



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. There are two very different Youth in City Government programs currently set up in Alabama, one in Montgomery and one in Pike County. You can pattern your Youth in City Program after which one accommodates you and your community more, both are outlined for you in this section.

Montgomery's Youth in City Program

Montgomery's Youth in City Program is the oldest in the state. During a week in February, Montgomery's Downtown Optimist Club, in cooperation with the 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 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 before the Youth in City Day. 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.

Youth in City 2012 Details

- Youth in City will begin with committee preparation on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 6:00pm at the YMCA Goodtimes Center: 2325 Mill Ridge Drive Montgomery, AL 36117
- The Youth in City Program will take place Friday, February 3, 2012.
- Youth in City will take place at the NEW City Council Chambers which are located at:
1 Dexter Plaza
Montgomery, AL 36104
- Please note that everyone will be required to go through metal detector security screening before entering the City Council complex. Please allow for extra time to enter the building.
- **Youth in City Government is open only to registered Youth in Government and Student YMCA club members who have met all of the requirements and deadlines. (must have signed registration form on file for this school year).**



SAMPLE AGENDA

Committee Day - Monday January 30, 2012:

- I. Welcome
- II. Speeches (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 bills in order of significance AND debatability.
- V. Ranks are turned in and placed on the calendar by committee chairs.
- VI. City Councilmen are announced.
- VII. CLEAN-UP
- VIII. Meeting adjourned.

Youth in City Day – Friday February 3, 2012:

Gather at 1 Dexter Plaza at 8:00 a.m. Youth in City will last until 2:30 p.m.

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

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



How to write an Ordinance

Explanation:

Youth in City Government is 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 (Submitted Online at www.studentymca.org):

Examples to follow:

1. Visit www.studentymca.org/yic.html Click on the link for SUBMIT ORDINANCE.
2. Type in your name and any co-author's name. There is a limit of two people per ordinance. Select your Student YMCA's name from the Drop Down list.
3. Title: Explain what your ordinance means. State its purpose.
4. 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 needs to include when the Ordinance would take effect.
5. This year due to the number of students wanting to participate and the lack of space in the City Council Chambers, ONLY THE FIRST 80 students to turn in their ordinance and signed registration forms will be accepted.

Speeches:

You will need to prepare a two-minute opening speech 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 simply read your ordinance aloud 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.



Youth in City Mayor & City Council Nomination Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

School _____ Grade _____

Position Sought _____

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

Advisor _____ Date _____

Elections for City Council Members - Friday. Candidates for City Council must be in grades 9-12. You will be allowed 3 minutes with NO introduction.

The election for Youth Mayor - Friday Afternoon during Youth in City. Candidates for Youth Mayor must be in 11th grade. You will be allowed 5 minutes including introduction.

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

1. _____ 6. _____

2. _____ 7. _____

3. _____ 8. _____

4. _____ 9. _____

5. _____ 10. _____



Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behavior that is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Alabama YMCA Youth in Government program. The items within the Code are based upon performance and are designed to protect the welfare of the program for future generations. Participation in any Alabama YMCA Youth in Government program indicates personal acceptance of the Code of Conduct.

EXPECTATION OF STUDENT	PENALTY
1. All participants share the responsibility of their actions equally when violations of the Code are witnessed. Those who choose to be present when a violation occurs shall, by their own choice, be considered participants in the violation. In relation to this Code, there are no "innocent bystanders."	As outlined in Code
2. In order for a delegate to leave an Alabama YMCA program, he/she must submit written permission from his/her parent or legal guardian. He/she must also secure approval from both his/her advisor AND the program director.	Call parents - send home
3. Each delegate is legally and financially liable for the removal, defacing, or willful damage to public or private property. This includes schools, government facilities, hotels and the property of fellow delegates and staff. Any act of vandalism, destruction of property, or misuse of a facility may be a crime and will be treated as a potential criminal violation.	Call parents - send home Call facility security (Possibly) Summon police
4. Food and beverages are not permitted in the Senate and House Chambers, court rooms, committee rooms, or in any conference meeting rooms.	Discretion of staff
5. The use of incense or tobacco products, and the use of/possession of alcoholic beverages, weapons, or non-prescription drugs are prohibited at any Alabama YMCA function.	Call parents – send home (Possibly) Call security (Possibly) Summon police
6. Delegates should not leave the hotel except to travel to scheduled conference destinations.	Call parents – send home
7. Male and female delegates may not visit in each other's hotel rooms.	Discretion of staff
8. All delegates shall be in and remain in their assigned hotel rooms by scheduled curfew and doors shall remain closed until scheduled end of curfew.	Discretion of staff (Possibly)Lose Participation rights
9. Delegates shall not invite or receive visitors to the hotel unless approved by the director of the program.	Call parents – send home
10. There shall be no room switching in the hotels without the approval of the delegation advisor and the director of the program.	Call parents – send home
11. Each delegate must attend all sessions of Alabama YMCA programs unless options are designated.	Lose participation rights
12. Nametags shall be worn ONLY by the individual whose name appears on the badge and must be visible at all times.	Discretion of staff
13. Each delegate should conduct himself/herself in an orderly and responsible manner before, during, and after all functions of the Alabama YMCA Youth in Government program. Personal behavior should reflect positively on one's self, family, , and the YMCA.	Discretion of staff
14. Harassment or intimidation by words, gestures, body language, or any other menacing behavior will not be tolerated at any Alabama YMCA Youth in Government program.	Discretion of staff (Possibly)Call Parents-send home (Possibly)Summon Security/Police

Submission of the Student Registration form represents your acceptance of the code of conduct.

I agree that I will abide by the rules and regulations of the Alabama YMCA Youth in Government program and understand that any breach of this agreement may result in my dismissal with no refund of registration fees. If I am sent home for violation of this Code it will be at the expense of my parent or guardian.