



**MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE  
CONFERENCE GUIDE**

**DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH  
GENERATION**

## What is Youth & Government?

As one of the nation's oldest youth civic education programs, Youth and Government offers students across the country the opportunity to serve their schools and communities through model government, civic engagement, and advocacy. Our program offers the opportunity to participate in challenging trial and appellate competitions, youth legislature and state affairs forums, and media sections, all while meeting other young people from across the state who share a passion for Youth and Government.



## Preparation Calendar

**Aug. 15 - Case and Rules Released**

**Sept. 1 - Registration Opens**

**Nov. 9 or Nov. 16 - Regional Conference**

**Dec. 10 - State Information Session**

**Dec. 15 - State Conference Registration Closes**

**Jan. 31 - Feb. 2 - Middle School State Conference**

**Feb. 27 - Mar. 2 - High School State Conference**



## Travel Logistics

**The competition hotel is in Round Rock, TX at Kalahari Resort:**

**3001 Kalahari Blvd, Round Rock, TX 78665 (877) 525-2427**

By Bus: Students will travel by bus from the competition hotel to various competition locations. The YMCA does not have travel accommodations to and from Austin, Texas. Consult your local YMCA to see if they offer transportation to Austin and their fees. Travel is approximately 30 minutes from the resort to the Texas Capitol. Travel to and from [conference locations](#) is included for registered participants at no additional charge.

## Cancellation, Refunds, and Other Policies

For more information regarding our policies and practices regarding refunds, cancellations, health and safety and more please consult our State Conference Handbook at the following link. <https://ymcatexasyg.org/state-conference-handbook/>



# Schedule – Middle School State

## \*\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### Friday, January 31st, 2025

12:00-12:30pm	Conference Check-In
1:00pm-1:00pm	Delegation Meeting
1:45pm- 2:30pm	Opening Ceremony
2:30pm-4:00pm	Section Orientations
4:00pm-5:30pm	Dinner
5:30pm-10:00pm	Committees
10:30pm	Curfew

### Sunday, February 2, 2025

7:00am-9:30am	Departures
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### Saturday, February 1st, 2025

8:00am-9:00am	Travel to Capitol
9:30 am-11:30am	Sections Begin
11:45pm-1 :15pm	Lunch
1:30-4:40pm	Sections Resume
4:30-5:30pm	Travel back to hotel
6:00pm-7:00	Dinner
7:00 -8:00	Closing Ceremony
8:00 - 10:45pm	Evening Activities
11:00pm	Curfew



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**\$350 per student (quad occupancy)**

**\$450 per adults (double occupancy)**

Program fee includes hotel (quad occupancy for students; double occupancy for adults), evening activities, meals and conference materials. Please note that there is an additional fee for transportation provided through students local YMCA. To see the cost breakdown by District for transportation, see here: <https://ymcatexasyg.org/state-conference-registration/>

Adults can pay an additional \$310 for a private hotel room for the three nights.

Options and costs for other student sleeping room occupancy may be available as needed, upon request.

## Security and Risk Management Policies

Our Conference hotel as well as all of our conference locations actively use cameras to monitor their facilities. Students and advisors will be on camera and subject to other facility security protocols, such as going through metal detectors upon arrival at the Capitol and Courthouses.

- YMCA TXYG follows child safety and protection policies, as well as risk management policies in accordance with YMCA standards. These policies are in compliance with our YMCA child abuse prevention and safety procedures.
- The Hotel will have zones that will be restricted during various hours of the conference schedule to ensure the safety of students and participants. Students must not be in unsupervised areas of the hotel or conference areas.

# TEAM PLANNING

## Legislative - 1 student

We will also have student Chairpersons and Clerks student leaders serving as these various roles will preside over the chambers and committee rooms. These positions will be selected from the pool of chair clerk teams that competed at their regional conference.

We also have a student Governor and Lieutenant Governor. These positions are elected by other student participants during the conference and will have additional responsibilities in their sections the following year.

These student representatives will not participate in the same function as other students but will still be considered part of their state delegations. They will receive pre-conference training for their role. Application information will be sent to regional leadership via email.

