



the  |  TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

2023-24

Annual Report

Letter from the State Director



I am delighted to present our **2023-2024 YMCA Texas Youth and Government Annual Report** for a year marked by growth, innovation, and community impact.

On behalf of all the participating Ys across Texas, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your invaluable contributions and unwavering support.

We accomplished many things worth celebrating during this program year. Thanks to our dedicated state volunteers, we strengthened our curriculum and expanded the number of video and digital resources we offer, enriching the learning experience for our participants.

Longstanding partner, **The Sumners Foundation**, who has provided foundational philanthropic support of the Texas YG program for over 30 years, increased their funding for financial assistance, making it possible for even more teens to participate in this life-changing program.

We also welcomed a new partner in the **Bezos Family Foundation**, who has committed significant multi-year funding through Y-USA in support of not only Texas YG, but in Florida and Kentucky as well. This investment will enable us to further enhance our program and expand our reach.

These critical partnerships enable us to fulfill our commitment to engaging more culturally and economically diverse students, schools and communities, as we continue to reflect the broad cross-section of our state and its demographics.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. We know that reduced school funding leads to fewer campuses with the means to subsidize program engagement. However, with your continued dedication and commitment to our teens, I am confident that we will continue to grow and ensure participation for the thousands of teens across the state whose lives can be greatly impacted by this incredible program.

Thank you for working alongside us. Together, we will shape a brighter future for our youth, for our state, and for our democracy.

Missy Garcia



TEACHING DEMOCRACY'S NEXT GENERATION

Since 1946, YMCA Texas Youth and Government (YG) has empowered students statewide through model government, civic engagement, and leadership development.

As one of the nation's oldest and largest youth civics education programs, YG equips **more than 2,000 Texas students** with the skills, training, and relationships needed to become lifelong engaged citizens. Students learn democracy through hands-on activities in the following areas:



LEGISLATIVE

Students draft, debate and pass legislation while adhering to parliamentary procedure.



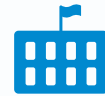
JUDICIAL

Students argue, testify and adjudicate cases in Trial and Appellate courtroom settings.



EXECUTIVE

Student-elected leaders serve as Youth Governor and in all Executive Cabinet positions.



DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Students strengthen democracy through Media, State Affairs, and Lobbying activities.

HOW IT WORKS

SCHOOL CLUBS

Students learn and develop skill in their chosen discipline.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Students put their skills to the test at their District Conference each fall.

STATE CONFERENCE

Top performers in each District qualify for the State Conference in Austin.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES & COMPETITIONS

Leaders from each state advance to participate in national gatherings.

