



FUTURE LEADERS START HERE

YMCA OF GREATER LONG BEACH
YOUTH & GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM GUIDE

DELEGATION INFORMATION

Greater Long Beach YMCA Youth & Government

The YMCA of Greater Long Beach Association is comprised of four branches that serve youth within the city of Long Beach and its neighboring cities including Lakewood, Bellflower, Paramount, Cerritos, and Los Alamitos. The association typically serves the following high schools:

- ▶ Artesia High School
- ▶ Bellflower High School
- ▶ Cabrillo High School
- ▶ Cerritos High School
- ▶ Jordan High School
- ▶ Lakewood High School
- ▶ Long Beach Polytechnic High School
- ▶ Los Alamitos High School
- ▶ Lynwood High School
- ▶ Mayfair High School
- ▶ McBride High School
- ▶ Millikan High School
- ▶ Paramount High School
- ▶ St. John Bosco High School
- ▶ St. Joseph High School
- ▶ Wilson High School
- ▶ Whitney High School



* We look forward to having additional delegates from other high schools.

Why Youth & Government?

Our Youth and Government Program is geared towards those selected high school students who wish to continue their educational advancement as well as hone other leadership skills.

The YMCA of Greater Long Beach Youth and Government program gives youth the opportunity to discuss some of the most pressing issues we face within our nation and overall community. By joining the program, participants will have the opportunity to be mentored by local officials within their assigned program area.

Youth & Government prides itself in providing a quality educational and civic engagement program that provides youth with the following skills to assist them in the transition from high school all the way through college graduation so they can succeed with ease:

- Greater understanding of civic engagement and issues on statewide and national levels
- Leadership Development
- Persuasive Public Speaking
- Advanced Research and Writing
- Critical Thinking
- Role Playing
- Debate
- Team Work



The 3 C's of Y&G

Civic Engagement

Participants will understand the structure, function and procedures of the California Legislature, including bill development.

Civic Awareness

Participants will be able to identify the major issues facing their communities.

Civic Action

Participants will be equipped with the tools they'll need to make change in their community and can identify the importance of mutual respect, personal responsibility and active listening in group settings.

The Greater Long Beach YMCA Youth and Government

Model Legislature & Court (MLC)

High School students throughout the Greater Long Beach and neighboring city's meet in local delegations to discuss major issues facing California. Over a six month period, delegates will learn major leadership, planning, and social skills that will prepare them for two major conferences and for the future. The delegates utilize the skills they are taught to draft legislation, and select government positions to role-play, and run for leadership.

THE PROGRAM AREAS

The program offers model legislature experiences for delegates to excel and learn new skills.

- Forum (all 9th graders)
- Department of Finance (DOF)
- Media Corps
- Constitutional Convention (ConCon)
- National Assembly
- Board of Education
- Appellate Court
- Supreme Court
- Lobbyists
- Legislative Houses (Senate and Assembly)
- Legislative Analysts

Conference Schedule

- Training & Elections: November 7-10, 2025, San Miguel, CA
- Leadership Development: December 12-14, 2025, Camp Oakes, Big Bear, CA
- Model Legislature & Court Conference: February 12-16, 2026, Sacramento, CA



FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

Greater Long Beach YMCA Youth & Government

MODEL LEGISLATURE & COURT PROGRAM FEE RANGE :

\$100-\$1,400

The fees help cover any travel necessary for conferences, program expenditures, delegation apparel, and other supplies.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Preferred payment for all Youth & Government programs is by credit card or bank draft, but personal check or money order will be accepted. Payments can be made for the full amount or by the scheduled due dates shown to the right.

PAYMENT PLANS

If there is a need to break down payments further than what is on the payment schedule, the arrangements can be made. The YMCA is here to work with those who really want to take part in these programs. If you need an alternative plan, please contact your

Program Fee Range	Due Date
\$100-\$1,400	December 19, 2025

Families may qualify to pay a fee ranging from \$100-\$1,400 depending on the family's household income. Please fill out a financial assistance application, available online or at your designated branch

Program fees cover transportation to and from each trip, housing, and all conference fees. Delegates will also have the opportunity to participate in fundraising.