## State Affairs - 1-3 students per team

## WHAT TO BRING

### Here are a few reminders of important items to bring to State Conference:

- Copy of your health insurance card (front and back)
- A photo identification or student identification card (Required for some of the government buildings)
- Your prescription medications
- Comfortable dress shoes for walking, we do not recommend that you wear high-heels or shoes that have not been broken-in.
- Copies of the case, statements, and any research you may need. A printer is not available at the conference, so bring whatever printed materials you need.
- Notepad, pen, paper
- Snacks, will help keep meal costs down
- Full coverage swimsuit, extra towel

## MEAL PLANNING

State registration fees cover dinner on Thursday, lunch on Friday, and both lunch and dinner on Saturday at the competition venue or hotel.

Any meals not listed above will be considered your own meals. Delegation leaders need to make dinner plans that will allow for efficient eating. Participants can order food for delivery to the hotel, but students and advisors can only eat in their own hotel rooms if they order from off site, and must have food delivered before curfew. The onsite options vary in food type and price tiers.

### Food Options at the hotel include:

- B-Lux Grill
- Cinco Niños
- Pizzeria Sortino's
- The Last Bite
- MACS – Macaroni and Cheese Shop
- B-Lux Grill Sortino's Italian Kitchen
- Cinco Niños Marrakesh Market Eatery
- Pizzeria Sortino's Great Karoo Marketplace
- The Last Bite Java Manjaro



# STUDENT AND ADULT CODE OF CONDUCT

All attendees should be aware that absolutely no alcohol, tobacco products, drugs of any kind or weapons of any kind will be tolerated at conference. Please review the full student code of conduct to learn more about the rules and potential consequences here: <https://ymcatexasyg.org/state-conference-handbook/>

Adults: Please be mindful that all adults in attendance are prohibited from consuming alcohol during the conference, as well as socializing with non-participants who are consuming alcohol.

## PARENT AND FAMILY POLICY

To accommodate for delegate safety and space limitations during Conference, parents will only be allowed to attend daytime activities and must honor the hotel policy of no visitors after 5pm. Parents are only allowed to attend the Closing Ceremony at the hotel.

There will also be a parent block of hotel rooms that will be offered at a reduced rate so parents can stay at the conference hotel. Please note this does not mean students can stay in hotel rooms with their parents.



## DELEGATION FREE TIME

The competition schedule includes some free time to explore the Kalahari Resort. Here are some ideas to consider:

TOMFOOLERY ADVENTURE PARK: This portion of the resort includes rides and arcade style games for all ages. This activity includes obstacle courses, mini golf, a cave of mirrors, laser tag and other amusement park style rides. Participants can purchase a pass to tomfoolery for an additional \$26 charge.

INDOOR WATERPARKS: Unwind after the competition portion of the conference by swimming at the waterparks. With slides, a lazy river, bodyboarding and more there is something for everyone to enjoy in the waterpark. Participants will have designated time in the waterpark at no additional cost.

\*PLEASE NOTE: Access to the water park is determined by swim ability questions answered by parental guardians during program registration.

## School Absence Excuse Letter

Individual schools determine whether or not they count attendance at the State Conference as an excused absence. We've provided a template for advisors who would like to ask administration to excuse their student delegates absence for state conference.

View the excuse letter here: <https://eadn-wc01-11426870.nxedge.io/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/YMCA-State-Conference-Excuse-2024.pdf>



# DRESS CODE

The YMCA Texas Youth and Government State Conference has a Dress Code that all participants must follow. This includes all adults and volunteers. The attire required depends on the session/event/function. Participants not in appropriate attire will be asked to change clothes.



## Clothing that is never acceptable includes:

- Any clothing with inappropriate language or imagery
- Any see-through or extremely tight-fitting clothing
- Bare midriffs or tank tops
- Tube tops or tube dresses
- Leggings or sweat pants
- Pajamas, slippers, or any other sleeping attire
- Flip Flops (Only acceptable during free time/pool time)



## STATE CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

If you'd like to read more about our policies and procedures, please take a look at our State Conference Handbook using the QR code. In this handbook we detail more about locations, schedule, student code of conduct and more.



## HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you still have questions regarding the state conference or program details, please use a QR code and we'd be happy to answer any questions you may have!



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT