymca.org. This year due to the number of students wanting to participate and the lack of space at City Hall, ONLY THE FIRST 75 students to turn in their ordinance and signed registration forms will be accepted. Write them individually or with one other person.

Monday before: (January 25, 2010)

- I. Welcome
- II. Speeches for City Council (3 minutes maximum from candidates)
- III. Gather into ordinance committee groups. Discuss ordinances for approximately one hour. The Youth Mayor chooses co-chairs of these committees.
- IV. Discuss and rank ordinances in order of importance AND debatability.
- V. Ranks are turned in and placed on the calendar by committee chairs.
- VI. City Councilmen are announced.
- VII. Meeting adjourned.

Youth in City Day: (January 29, 2010)

Gather at designated place at 8:30 a.m. Youth in City will last until 3:00 p.m.

- I. Opening welcome
- II. Swear in newly elected council.
- III. Ordinance debate begins.
- IV. Lunch at Capital City Club
- V. Elections for Youth Mayor will be held. Speeches are no longer than 5 minutes.
- VI. Ordinance Debate Continues
- V. Announcement of the new Youth Mayor.
- VI. New Youth Mayor adjourns.

Dress Code/Requirements: Coat and tie for males, dresses for females.

Youth in City Government is open only to registered Youth in Government and Student YMCA members who have met all of the requirements and deadlines. Space is limited to 75 Students and there are caps for each school

Montgomery YMCA Youth in City 2010

How to write an Ordinance

Explanation:

Youth in City Government is a great way to learn how the city government works. 7th through 12th grade students have a chance to debate. They also get to meet city leaders. Each person writes an ordinance, an idea for a law that applies to the city of Montgomery, not the state of Alabama as a whole.

Ordinances:

Examples to follow:

1. Tell who submitted the ordinance. Write your name and the club's name. There is a limit of two students per ordinance.
2. Title: Explain what your ordinance means. State its purpose. Use a complete sentence. (Note: Like the title of a book, this is not part of the ordinance. Be sure to re-state your title in one of the sections below.)
3. Sections: Give your justifications for the Ordinance. You may have as many sections as you would like. Have these sections well thought out and limit use of statistics. The last section must include when the Ordinance would take effect (i.e. immediately, after 6 months, October 1, 2011, etc.)
4. **Ordinances are to be submitted online by Tuesday, January 19 at noon. All ordinances must be submitted through the online ordinance submission tool found at www.studentymca.org.** This year due to the number of students wanting to participate and the lack of space at City Hall, ONLY THE FIRST 75 students to turn in their ordinance and signed registration forms will be accepted.

Presentation:

You will need to prepare a two-minute opening presentation to introduce your ordinance to the council. It is good to include any research, justifications, or colorful illustrations to make your argument. Please do not read your ordinance word for word during this time.

You will be given two minutes at the end of the debate on your ordinance for a closing statement. This is your chance to explain any questions brought up in debate and to make your final plea for votes.

Montgomery YMCA  Youth in City 2010
Mayor & City Council Nomination Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

School _____ Grade _____

Position Sought (Circle): City Council Mayor

Signature: _____

I, the undersigned, wish to nominate him/her for the above stated position.

Advisor _____ Date _____

Elections for City Council Members – Monday, January 25, 2010.

- Each school will be apportioned 1 Council seat for every 7 students who are registered and have a proposal (Max 2). These elections can take place in a regular meeting or on Monday night.
- Schools who do not have 7 students or more registered can run for at-large seats that will be elected on Monday night, Jan. 25.
- Candidates for City Council must be in grades 9-12.
- You will be allowed 3 minutes with NO introduction.

Election for Next Year's Youth Mayor – Friday, January 29, 2010 during Youth in City.

- Candidates for Youth Mayor must be in 11th grade. You will be allowed 5 minutes including introduction.
- Candidates can also run for City Council and use this same form
- This form must be turned in at Registration on Monday, January 25th.

This petition must be signed by 8 Student YMCA members or Government Club members.

1. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 6. _____

3. _____ 7. _____

4. _____ 8. _____