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WHAT IS LEADERSHIP CORPS?

REV 08/2023

Leadership Corps is an experience-based introduction to all aspects of state government!

YOUR MISSION FROM NOW UNTIL THE CONFERENCE

Gain an understanding and learn as much as possible about Youth in Government, how the state government operates, and what your next steps to prepare for the conference will be. Leadership Corps is a unique experience for all of the delegates who are in 8th grade. This is the only program area designed for our youngest delegates at the conference & the only one where you'll get to experience each piece throughout the weekend.

THINGS YOU WILL DO AS A LEADERSHIP CORPS MEMBER

- **Complete the required Prep Kit**
- **Meet all required submission deadlines**
- **Participate in all tours, trials, and small group sessions**
- **Adhere to the Code of Conduct**

You will participate in small groups, skill-building, and leadership development activities that will enhance your role as an active citizen; you'll also make new friends along the way! As a member of the Leadership Corps, you will be introduced to each program area of Youth in Government through interactive activities. "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

- **Writing and debating bills as a legislator**
- **Participating in trial and appellate court cases**
- **Learning about the media and creating newsworthy stories about your YIG experience**
- **Voting in elections to select next year's Youth Officers**



This will be your only chance EVER in Youth in Government to experience all the program areas at once; enjoy it! Remember that all the skills that you learn here will help you become an active & engaged citizen *and* a future YIG delegate. Along the way, you will have a chance to become a better speaker, leader, and citizen. As a bonus, you'll meet new people from around the state of Minnesota. What more could you ask for?

LAUNCH MATERIALS

DEFINITIONS

Bills: Any change in the state laws - or "Draft legislation." Bills follow a particular format when they're written to fit the existing legislation.

Law: A bill that is passed and signed by the executive head of state. A state executive is the Governor. The national executive is the President of the United States. Also can be called a statute.

Constituent: The people politicians have been elected to represent. At YIG, these will be the people you interview with your surveys.

Representative: The person who has been elected to represent their constituents, serving in the House of Representatives or the Senate. At YIG, this will be you!

State Law: A law that only applies to the people within the boundaries of a state, like Minnesota or Wisconsin.

Federal Law: A law that applies to the people within the boundaries of the United States. These laws will supersede state laws if there is a conflict between the two.

Lobbyist: A lobbyist's job is to ensure that a bill gets passed, defeated, or amended depending on their client's wishes. Lobbyists are the movers and shakers of the political world. They use their connections and influence to support bills throughout their debate on the House or Senate floor.

Floor Debate: When a bill and the parts of a bill are debated among the members of the House or the Senate. Bills can either be struck down and go no further, amended to change or add things to the bill, they can also be passed along to the executive head with approval of a majority vote of members.

Trial Court: A court of law where a case is heard for the first time. Witnesses give testimony and a judge or jury decides who is guilty or not guilty — or who is liable or not liable.

Appellate Court: Appellate courts review the procedures and the decisions in the trial court to make sure that the proceedings were fair and that the proper law was applied correctly in the trial court case.

YIG SPECIFIC TERMS

Delegation: A group of students who represent their community at the Youth in Government conference. Think about it as the people you came with from your school!

Delegation Director: The individual(s) in charge of your delegation. They are your best resource for general conference questions.

State Office: The group of individuals who work behind the scenes to put on the conference. In January, they can help you with any issues like nametags. (once you talk to your delegation director first).

Conference: Also, Youth in Government. The weekend in January where everyone comes together to put into action what we've been working on.

Program/Program Area: The specific spot at Youth in Government where you've been assigned. Hint: yours is Leadership Corps!

Elected Officer: A delegate who runs for election and is voted into a position by their peers.

Appointed Official: A delegate who is selected by the Officers and State Office to help lead program areas for the next conference.

Media: At YIG, media members have a chance to be involved in the radio, newspaper, TV, or digital media.

STATE ISSUES

What makes up each of these categories? Fill this portion out with the important parts of each topic.

EXAMPLE

Revenue: Taxes, fees, fines, licenses (driver's, hunting, fishing), registrations (boat, car)

Education:

Health & Human Services:

Business & Industry:

Transportation

Public Safety:

Natural Resources:

AT THE CONFERENCE

Public Speaking Tips

When speaking one-on-one (like you will for your Prep Kit interviews) or in front of a small group (like you will at Youth in Government), it's important to be prepared. Below are a few ideas that will make this preparation easier!

Outline your Thoughts

- Know what you're going to say before you get up to speak
- Jot down notes, use keywords and not whole sentences.
 - When your lines are written out, you can get stuck looking down at your paper the whole time
- Be clear and concise. Try not to go on and on, have a focus to your message.
- Don't be afraid! You don't need to know exactly what you're going to say as you speak, but thinking about your ideas and organizing them certainly helps get your message across clearly.

Confidence is Key

- Feel confident in your presentation!
 - Even if you're nervous, no one can see your nerves so they won't even know.
- Speak directly to your audience, eye contact is key

Be Heard

- Speak with energy and emotion. Change your tone of voice to illustrate your point.
- Project your voice and remember to avoid mumbling or talking too fast.

Be Respectful

- Tell your opinion without belittling other people or their views.
- If contradicting another view, state the factual reasons why you disagree, not just that you disagree.
 - Thinks Facts vs. Feelings: is this a factual contradiction or a feeling that I just don't like what they're saying?

Now it's your turn to practice! Choose one topic below and be prepared to state your opinion using the following format:

I think/believe that _____ because _____

Topic ideas: Which is better - gum or mints? Should schools enforce a dress code? Is it important to vote? Should people from other states be able to hunt in your state?