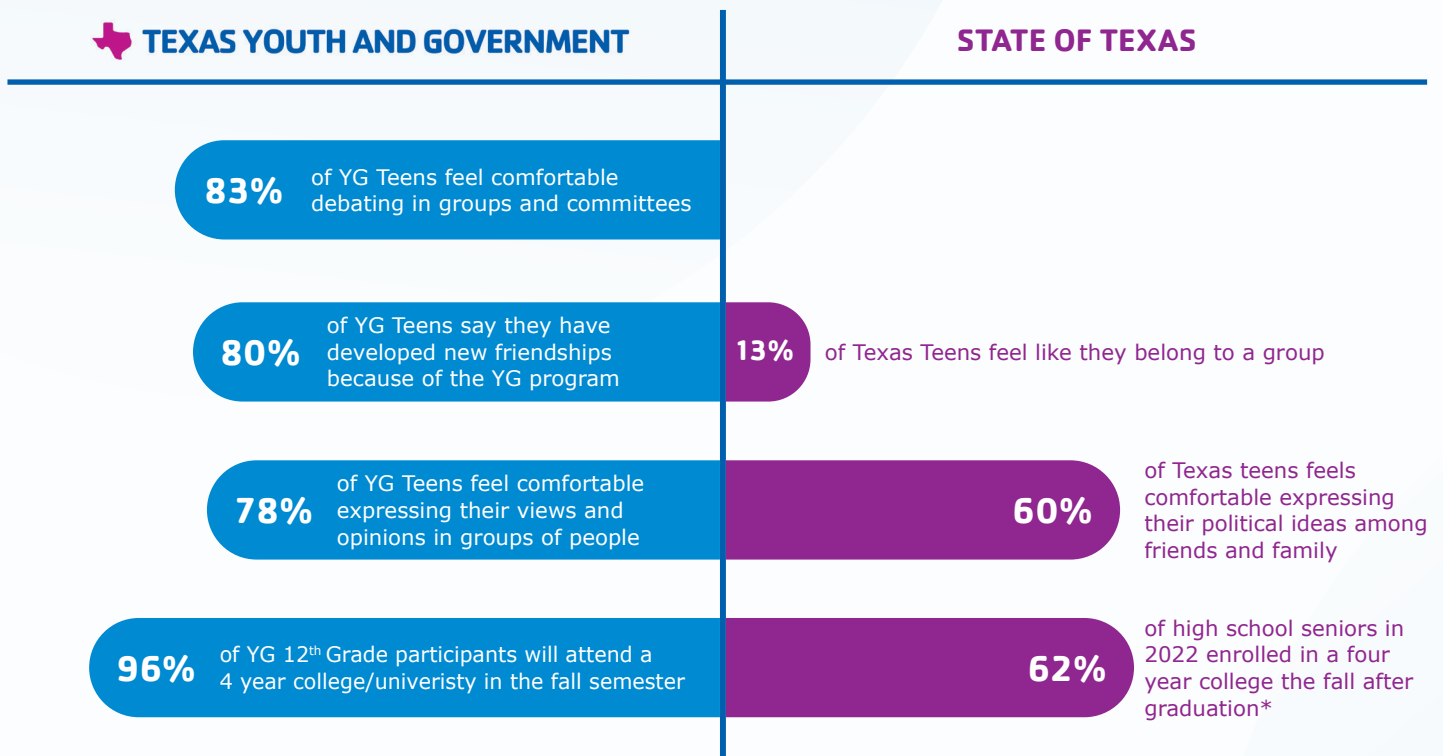
YOUTH & GOVERNMENT PURPOSE

to help teenagers become responsible citizens and future leaders of our nation.

Civics Survey

YMCA Youth and Government is a program that aims to increase teen's political awareness and strengthens leadership and character development. The following data is collected from our 2023–2024 Youth Outcome Survey.

Achievement Metrics



*Sources: https://youthdata.circle.tufts.edu/?state=Texas&datayear=2022&ycebttag=1&ycedpiwfof=1&ycesvanosm=1&customize_changeset_uuid

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2022/61-8-percent-of-recent-high-school-graduates-enrolled-in-college-in-october-2021.htm>



“The best part of YG is the community that surrounds me — friends and companions that I can and companions that I can safely discuss so many issues with and be able to freely speak my opinion without fear of ridicule.”

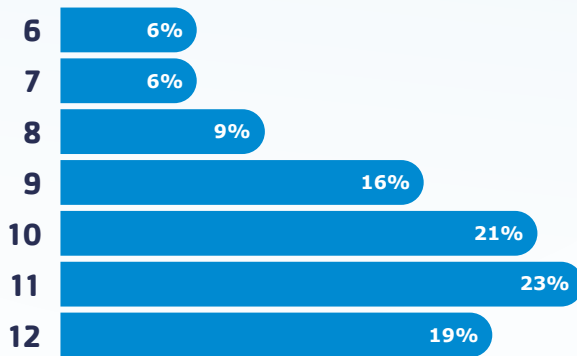
“I liked having intelligent conversations about bills whether in debate or out. It helped me see the point of view and gain respect for people I didn't really know before.”



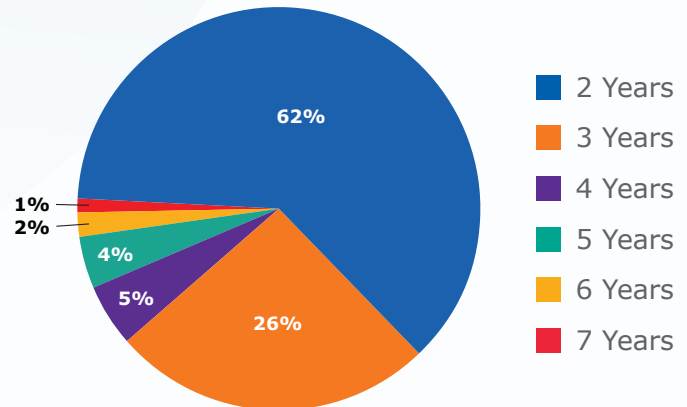
Our Demographics

Since its establishment in 1946, our program has witnessed a remarkable evolution in the demographics of our delegates. Today, we proudly extend our services to 34 YMCA branches spanning 340 zip codes across the state. The information below encompasses a rich tapestry of backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our vibrant community. Mirroring the demographic trends in Texas, we observe a steady increase in the number of students benefiting from our program, underscoring our commitment to inclusivity and equitable access to education.

