



Youth & Government

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



National Conference Application

Conference on National Affairs

&

The National Judicial Competition

YUSA offers two national conferences for delegates participating in their state's Youth & Government Programs.

This packet serves as an overview for both conferences.

Inside you will find an overview of each conference and the link to the application that must be completed and turned in to the management team by the **Friday** of Massachusetts Youth & Government Annual Conference. Management Team will review all applications and announce both the CONA and NJC delegations on the Saturday of Conference.

Delegates may apply to attend both conferences and could be selected to attend both. Delegates will be required to turn in a commitment form signed by their parents if selected to attend either/or.

An advisor reference form must also be turned in to Management Team for each application. That form is found at the end of this packet.

To Apply: <http://ssymca.org/about-us/ma-ymca-youth-government/national-conferences-application/>

Conference on National Affairs - CONA

Background

In 1967, a group of young people, having enjoyed their experience in the State Youth in Government Programs, determined that the experience could be broadened to a more meaningful level by participation in a conference dealing with matters of national and international concern. As a result of their idea and the work that followed, the first YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs (CONA) had its small beginning in 1968 at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Now located at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina, the program will hopefully continue to grow until youth from all states with Youth in Government programs are involved.

Purpose

This program offers unique opportunities for delegates to conduct research in the areas of national and international concerns, organize this information into proposals, engage in intensive discussion, and debate their ideas with outstanding delegates from other states. Advisors and young people who have participated in the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs are unanimous in their agreement that the CONA experience makes a vital contribution to helping citizens learn more about the democratic form of government. The specific objectives of the conference include:

1. Increasing awareness of national concerns and issues
2. Increasing understanding of the Federal Government and its relation to state, national and international matters
3. Enhancing communications to appropriate persons and groups at the Federal government level
4. Developing an understanding of needs, responsibilities, and opportunities for youth to serve in government
5. Working creatively and productively together with youth and adults
6. Strengthening commitment to - and better understanding of - the core values of the YMCA:
Caring, Honesty, Respect & Responsibility.

CONA Delegation Makeup

Each CONA delegate is required to write a proposal of National or International significance and be prepared to share their proposal during hearings at CONA. Leadership positions within the delegation will be voted on and provided to CONA Leadership who make a final determination on delegate leadership roles.

Date and Location

This year CONA will be held from July 2nd – 7th. Delegates will travel on July 1st and July 8th. CONA will be held at Blue Ridge Assembly in North Carolina.

The fee for CONA is \$1,000. The fee for NJC is \$1,000. Delegates will be expected to fundraise as a group and individuals to help offset the cost of the trip. The Management Team will support fundraising efforts to make sure all delegates who want to attend are able to do so.

CONA delegates may be first year delegates and do not need to have legislative experience.

The National Judicial Competition – NJC

Purpose

NJC brings together Youth and Government participants from around the country to face off in mock trial and appellate court competitions. The event is a partnership between the American Bar Association and YMCA of the USA.

Example of a potential Mock Trial Topic

During the NJC mock trial tournament, student attorneys will present a criminal case dealing with college hazing. A college student is charged with first degree murder and criminal hazing after a prospective member of his fraternity falls to her death with a blood alcohol level of .10.

Mock Trial Team Makeup

Mock trial teams may consist of 5 to 8 participants with the following roles:

- 2-3 attorneys for the defendant
- 2-3 attorneys for the prosecution
- 3 witnesses for defendant
- 3 witnesses for prosecution
- 1 court bailiff – each team is required to have an advisor or student available to serve as bailiff
- Teams must prepare both sides of the case to argue.

Example of a potential Appellate Topic

This appeals case examines the First Amendment protection afforded to "hate speech". A church that pickets the funerals of veterans is asserting First Amendment rights, with challengers asserting that the speech and actions fall outside the protection of the amendment.

Appellate Team Makeup

Appellate teams consist of two participants and must prepare both sides of the case to argue. Teams must also be prepared to hear the case as a justice and be ready to engage in questioning of the attorneys during oral arguments. Teams of three are allowed but discouraged as the schedule cannot guarantee equal time for each team member.

Date and Location

This year NJC will be held from August 2nd – 5th. Delegates will travel on August 6th. NJC will be held in Chicago.

The fee for NJC is \$1,000. Delegates will be expected to fundraise as a group and as individuals to help offset the cost of the trip. The Management Team will support fundraising efforts to make sure all delegates who want to attend are able to do so.

Delegates must have at least 2 years of experience in Youth & Government but do not need to have been Judicial delegates.

CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE FOR _____

(Name of Applicant)

The young person listed above has requested that his/her name be considered as a candidate for Delegate to a YMCA National Conference. If selected, this person will be expected to represent the Massachusetts YMCA Youth & Government program. Delegates must have outstanding leadership qualities, be able to speak well in public, and have a good knowledge of parliamentary, court or other governmental procedures.

Please circle the appropriate response to the following phrases.

	4(Outstanding)	3(Excellent)	2(Good)	1(Fair)
1. Ability to accept criticism	4	3	2	1
2. Ability to get along and work with others	4	3	2	1
3. Adherence to rules, procedure	4	3	2	1
4. Communication skills	4	3	2	1
5. Emotional stability/Performance under pressure	4	3	2	1
6. Enthusiasm	4	3	2	1
7. Good judgment	4	3	2	1
8. Initiative and follow-through	4	3	2	1
9. Leadership abilities	4	3	2	1
10. Maturity	4	3	2	1
11. Reliability/Dependability	4	3	2	1
12. Self-Confidence	4	3	2	1
13. Verbal expression	4	3	2	1
14. Easy to be with/good companion	4	3	2	1

For how long and in what capacity do you know the applicant and in what capacity:

What is your overall recommendation for the applicant's acceptance as a representative of the Massachusetts YMCA Youth in Government Program to either CONA or NJC?

- Very Highly Recommend**
- Recommend**
- Recommend with reservations**