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**MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
2019 IMPACT REPORT**

August, 2019

DEAR FRIENDS OF YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT,

It is always fun to reflect on the year that just was – to look at strong enrollments, impact made for students, connections built and the like. We had a great 2018 –2019 program season and our team has had more than the usual pleasures of looking back on a job well-done.

We are also at a moment where it is equally pleasant to look ahead. Early in 2019, we brought another organization into the YMCA family to join with Youth in Government to create the YMCA Center for Youth Voice. The Center takes all the current YIG programs, adds the offerings of the former Minnesota Civic Youth and brings Amy Anderson, Minnesota Civic Youth’s Executive Director to the YMCA team as a Senior Program Director.

**“ YIG has really helped me become more open to new ideas and even change my prospective on some things.”
- Alex**

Over the coming year, the expanded CYV team will be working with YMCA staff and volunteer leaders to determine how we want to support and amplify youth voices – through existing programs and through new offerings.

Why are we doing this? Aren’t Youth in Government programs already doing great things? Yes – we are making incredible impact and living out our motto: **“Democracy must be learned by each generation.”** That doesn’t change moving ahead. With this integration, we all have more chances to do more great things, in more places than ever before.

It doesn’t end there, though. One doesn’t have to go very far to hear people lamenting the lack of public decorum and agreement on the common good. In YIG and in MCY programs, we have history of helping students learn how to talk with each other and explore tough issues. By doing this together, we look forward to going deeper into the work and bringing new students and new communities into the fold.

Exciting times are ahead. Here’s to the new program year ahead.



Orville Lindquist
State Program Executive



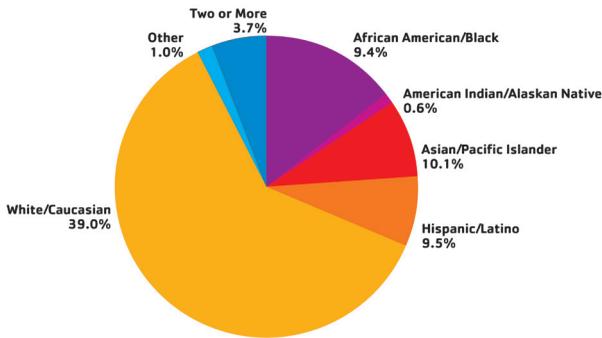
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Youth in Government encourages students to be life-long, active citizens. A national study shows that YIG alumni are more likely to:

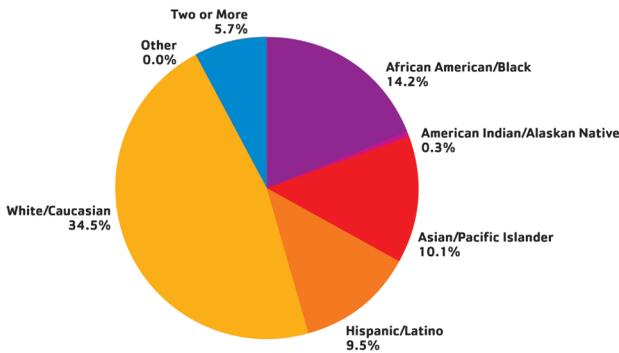
Civic Engagement	General Population	YIG Alumni
Register to vote	66%	96%
Vote in an election	54%	87%
Contact an elected official	34%	48%
Work on community issues	17%	43%

Through YIG, teens learn how government works from the inside out, and are given a voice and a forum. They learn to advance policy through networking and discourse. They learn to listen to and evaluate opposing viewpoints, and to articulate positions in a manner that is informed and respectful.

MODEL ASSEMBLY By Ethnicity



MODEL UN By Ethnicity



HISTORY OF YIG

BACKGROUND

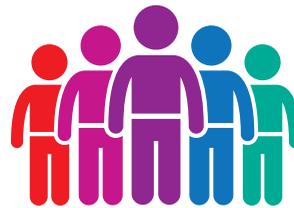
In the mid-1930's, Clement A. "Pete" Duran, the Boy's Work Secretary of the Albany, New York, YMCA realized the need for more leaders of high moral character and integrity. Duran struck upon the idea of a Model Legislature as a vehicle for introducing youth to the actual processes and leadership of their state government. He adopted the slogan, "Democracy must be learned by each generation" as a motto to interpret the program's purpose. That motto still holds into the 21st Century.

Holding the first Model Legislature in Albany in 1936, Duran successfully developed the first YMCA Youth in Government program for high school students and the program spread rapidly to other states.

MODEL UN

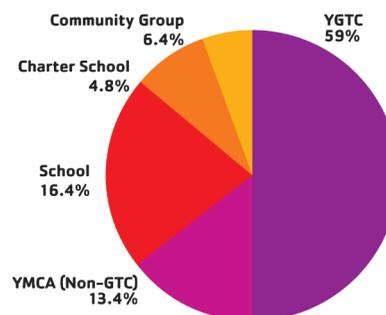
The Model United Nations became part of the Youth in Government family of programs in 1987. Begun by the Duluth YMCA in the 1960s, Youth in Government's inheritance of this component opened up new horizons for statewide and urban program participation and has diversified the issues and learning for students.