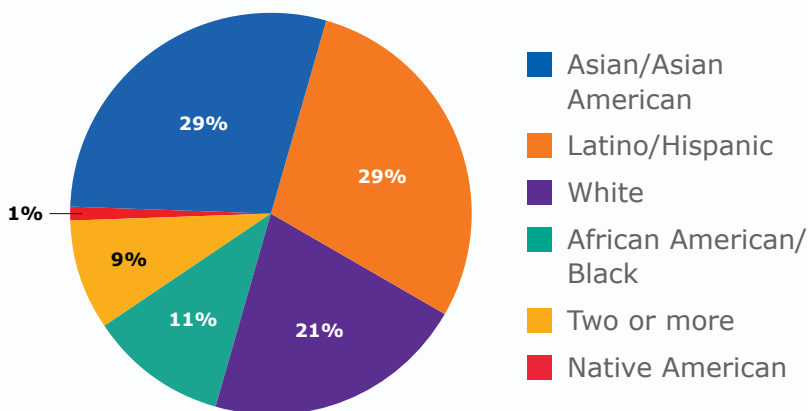
STUDENT GRADE



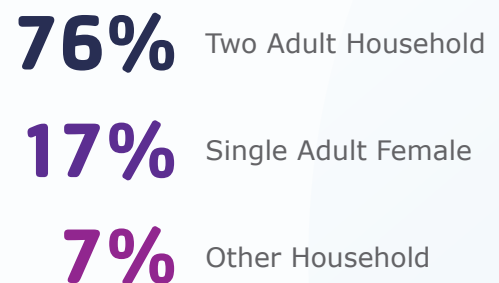
YEARS IN YG

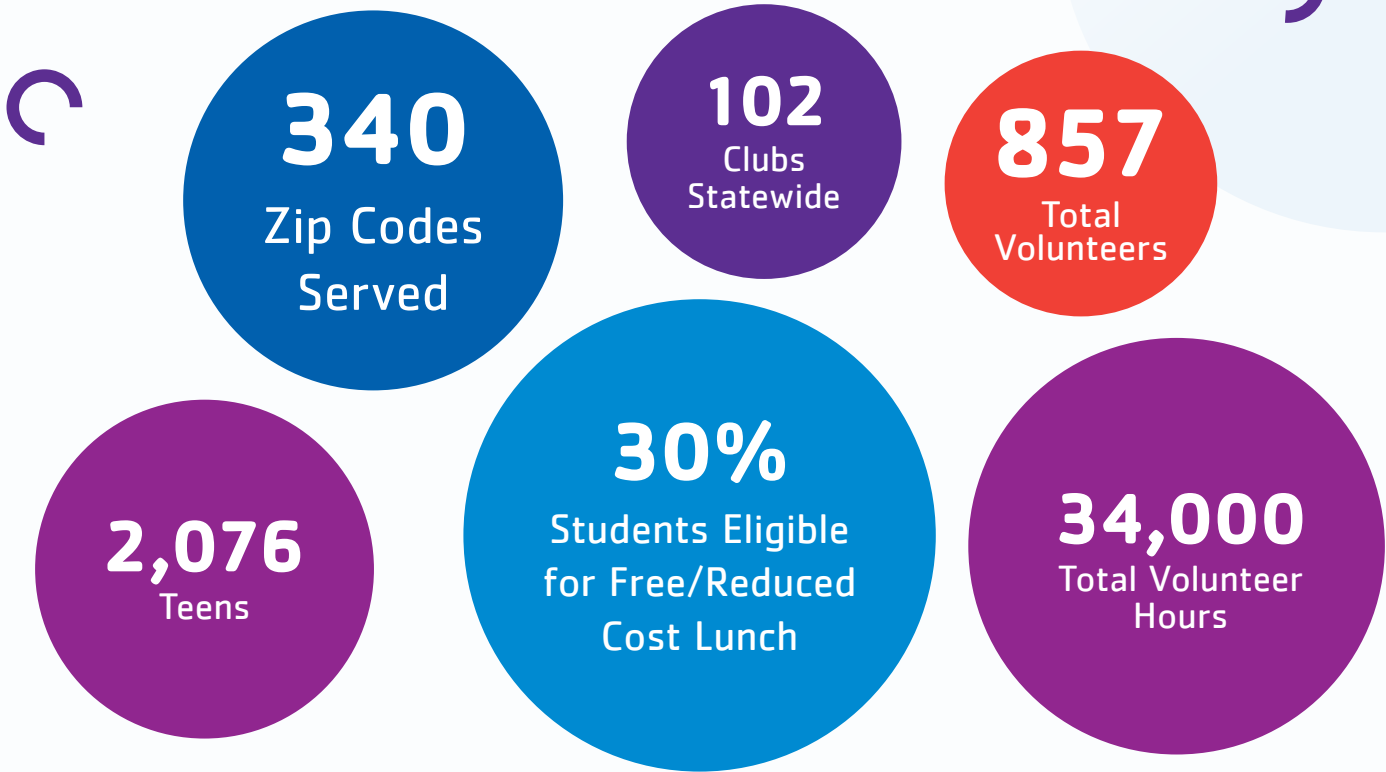


ETHNICITY



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION





HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

- 1%** Elementary School
- 2%** Middle School
- 16%** High School
- 3%** Trade
- 37%** College/University
- 40%** Masters/PhD

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
\$0 - \$34,999	360	17%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	172	8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	282	14%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	498	24%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	764	37%

TOTAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
2	124	6%
3	374	18%
4	893	43%
5	436	21%
6+	249	12%

District 1

Midland • Odessa

1 Club
20 Teens

6 Zip Codes Served
1 Volunteer

GRADE LEVEL

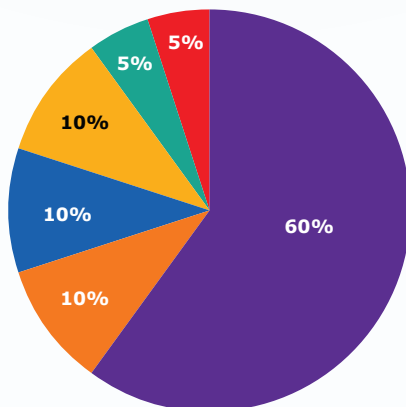


SECTION BREAKDOWN



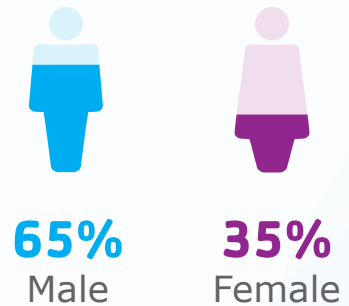
Legislative

ETHNICITY



- African American/Black
- Asian/Asian American
- Latino/Hispanic
- Other
- Unknown
- White

GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2 Member	65%
Single Adult Female	30%
Other	5%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$0 - \$34,999	0.5%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	15%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	20%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	45%

HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

High School	20%
College/University	35%
Masters/PhD	40%

District 2

14 Clubs **62** Zip Codes Served
246 Teens **112** Volunteers

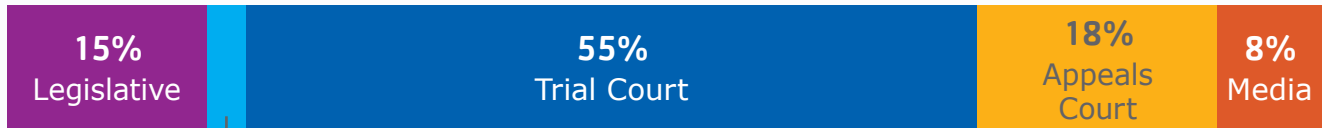
Akins • Austin • Bastrop • Bee Cave • Belton • Buda • Castroville • Cedar Park • Converse • Corpus Christi • Del Valle • Driftwood • Dripping Springs • Elmendorf • Harker Heights • Helotes • Hondo • Hutto • Killeen • Kyle • Leander • Leon Valley Live Oak • Manchaca Mountain City • Pflugerville • Port Aransas • Rockport • Round Rock • Saint Hedwig • San Marcos • Schertz • Selma • Sunset Valley • Temple • Universal City • Wimberley

GRADE LEVEL



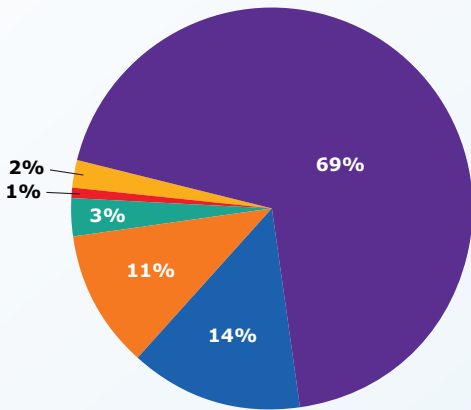
1% 6th Grade
 1% 7th Grade
 1% 8th Grade

SECTION BREAKDOWN



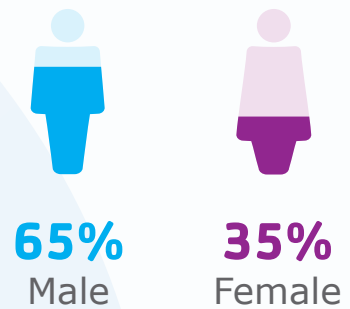
3%
State Affairs Forum

ETHNICITY



- African American/Black
- Asian/Asian American
- Latino/Hispanic
- Native American
- Two or more
- White

GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2 Member	72%
Single Adult Female	20%
Other	8%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$0 - \$34,999	18%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	9%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	26%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	38%

HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Elementary School	3%
Middle School	3%
High School	17%
Trade	2%
College/University	32%
Masters/PhD	43%

District 3

20 Clubs **45** Zip Codes Served
201 Teens **30** Volunteers

Baytown • Cleveland • Conroe • Dayton • Deer Park • Dickinson • Friendswood • Groves • Houston • Katy • Kingwood • La Porte • League City • Manvel • Montgomery • New Caney • Pasadena • Pearland • Port Arthur • Richmond • Rosharon Seabrook • Spring • Sugar Land • The Woodlands • Tomball • Trinity • Webster

GRADE LEVEL

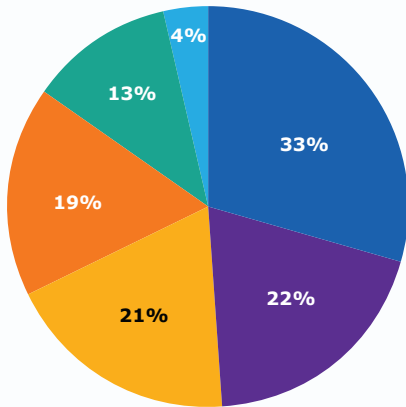


1% 6th Grade
 1% 7th Grade
 6% 8th Grade

SECTION BREAKDOWN

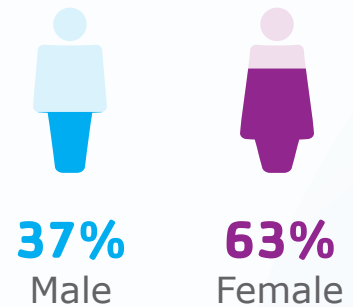


ETHNICITY



- African American/Black
- Asian/Asian American
- Latino/Hispanic
- Other
- Two or more
- White

GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2 Member	72%
Single Adult Female	16%
Other	7%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$0 - \$34,999	23%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	19%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	31%

HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

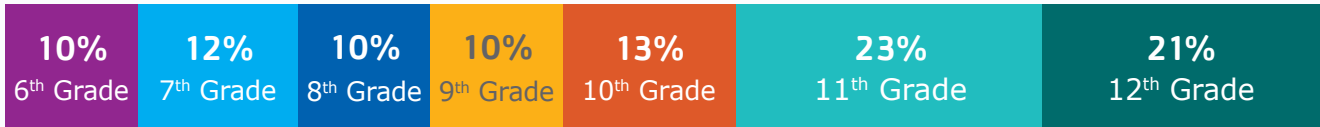
Elementary School	1%
Middle School	2%
High School	20%
Trade	2%
College/University	35%
Masters/PhD	32%

District 4

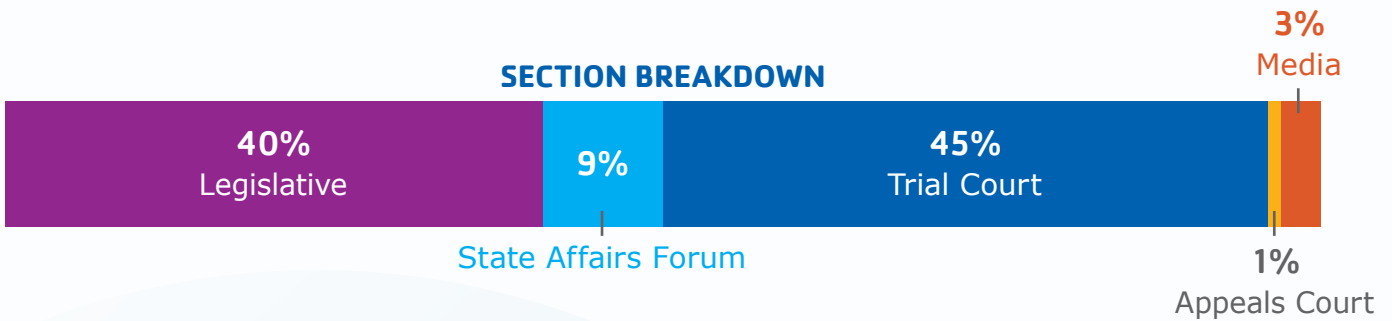
21 Clubs **45** Zip Codes Served
285 Teens **35** Volunteers