Leadership Corps Survey Materials



MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP CORPS PREP KIT SURVEY

The biggest tool to help you prepare for the Youth in Government conference is the Prep Kit survey. Your work on this will help you fully prepare for your legislative work, discussion, and debate at the beginning of your conference weekend.

SURVEY GOALS

- Understand the beginning of the legislative process by creating one-on-one interaction between delegates and community members on important issues.
- Guide the focus of delegates on topics important to their constituents
- Identify and understand the differences between state and federal laws using provided resources and independent research
- Develop an understanding of state issues through constituent conversations & research to be prepared for their conference weekend

CONSTITUENT SURVEY OVERVIEW

Each Leadership Corps delegate will individually survey twenty community members utilizing the attached documents. They are also available in the YAPP.

Delegates should connect with the community they represent. These constituents are peers and adults from their school, community, neighborhood, place of worship, delegation, etc. (feel free to talk with your family about these topics, but it's not recommended to include their responses in this project).

Delegates will tally their results; complete the Survey Debrief questions and submit them on REGY. These responses will not be accepted in paper format. These responses will assist you in drafting your first bill at the Youth in Government conference in January.

DIRECTIONS

- Review the common definitions, terms, and current state issues (pages 3-6). These sheets may be completed independently if they were not completed at LAUNCH. Keep these sheets as they may be helpful references when starting conversations.
- Have conversations with peers or adults you know about the topics that they are interested in. Six topics have been identified so we can develop a big-picture look at important issues for the state. Take notes on the survey forms provided (pages 10-15)
- Ask open-ended questions to get as much information about why, to whom, how much, next steps, etc. For example: Why is alternative energy important to you? How can Minnesotans make steps to becoming more energy efficient?
- Compile information from interviews on the table provided (page 16).
- Complete Survey Debrief questions (page 17).
- Enter all the information from pages 16-17 on the online registration system (sign into your account via regy.co). These pages will be returned to you at the conference.
- Bring all documents (physical or digital) with you to Youth in Government for reference.

CONSTITUENT SURVEY

Use this form to conduct twenty constituent interviews with adults in your life (parents, aunts/uncles, teachers, neighbors, etc.). Follow up with the open-ended questions on Page 9 and 10 to learn about the importance of topics in your community.

1. **Name of person interviewed:** _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

2. **Name of person interviewed:** _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

3. **Name of person interviewed:** _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

4. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

5. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

6. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

7. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

8. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):
Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

9. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):
Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

10. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):
Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

11. Name of person interviewed: _____
___ Student ___ Adult ___ Male ___ Female
 ___ Non-Binary ___ Other _____
 ___ Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):
Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

12. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

13. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

14. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

15. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

16. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

17. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

18. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

19. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student Adult Male Female
 Non-Binary Other _____
 Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education Health & Human Services Business & Industry
Transportation Public Safety Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

20. Name of person interviewed: _____

Student

Adult

Male Female

Non-Binary Other _____

Prefer not to say

Which state issue is most important to you? (circle one):

Education

Health & Human Services

Business & Industry

Transportation

Public Safety

Natural Resources

Why is this issue the most important?

TALLYING THE RESPONSES

After completing interviews tally and total your feedback on this page.

THIS PAGE IS ONLY TO HELP YOU GATHER YOUR THOUGHTS; YOU MUST ENTER YOUR ANSWERS ON REGY.CO – Continue on the “Leadership Corps Prep Kit” template.

TOPIC/ISSUE	TOTAL # OF RESPONSES	COMMON FEEDBACK/CONVERSATION
Education		
Health & Human Services		
Business & Industry		
Transportation		
Public Safety		
Natural Resources		
Other (list)		

Please note the number of people interviewed in each category

___ Students ___ Adults

___ Male ___ Female ___ Non-Binary ___ Other ___ Prefer not to say

SURVEY DEBRIEF

After completing the interviews, review your results and answer the questions below.

THIS PAGE IS ONLY TO HELP YOU GATHER YOUR THOUGHTS; YOU MUST ENTER YOUR ANSWERS ON [REGY.CO](https://www.regy.co) – Continue on the “Leadership Corps Prep Kit” template.

1. What issue was most important to your constituents? Why?
2. Do your views/opinions align with the views of most of your constituents? How are they different/similar?
3. What topic would you choose if you had to write a legislative bill on one of these issues? Why?
4. List three reliable sources where you can find information to help support your topic.
5. Name two organizations that would support your bill identified in question 3. What are their two strongest arguments to support it?
6. Name two organizations that are in opposition. What are two counterarguments to your topic?

Submitting Your Materials

Now that you've completed your Leadership Corps Prep Kit Survey, you're on your way to becoming a prepared and successful delegate! Great job!

You need to submit your responses to Regy. You will only be inputting the information from the "Tallying your Responses" and "Survey Debrief" sections of the Prep Kit. You have been assigned in template in Regy to submit your response. The template will have a variety of text boxes that will match the questions from the sections in the Prep Kit. Fill in the content, section-by-section, with the information you recorded in your Prep Kit.

Regy has the capabilities of back-and-forth editing. Your delegation director will review your materials and may send them back to you with additional comments or instructions for edits to be made. you'll have to complete these additional edits in order to submit the materials to the State Office for distribution at the Youth in Government.



IF YOU DO NOT FINALIZE YOUR MATERIALS AND SEND IT TO YOUR DELEGATION DIRECTOR, IT WILL NOT MAKE IT TO THE CONFERENCE.
Please take care that you fully complete the process.

It is strongly encouraged that you bring a printed or digital version of your materials with you to the Youth in Government Session in case something goes wrong with the online submission.