



# Youth Leadership Association West Virginia Youth in Government



## Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association

YLA Groups, Youth in Government, Model United Nations, 8th Grade Youth & Government  
Seminars, Horseshoe, Cave Lake  
[www.ylaleads.org](http://www.ylaleads.org)

Horseshoe Leadership Center  
3309 Horseshoe Run Road  
Parsons, WV 26287  
P: 304.478.2481 F: 304.478.4446

Cave Lake Leadership Center  
1132 Bell Hollow Road  
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Youth Leadership Association  
3309 Horseshoe Run Road  
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# Create the Atmosphere

Our goal is to make our Youth Government program a transformative experience for all. You will be collaborating with student leaders from all across Ohio. That being said, we all come from different backgrounds. Embrace these differences, and make yourself open to new ideas, new people, and new opportunities. Here are some tips to get the most out of the Youth Government program.

## **MAKE THE EFFORT!**

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You have the opportunity to learn from peers from all over Ohio. Actively participate in your sessions and mingle with other chapters! You will get what you put into this experience. Being prepared, actively participating, and making connections will ensure you receive all of the benefits that the Youth in Government program has to offer.

## **BE POSITIVE!**

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This program was created to be a learning experience. If things don't go as you expected, remain positive and try to learn from your mistakes. In many areas of this program, students will receive constructive feedback on their work. Take this as an opportunity to better yourself in a positive growth environment.

## **BE KIND!**

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In the nature of this program, sometimes passionate ideas will be challenged. It is important to remember that as this is a learning experience, critiques are not personal. When engaging in discussion, be constructive, and be open to receiving feedback.

## **SOCIALIZE! (SAFELY)**

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We encourage you to socialize with new people, but for the safety of all attendees we ask that you socialize in open spaces as much as possible while practicing social distancing of at least 6 feet. Co-ed visitation in sleeping areas is prohibited.

## **RESPECT THE PROPERTY!**

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We have had the unique opportunity to utilize the Statehouse for many years. This is a professional space, so be respectful! Feel free to admire the beautiful features of the building, but please do not tamper with anything left behind at the desks in the congressional houses.

## REGISTRATION

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**ARRIVE: 10:00-11:00 pm April 27th**

**DEPART: April 29th**

**CHECK IN: 12:00-1:00 p.m. Embassy Suites**

Delegation Leaders only register delegations at the YLA Youth in Government table in the Embassy lobby, not the hotel front desk. YLA Youth in Government staff provide hotel keys to the Delegation Leader. Hotel rooms may not be available until the hotel's normal 3:00 p.m. check in time. Please have your delegation members dressed for the program when you arrive at the hotel. There will be rooms to store luggage until hotel rooms are available.

## COST

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**Affiliated YLA Members** pay \$295 per student and \$175 (double room) or \$275 (single room) per adult.

**Unaffiliated Students** pay \$320 per student and \$200 (double room) or \$300 (single room) per adult.

Late fees apply if paid after the deadline.

Includes 2 nights lodging and breakfast.

## QUESTIONS

For questions, please call the Youth Leadership Association at (304) 478-2481 or send an email to [tony@ylaleads.org](mailto:tony@ylaleads.org).





## HOUSING

Everyone is required to stay at the Youth in Government hotel. Two nights lodging are included in your program fee. Additional information is available in the Participation Agreement. Please note that if a group does not have enough students to fill up a room, expect your student(s) to be housed with students from another delegation or you may “buy out” rooms for your students. Contact the YLA office for costs to buy out one or more rooms.

### WHAT TO BRING

- Business attire
- Comfortable dress shoes
- Casual clothing for evening activities
- Toiletries
- Money for lunch, dinner, merch, etc.
- YG materials (bills, cases, schedules, etc.)
- Supplies (pen, pencil, paper)

### Nearby Restaurants

There are two grab and go breakfasts provided. Students are able to grab lunch and dinner during scheduled breaks from restaurants near the capitol. Restaurants are readily available for dinner close to the hotel location.





## Dress

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Youth in Government is a model of government in action. Included is the way we act, speak, conduct ourselves, and the way we dress. Youth in Government sessions require professional business attire. Men wear coats and ties during the program sessions. No sport shirts or blue jeans. Women wear professional business attire. No spaghetti straps or exposed midriff allowed. Women may wear nice pants outfits. Casual dress including blue jeans is appropriate at recreation and the hotel.