VOLUNTEERISM



616 Volunteers
27,889 Hours Contributed

PARTICIPATION By Connection





**Democracy Must Be Learned By
Each Generation**

MINNESOTA YOUTH IN ACTION

Kids used to learn about civics in school. In fact, the original intent of public education was to prepare students to participate in our democratic society. In the past few decades,

the focus of public education has turned sharply toward science, math, and literacy as we seek to help students develop employable skills. Students need both: preparation to participate in the workforce and preparation to participate in society.

PARTICIPATION

By Gender

YIG DELEGATES: 2017



MODEL ASSEMBLY 1,399



MODEL UN 708

Young people need to know how their governments and communities work, understand key issues and different perspectives, and be able to articulate their opinions with respect and civility. Through Youth in Government (YIG), young people learn about the democratic system and are trained in parliamentary procedure, the legislative committee process, debate, press relations, and lobbying techniques. Delegates learn by doing and can try their hand at leadership in an open, receptive and, powerful learning environment.

“ YIG is more than meets the eye. You don’t just learn about government, gain public speaking skills and meet new people . . . it transforms you into a better person”
- Elle

Youth in Government is a non-partisan, statewide, youth civic education, and leadership development initiative that is almost entirely student-led. YMCAs, schools, and community organizations involve students in hands-on learning experiences that give young people across the state the knowledge, skills, confidence, and desire to be community leaders and active citizens. Since its inception, YIG has encouraged students to be life-long, active citizens. Today, more than 2,400 students in grades 7-12 from all over Minnesota and western Wisconsin attend YIG conferences each year, with 400 adult volunteers, alumni, and YMCA professionals serving as advisors.

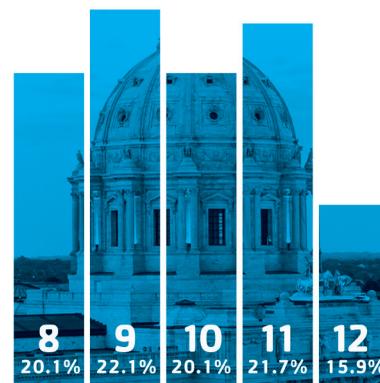
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth in Government programs help students go on to be extraordinary, in ordinary walks of life—that’s good leadership:

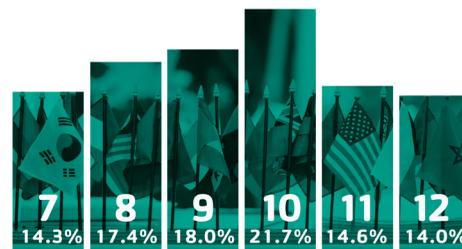
“ YIG makes me feel like I belong somewhere. It has given me self-confidence. It has taught me how to be a leader and a follower”
- Sarah

- ◆ Meet other students from all over the state and region
- ◆ Discuss issues of local, state, national and international scope
- ◆ Exercise leadership and skills that they will use for the rest of their lives
- ◆ Interact with peers on academic and social levels
- ◆ Understand how issues affect them, their families and communities
- ◆ Receive training and experience in understanding the legislative process
- ◆ Develop critical thinking and analytical abilities
- ◆ Access opportunities to hear and respect varying viewpoints
- ◆ Actively participate in political and public affairs

PARTICIPATION BY GRADE



MODEL ASSEMBLY BY GRADE



MODEL UN BY GRADE

YIG PROGRAM SKETCHES

We provide leadership-development and citizenship-building experiences for middle-school and high-school students through four major components:

MODEL ASSEMBLY

1,600 students in grades 8-12 gather annually at the State Capitol and conference hotel to replicate the functions of state government. Utilizing the chambers and meeting rooms that their “real life” counterparts use, students participate in a session complete with legislative, executive, judicial, lobbyist, and media components. Activities begin on the local level in early September; local meetings and trainings take place throughout the fall and culminate in the four-day conference in early January.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Students in grades 7-12 “adopt” a country and represent that nation’s government at a session which models the activities of the United Nations. More than 700 students get together to discuss important global issues and debate the most appropriate solutions to world problems. Emphasis is placed on diplomacy, negotiation, and teamwork. Groups form in December and January, with the three-day conference taking place in late March at a hotel in the Twin Cities.



CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS NATIONAL AFFAIRS (CONA)

The YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs gathers more than 600 students from about 40 state YIG programs to discuss national and international issues. Minnesota sends 24 students each year to this prestigious conference in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. To round out the experience, the Minnesota group travels to various cities of the east coast to explore the foundations of government and national culture over the complete 12-day trip.



NATIONAL JUDICIAL COMPETITION

This is a chance for delegates to expand on the legal issues they explore in Minnesota’s state session and to meet fantastic delegates from other states. This five-day conference takes place during late July in Chicago and includes time for fun group activities before the actual trials begin.

RETREATS AND TRAINING EVENTS

YIG staff conducts several retreats and training sessions annually, including State Steering Committee meetings for the youth leadership of local delegations, student election judge training, Officer and Appointed Official retreats, and Adult Advisor workshops. These experiences help students build their skills, explore the concept of Servant Leadership, plan for program changes and prepare for hands-on leadership responsibilities at the state conferences and their local delegations.



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