

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER ROLES

Legislative committee volunteers play an important role in assisting the Legislative delegates during the State Conference. Each volunteer role is vital to providing the delegates with a quality experience.

Hearing Committee ROOM Monitors

(Committee ROOM monitors are asked to remain in their designated Hearing Committee (s) until the Committee Session has ended.)

Committee monitors have a crucial role in supporting the Legislative delegates. Since Youth and Government is a youth-led program and all proceedings are facilitated and managed by the Chair and Clerk team in charge, the monitors are requested to not interfere with proceedings unless there is danger or if a serious violation of character occurs.

Examples:

- Delegates sleeping or repeatedly talking, if not addressed by the Chair / Sergeant at Arms
- Inappropriate use of electronic equipment, if not addressed by the Chair / Sergeant at Arms
- Any delegates not respecting the rules of the facility or simply the facility itself
- Any instance of bullying, racism, sexism, etc. (Debate not reflecting the core values of the YMCA)
- Out of control committee room..... monitors are urged to speak to the Chair privately, encouraging them to maintain decorum, and offering to assist if needed
- **Reporting to the Legislative Office a committee that is running too slow and in danger of not debating all bills on its docket**
- Reporting to the Legislative Office any delegate who leaves the committee and does not return in a reasonable time period

In all instances, it is imperative that the monitor remain calm but firm, while not humiliating delegates in any way. It is important for the monitors to treat situations discretely and with respect. Monitors are needed to set an example of professionalism for the delegates. It is best if they attempt to communicate with the committee chair and clerk only between the debating of bills.

If a situation or question arises that the monitor does not know how to handle, they should send a runner from the committee room to the Legislative Office (upper floor foyer in Arbor area) for assistance. Either a delegate or another adult in the room can serve as a runner.

All monitors must take a proactive role in keeping our delegates safe by making sure that any adults in the room have appropriate identification such as building issued ID, conference badges or visitor passes. In addition, monitors must take note of exits and any facility postings that may need to be utilized in case of emergency. If a monitor is in doubt, they are asked to seek Legislative Section Leaders or Conference Staff. Again monitors should send runners for the purpose of seeking assistance so that the committee room is not unattended.

Please note that the **Youth Sergeants at Arms** will be checking on committees throughout the morning. Monitors can request for them to contact the Legislative Office as well if there is a need for further assistance.

Hearing Committee Chair/Clerk Team Monitors

These are individuals with more extensive experience in Y&G Legislative debate. As committee team (Chair/Clerk) evaluators, they will be rotating in and out of committees to evaluate Chair and Clerk teams. They are to pick up an evaluator packet from the Legislative Office and then observe as many committee chair/clerk teams as possible throughout the committee session. At times, when a committee team evaluator is present in a committee, they are requested to assist the committee monitor if accessing situations that might call for interference from the Legislative Office.

Completed evaluation forms must be turned in to the adult program section leaders in the Legislative Office at the end of the committee session. Delegates should never be allowed to see these forms.

Hearing committee chair/clerk team evaluators must attempt to be consistent in their scoring. Nevertheless, both the highest and the lowest scores for each committee team will be dropped prior to averaging the scores.

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Hearing committee chair/clerk team evaluators will have detailed evaluation forms, and point priority is given to knowledge of Y&G parliamentary procedure, leadership of committee, encouragement of participation and professionalism.

HEARING COMMITTEE Delegate Evaluators

- In addition to their monitoring duties, committee monitors are requested to select one or two delegates from their committee/committees who are outstanding debaters. A form will be provided for the monitors to fill out and return to the adults in Legislative Office at the end of the committee session.
- Since monitors are in the same one or two committees during the session, they will have an opportunity to observe these students continuously. Their selections will be considered (along with the student and program section leaders nominations from floor debate) when naming the Distinguished Delegates from each chamber and the Outstanding Statesman from each chamber.
- Criteria for Distinguished Delegates includes but is not limited to: quality of debate, preparedness, and behavior reflecting values of YMCA (caring, honesty, respect, responsibility).
- In addition to selecting the committee's outstanding debater or debaters, monitors are requested to write down one or two House or Hyde House bills that were debated exceptionally well in their committees. These would include bills that were well-written, the author was well-prepared, and the subject matter of the bill provoked interest and quality debate from the committee's delegates. These choices will be listed on the same form provided for nominating the best debaters from the committee(s).

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM COMMITTEE TEAM EVALUATORS

- In addition to evaluating the committee chairs and clerks, committee team evaluators are requested to select one or two delegates from the committees they observe who are outstanding debaters. A form will be provided for the evaluators to fill out and return to the adults in Legislative Office at the end of the committee session.
- Since their time is limited in each committee, committee team evaluators are not expected to necessarily nominate a delegate from each one. They are to include names of delegates that truly stood out during their time observing the committee. These selections will be considered (along with the student and program section leaders nominations from floor debate) when naming the Distinguished Delegates from each chamber and the Outstanding Statesman from each chamber.
- Criteria for Distinguished Delegates includes, but is not limited to: quality of debate, preparedness and behavior reflecting the values of the YMCA (caring, honesty, respect, responsibility).
- In addition to selecting a committee's outstanding debater or debaters, committee team evaluators are encouraged to write down one or two House or Hyde House bills that they might have heard when in a committee that were debated exceptionally well. These would include bills that were well-written, the author was well-prepared, and the subject matter of the bill provoked interest and quality debate from the committee's delegates. These choices will be listed on the same form provided for the best debaters from the committees(s).