

YMCA Youth & Government

How did the YMCA Youth & Government program impact your life?

Youth & Government gave me the “democracy bug.” I discovered that through public service, I could genuinely make a difference in issues that I was passionate about. Y&G gave me the wherewithal and experience at a very young age needed to jump into my collegiate career as an active citizen.



What years did you attend Y&G: 2010, 2011, 2012

What High School did you attend: Bow High School

Did you hold an office?

2010: Lobbyist, 2011: Governor’s Council,
2012: Candidate for Governor & State Representative

How did you learn about youth and government:

My American Studies teacher (also the advisor for the Bow Y&G Program) promoted the program in our class. A friend also encouraged me to sign up and participate.

Favorite memory from the program?

I worked as an intern for Senator D’Allesandro my senior year of high school. While working as an intern before my final Y&G program, I learned that legislators DID read our bills and take into account what the students had to say. I realized that Y&G was NOT a “mock-government” program, but a way to have our voices heard on issues that we cared about. This attitude greatly impacted the way that I approached my final Y&G program.

Why do you think the Y&G program is still relevant today?

ABSOLUTELY! I believe that Y&G is the most relevant that it has ever been! Y&G teaches critical thinking skills that are so essential in navigating today’s world of “fake news” and reality TV politics. Civic education is more important now than ever before... and Y&G educates, excites, and empowers young people to engage in our democracy.

Are there any values you learned still with you or guide you today?

1) Your opinions must always be supported by facts, but you must remember that people interpret facts differently. Try to learn from their interpretations. 2) Public service is about doing the most good for the greatest number of people. There are many ways that this can be accomplished, but we must never forget that our government is in place to protect the life, liberty, property, and pursuit of happiness of all people. 3) OWN your opinions, your research, and your proposals. 4) Never let ANYONE stand in your way of “doing the right thing.” Speak up, confidently for what you believe in.

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