## CANCELLATIONS AND REFUND POLICY

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The best-laid plans can go awry. However, since all our program fees are set below our actual costs, we have no flexibility to provide refunds. Therefore, our policy is NOT to provide refunds for the Participation Agreement or the Final Fee. Actually, the person canceling should reimburse the program for the costs the program has incurred on their behalf by paying the scholarship received back to the program. The program does permit delegations to send a replacement.

1. Delegations who want to provide refunds need to set aside money to provide refunds to their students.
2. Delegations don't refer parents to the YLA Office with billing/refund questions. Handle these locally.
3. After a delegation is registered, it is responsible for the entire payment for that number of student/adult delegates.
4. Remember, no refunds from the Youth Leadership Association so do not ask nor have others call to ask.



*"Youth in Government is an amazing program to participate in. In the Legislative program, you will act as a legislative member by writing a bill, trying to get your bill passed and signed, and debating and voting on other bills. You can write a bill regarding anything you want to see changed in your state, so be creative!"*

- Luke Jackson, 2023 West Virginia Youth Governor



## Summary of Procedure

### How a YLA Youth in Government "Bill" Becomes a "Law"

A Bill is a proposed law. Only legislative delegates can introduce Bills into the Student Legislature. A Bill must successfully complete the following steps to become a "law".

1. Be rated for position in the Bill Book.
2. Be assigned to a Committee for consideration and passed on to the Floor.
3. Be introduced on the Floor of the House or Senate of its origin and passed.
4. Be signed by the Governor.

#### STEP 1 - BILL RATING

Bills are rated on a scale of 1-75 points (see How to Write a Bill). Each Bill is given a number and is considered in its numerical order both in Committee and on the Floor. Before each Legislative Session, the Order of the Day is re-arranged with the highest ranked Bills considered first.

#### STEP 2 - COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Bills are assigned to a Committee other than the author's. To speak for their Bill, the authors appear before the Committee hearing their Bill. Legislative Committees give each Bill a complete hearing and determine the Bills reported out to the House or Senate and to prepare Committee members to take an active part in Floor debate.

#### STEP 3 - FLOOR CONSIDERATION

Bills reported out of Committee are scheduled for consideration by the House or Senate. Time may not allow consideration of all Bills referred to the Legislature. Those Bills passed by the House or Senate are sent to the Governor.

#### STEP 4 - GOVERNOR CONSIDERATION

Bills passed by the House or Senate are sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign or veto the legislation.



## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- **The Student Legislature** will draft their own bill prior to the event. Their bill will be rated and addressed accordingly (highest ranked bills are presented first). Representatives and Senators will be placed into committees related to the topic of the bill they wrote. In committee they will have the opportunity to discuss bills in a small group setting, make amendments, and vote to pass the bill onto the floor. During House and Senate sessions, delegates will follow the floor procedures to debate the bill and ask the bill authors relevant questions. Bills that are passed out of committees will be presented on the floor in addition to an author's speech.
- **Committee Chairs** are selected previously to preside over each committee. These student legislators are responsible for leading the committees by ensuring that members are properly following committee format in a timely manner. They will select a **Vice Chair** at the beginning of the session to assist them.
- **Chaplains** are elected at the end of the previous Youth in Government session. At the beginning of each House or Senate session, the Chaplain will give an opening statement whether that is a prayer, exercise, or thoughtful quote. Chaplains also assist other youth officers in responsibilities leading up to the Youth Government program.
- **Clerks** read the order of the day and each bill in every House or Senate session. They will assist the Presiding officer in tracking each bill's final vote. Clerks also assist other youth officers in responsibilities leading up to the event.
- **The Speaker of the House** and **President of the Senate** are the presiding officers of their respective chambers. They each will be responsible for following House and Senate procedures in a timely manner. As the head leadership of the legislative branch, these officers will guide other legislative officers to ensure the entire legislative program runs smoothly. They have great responsibility in programs leading up to the Youth Government program.



## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- The **Youth Governor** is elected by the entire youth program at the previous session. The Governor has a tremendous responsibility in representing the program from the moment they are elected until after they have completed their role. The Governor has public speaking roles, signs or vetoes bills that pass through the legislature, and selects cabinet members.
- The **Governor's Cabinet** applies prior to the event and is selected by the Youth Governor. Each member will be assigned multiple bills that they will speak for or against in committee meetings.