Bedford • Euless • Hurst • Fort Worth • Waxahachie • Keller • Grand Prairie • Mansfield • Cedar Hill • Ovilla • Kennedale • Forest Hill • Denton • Northlake • Plano • Addison • Cleburne • Granbury • Decordova • Stephenville • Colleyville • Weatherford • Southlake • Saginaw • Azle • Haslet • Blue Mound • Haltom City • North Richland Hills • Decatur • Crowley • Benbrook

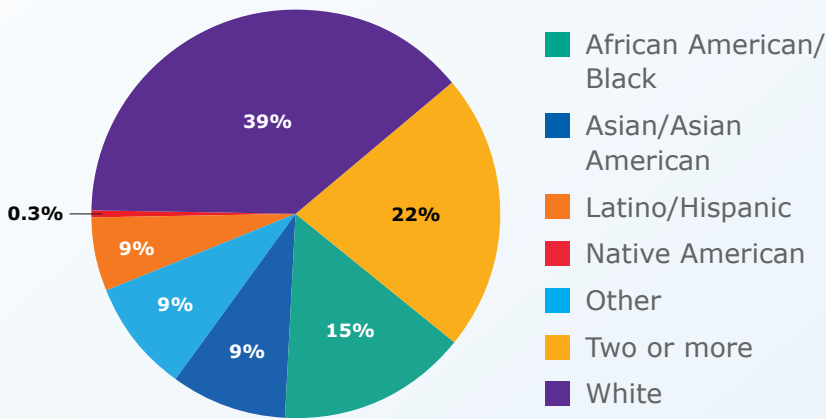
GRADE LEVEL



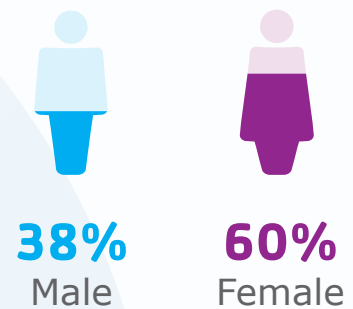
SECTION BREAKDOWN



ETHNICITY



GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2 Member	78%
Single Adult Female	18%
Other	4%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$0 - \$34,999	17%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	7%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	25%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	33%

HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

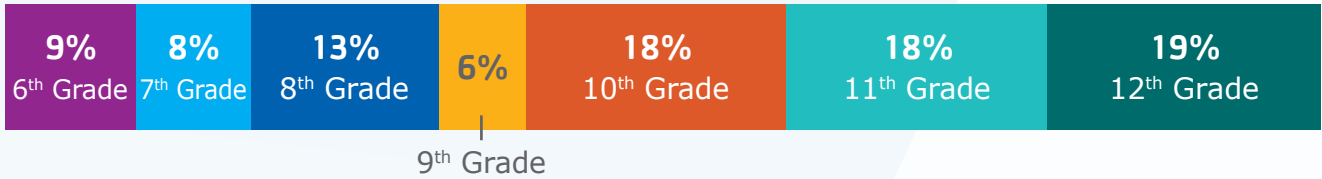
Middle School	2%
High School	13%
Trade	4%
College/University	49%
Masters/PhD	32%