CONFERENCE DRESS CODE

Greater Long Beach YMCA Youth & Government

The YMCA of Greater Long Beach Youth & Government upholds the conference dress code for all participants including delegates, advisors and program staff. Our dress code is established to protect the health and safety of our participants.

GENERAL DRESS CODE

- Name badges must be visibly worn above the waist at all times during conferences.
- Clothes that expose the abdomen, torso, backside, or undergarments are not permitted and will not be tolerated including transparent, ripped or torn clothing.
- No clothing with inappropriate sayings or images (i.e. drug, alcohol, sexual references).
- Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times and must have a back (no slippers, sandals or flip flops).

SOCIAL TIME DRESS CODE

Participants may dress in athletic attire; gym/basketball shorts, leggings, yoga pants, sweatpants and sweatshirts or other casual attire as long as it adheres to the general dress code. Social time refers to evening time after structured conference schedule has been completed. Please refer to the "What to Pack" handout given before conferences for weather considerations.

MLC DRESS CODE

All participants must dress in business attire during the final conference in Sacramento. After all structured conference schedule has ended, participants may change into social time attire.

Participants must wear one item from each of the following categories below:

Bottom Layer

- Dress slacks or suit pants
- Cannot be jeans, athletic attire, or shorts
- Knee-length or longer skirt (slit no longer than 3" above the knee)
- Professional knee-length or longer dress (acceptable as top and bottom layer)

Top Layer

- Button-up collard shirt (tucked in) with a tie or bow tie
- Button-up blouse (tucked in)
- Blouse (shirt tails should not be visible)
- Professional knee-length or longer dress (acceptable as top and bottom layer)

Outer Layer

- Blazer, sport coat, or suit jacket
- Sweater or cardigan (that covers shoulders)
- Sweater vest (permitted if over a long sleeved collard shirt or blouse)

Shoes

- Dress shoes (cannot be casual footwear, flip flops or sandals)
- Flats or heels (low heels highly recommended)
- Dress boots (any height of boot; low heel highly recommended)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Greater Long Beach YMCA Youth & Government

DELEGATION ADVISORS

Delegation Advisors provide the leadership to their own local youth delegations in preparing them for their participation in the program. They also accompany their delegation to various events, providing direct supervision to their delegation. Delegation Advisors also assist the Director in conducting program duties such as serving as parliamentarians in program areas. Each local YMCA must meet the requirement that each delegation maintain an adult to youth ratio of 1:10.

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Each year, the program recruits volunteers from the community to serve as our Program Volunteer Staff. They help plan and conduct activities, advise delegates on their roles, and in general assist the Core Staff in the operation of the different program areas. The program Volunteer Staff includes everyone from teachers to attorneys to business executives to YMCA professionals, and everyone in between.

TO VISIT OR NOT TO VISIT

The Greater Long Beach YMCA Youth & Government discourages parents from visiting during conferences for risk management reasons. The more people we have from outside the program visiting, the harder it is to keep track of who is and is not supposed to be there. Additionally, we like to allow delegates the opportunity to be granted additional freedom and independence. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your Lead Advisor.

SCHOOL ABSENCE

SB 278 (LOWENTHAL)

In 2008 Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 278 (Lowenthal) into law allowing Youth and Government to be considered for excused absences from school. The full text of the section is below and may also be found at <http://leginfo.ca.gov> by searching the education code for section 48205. (a) (7)

48205. (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

(7) For justifiable personal; reasons, including, but limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

The decision of whether or not to excuse absences and award course credit for Youth and Government is up to each district.

*The Lead Advisor for each delegation will provide a printed copy of the excused absence letter to its delegates if necessary