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- **Lobbyists** will “lobby” select bills in committee sessions. Lobbyists choose their own positions on the bills while cabinet members argue on behalf of the Youth Governor.
- **Pages** are normally first time attendees at the Youth Government Program. This position allows students to fully immerse themselves in the program while learning how the Youth in Government program works. Pages pass messages between youth officers and bring amendments to the presiding officer.
- **Press** members have a unique opportunity to build media skills in a professional setting. Each year varies in how the press serves the program, but some of the past work includes a newsletter, interviews, live streams, and photography.



*"As the head of the Judicial program, I encourage all of you to consider joining the program, especially if you're interested in law whatsoever. There's only about 30 people in the Judicial Program, making it a more intimate and safe environment, filled with real life experience in the Judiciary system! This program is extremely beneficial to anyone looking to further their knowledge in law."*

- Maddie McMillion, 2023 West Virginia Youth Chief Justice

## JUDICIAL BRANCH

- The **Chief Justice** presides over the State Supreme Court. This officer position is responsible for ensuring the Judicial program runs smoothly. The Chief Justice will work closely with other key officers leading up to the event. This position is elected by the previous session's Judicial program, and they will select their Associate Justices.
- **Associate Justices** apply to the position prior to the event. These Justices will assist the Chief Justice in questioning student lawyers as well as determining which team won the case.
- Student groups who take part in our Judicial program will be assigned as **Lawyers** for the Appellant or Appellee on an assigned case. Before their court session, they will prepare their case and argument. At the Judicial session, they will act as lawyers in a real Supreme courtroom arguing against the opposing group. The presiding judge will ask questions during their case.



WV Legislative Photography, Photo by Perry Bennett

# WEST VIRGINIA CONTENT STANDARDS MET

## Correlation of West Virginia College-and Career-Readiness Standards with YLA Youth in Government Social Studies

Standard Name	Description	YLA Program to Address Standard
<b>United States Studies</b>		
<b>Civics:</b> SS.US.1	Evaluate, then defend, the importance of the fundamental democratic values and principles of U.S. constitutional democracy. Consider conflicts between individuals, communities and nations, liberty and equality, individual rights and the common good, majority rule and minority rights, and the rule of law vs. ethics (e.g., civil disobedience).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience the principles of constitutional democracy firsthand by writing, defending, and voting for bills that address relevant issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Civics:</b> SS.US.2	Define the duties of citizens that are necessary to preserve US democracy (e.g., become informed and active in a democracy-through jury duty, paying taxes, public forums (local, state, and/or federal), voting and conscription.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate as a member of the legislative, judicial, or executive branches, or as a page, member of the press, or lobbyist at the Capitol Complex in Charleston.</li> </ul>
<b>Civics:</b> SS.US.3	Identify the issues regarding the evolution of United States citizenship and evaluate responsibilities and rights of United States citizens (e.g., landownership, race, gender, and age).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of civic involvement by running for an office in local and state Youth in Government chapters.</li> </ul>
<b>History:</b> SS.US.19	Demonstrate an understanding of the establishment of the United States as a new nation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the impact of the <i>Declaration of Independence</i> and the American Revolution on the American colonies and the world.</li> <li>Explain the strengths and weaknesses of government under the <i>Articles of Confederation</i>.</li> <li>Summarize events leading to the creation of the <i>U.S. Constitution</i> (e.g., country's economic crisis, Shay's Rebellion and purpose outlined in the Preamble).</li> <li>Explain fundamental principles and purposes of the <i>U.S. Constitution</i> and <i>Bill of Rights</i> (e.g., through the <i>Magna Carta</i>, the <i>English Bill of Rights</i>, colonial charters and the political philosophies of the Enlightenment).</li> <li>Trace the emergence of the American two party political system (Federalists-Anti-Federalists, election of 1800, etc.).</li> <li>Compare and contrast the position of the political parties and leaders on a variety of issues (e.g., economic development, territorial expansion, political participation, individual rights,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn the importance of the founding documents of the United States and established principles of governance while participating in legislative and judicial sessions at the WV State Capitol.</li> </ul>