District 5

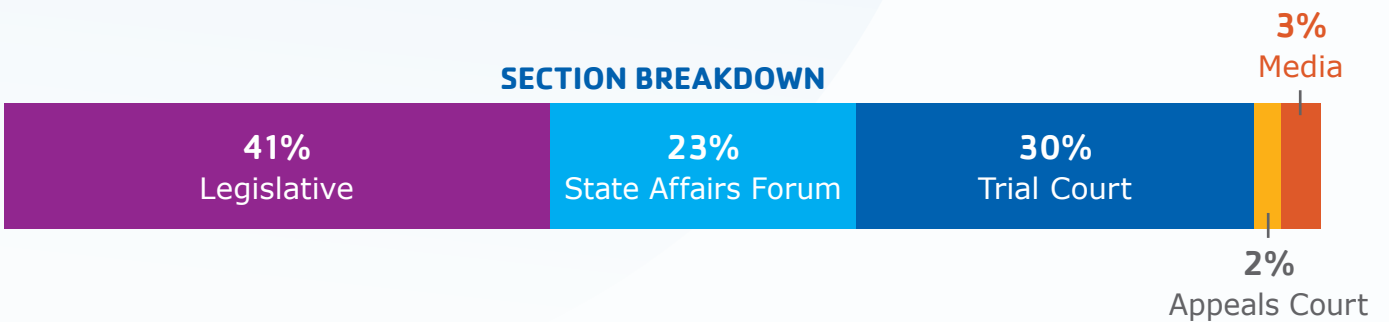
37 Clubs **131** Zip Codes Served
1,127 Teens **117** Volunteers

Addison • Allen • Arlington • Alvarado • Anna • Balch Springs • Carrollton • Cedar Hill • Celina • Colleyville • Coppell • Dakkas • Dallas • Denton • DeSoto • Duncanville • Fairview • Farmers Branch • Farmersville • Fate • Flower Mound • Forney • Frankston • Frisco • Garland • Grand Prairie • Grapevine • Haltom City • Heartland • Highland Park • Irving • Kennedale • Lancaster • Lewisville • Little Elm Mansfield • McKinney • Melissa • Mesquite • Midlothian • Montalba • Murphy • Palestine • Parker • Plano • Princeton • Prosper • Richardson • Rockwall • Rowlett • Sachse • Seagoville • St Paul • Sunnyvale • Terrell • The Colony • Tom Bean • University Park • Waxahachie • Wylie

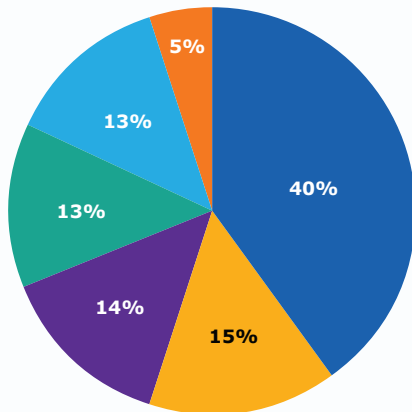
GRADE LEVEL



SECTION BREAKDOWN

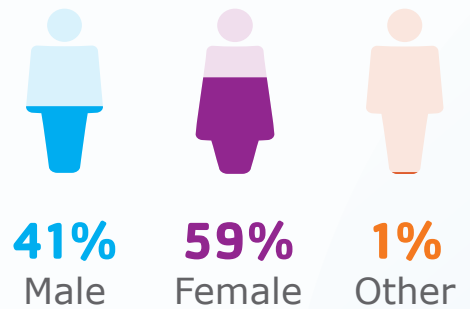


ETHNICITY



- African American/Black
- Asian/Asian American
- Latino/Hispanic
- Other
- Two or more
- White

GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2 Member	81%
Single Adult Female	13%
Other	7%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$0 - \$34,999	13%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	12%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	25%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	42%

HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Elementary School	1%
Middle School	2%
High School	13%
Trade	1%
College/University	35%
Masters/PhD	48%

District 7

7 Clubs **50** Zip Codes Served
190 Teens **15** Volunteers

Bulverde • Castroville • Converse • Elmendorf • Fayetteville • Helotes • Live Oak
 • Saint Hedwig • San Antonio • Schertz • Selma • Universal City

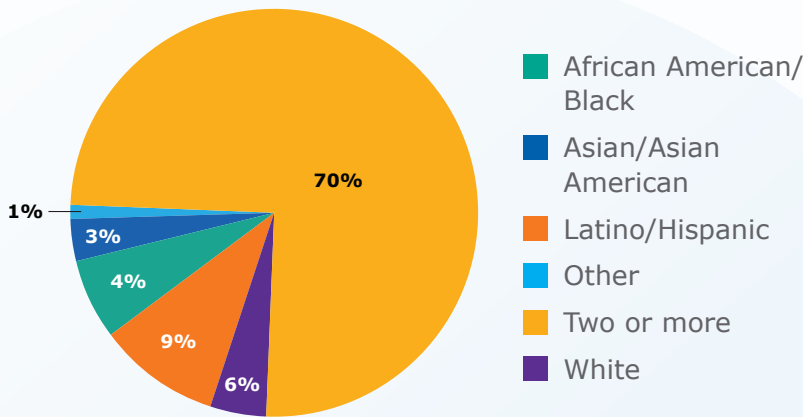
GRADE LEVEL



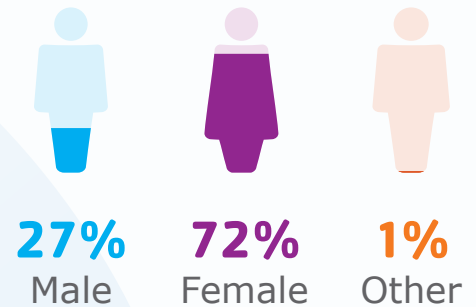
SECTION BREAKDOWN



ETHNICITY



GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2 Member	60%
Single Adult Female	30%
Other	7%

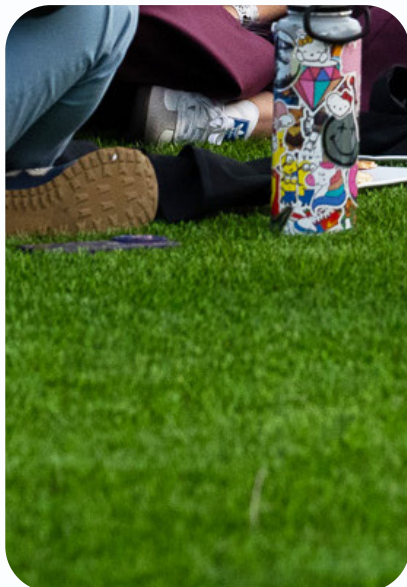
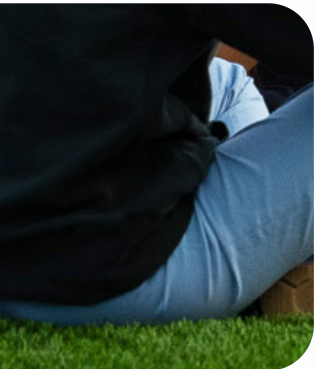
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$0 - \$34,999	30%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	12%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	23%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	19%
Equal to or more than \$100,000	14%

HOUSEHOLD HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Elementary School	1%
Middle School	2%
High School	27%
Trade	11%
College/University	42%
Masters/PhD	15%

Our Voices



"It's wonderful being surrounded by like-minded kids in that they can think critically, but who also have different opinions, perspectives, and solutions. It's an amazing way to make long-lasting friends."

Youth and Government Student

"I appreciate getting the chance to witness our students in action, on the House and Senate floor, wrestling with ideas, debating their positions, and voting on bills. The effort and attentiveness our delegates put into the conference, and the overall experience they get through this program is incredible. It is inspiring to think that these are our future leaders."

Youth and Government Advisor

"YAG has allowed me to think critically and propose my own original solutions to problems I see in my everyday life. This is unique to YAG, and not something I have found in debate or Model UN, which exercise strategic skills, but neither ask for too much creativity or complex down-to-Earth problem-solving."

Youth and Government Student

"My students had a very good learning experience on community awareness, teamwork, social consciousness, friendship, leadership and how government functions. It was an experience one will never forget."

Youth and Government Advisor





Interested in starting a new club?

Scan the QR code to learn more about the program and find the resources you need to start a club of your own!



Interested in sponsoring the next generation of Texas Leaders?

You can help a teen change the trajectory of their life with your support. Scan the QR code to make a contribution today!

Contact Us

If you have any questions about our program, feel free to contact us at txyg@austinyca.org.

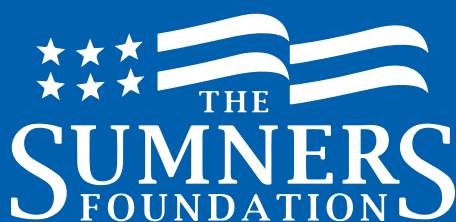
Visit www.YMCATexasYG.org for more information.



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



The Sumners Foundation has provided more than \$5 million to YMCA Texas Youth and Government over the past 30 years to ensure the program is accessible to students of diverse economic backgrounds.



A multi-year partnership with The Bezos Family Foundation supports increasing access to YMCA Youth and Government programs in Texas and is part of a \$2.9 million investment that also supports youth civic engagement in Florida and Kentucky.



Special thanks to Texas Pioneer Foundation for the vital support it has provided to YMCA Texas Youth and Government over the past 20 years.



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

www.YMCATexasYG.org