

COMPONENT OPTIONS

Participants in the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government may register as ONE of the following components. Please note, there are some additional requirements for each component. All participants must register as one of these components.

HOUSE TO SENATE RATIO: When assigning delegates to the legislative branch, **you should have 3 house members for every 1 senate member.** For example, if you know you have 8 delegates who want to be senators & representatives, then 2 of them should be SENATORS and 6 of them should be REPRESENTATIVES. Acceptable team size depends on the chamber.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Grade & team size restrictions for each component are listed below. If you have a team that doesn't quite fit the outlined limits, the CCE will handle those teams on a case by case basis. Students wishing to participate in a chamber as a team will need to partner with another participant in that same chamber. Each team will submit 1 piece of legislation to be presented and debated in committee, and potentially in the House and Senate. Red, White, & Blue bills will be heard in each committee, but ranked separately. Each chamber will meet separately and will only hear bills from that color chamber.

Red House

Students registering in this component **must be in grade 12** and will serve as legislators in the state House of Representatives. Students may register individually or in 2-person teams.

White House

Students registering in this component **must be in grades 10-11** and will serve as legislators in the state House of Representatives. Students may register in 2-3 person teams.

Blue House

The Blue House is a training ground for novice participants who. All **Freshmen and First-Year Sophomores** must register in the Blue chambers and will serve as legislators in the state House of Representatives. Students may register in 2-3 person teams.

Red Senate

Students registering in this component **must be in grade 12**, and serve as senators in the state Senate. Students may **ONLY** register **INDIVIDUALLY**. Each Senator will write an individual bill.

White Senate

Students registering in this component **must be in grades 10-11**, and serve as senators in the state Senate. Students may register in 2 person teams.

Blue Senate

The Blue Senate is a training ground for novice participants who. All **Freshmen and First-Year Sophomores** must register in the Blue chambers and will serve as senators in the state Senate. Students may register in 2 person teams.

LOBBYIST COMPONENT

Lobbyists

Delegates wishing to work with the legislative branch, but not wishing to serve as senators or representatives have the option of registering as lobbyists, **provided they have served in the legislative branch at a prior conference (i.e. freshmen are not eligible)**. Lobbyists will be divided into lobbying firms and will undergo intensive teambuilding training on Thursday night. Firms will be “hired” to lobby for or against particular bills being considered, and they will follow the bills throughout the conference, lobbying their position to any branch of government they choose. Lobbyists are charged with shedding light on facts, ideas, and opinions that support their position in an attempt to influence decision making in state government. **LIMIT 2 PER SCHOOL.**

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Governor’s Cabinet

Students wishing to serve in the executive branch may apply for a position in the Governor’s Cabinet; **provided they have served in the legislative branch at a prior conference (i.e. freshmen are not eligible)**. One student will be assigned to serve as commissioner of each department of state government (i.e. Commission of General Services, etc.) Students serving on the governor’s cabinet **WILL NOT** spend time in the house or senate. Please make certain students understand their time at the conference will be spent meeting with fellow cabinet members and the Governor. **LIMIT 2 PER SCHOOL.**

The Governor’s Cabinet consists of the Governor and the Commissioners of each Department, who act as advisers to the Governor. The Cabinet is not a legislature; Commissioners do not have votes, nor do they present, speak, or debate like representatives in the legislature. Commissioners are called upon to thoroughly research their Departments and act as expert advisers to the Governor about the programs and funding in their Departments. They will be actively engaged in the budget process during the entire conference.

In addition, the pre-conference assignment for Commissioners is a summary of research on their Departments along with suggestions for how to optimize their programs and funding. More details about this assignment will be sent out prior to the conference. Members of the Cabinet can expect to be a very integral part of their chamber, contribute often to the discussion, and learn a lot about the executive branch of government and the budget process. If you do not submit this pre-conference assignment, you will not be able to serve on the Cabinet. The GC will hear from bill sponsors as a bill moves through its path on the way to law, and they will help the governor decide whether or not the bill should become law. Commissioners will also have the opportunity to meet with their real Tennessee state government counterparts, schedule permitting.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Lawyers

Delegates wishing to participate in the Judicial Branch may register as lawyers. Lawyers **MUST** serve in teams of two and argue either as the appellant or appellee in actual cases before the Supreme Court. They will receive their cases in advance and will be expected to submit 2 briefs as their pre-conference assignment. Please note, those serving as lawyers should expect to spend a significant amount of time on their pre-conference briefs.

PRESS COMPONENT

Print and Video Members

No state government is complete without a watchdog, thus we have the press corps. There are two divisions within our Press Corps- Video and Print. Students wishing to work on the press corps should have some experience and skill level sufficient to effectively work on the press. While Press Corps members are not required to submit legislation, they will be required to submit a pre-conference assignment. **LIMIT 2 PRINT AND 2 VIDEO PRESS CORPS MEMBERS PER SCHOOL.**

The press corps will publish conference papers and newscasts daily to keep all delegates abreast of what's going on in each component. They are responsible for social media throughout the conference. They will also get an introductory crash course in journalism. Please make your press corps members aware that they will not have free and clear roaming privileges at the conference. While they will be out and about covering stories and taking photos, they will be required to attend all press meetings.

Component Requirement Checklist:

Component	Application Required- Subject to Acceptance	Prior YIG Experience Required	No prior YIG experience required
Blue House			✓
Blue Senate			✓
White House		✓	
White Senate		✓	
Red House		✓	
Red Senate		✓	
Lobbyist	✓	✓	
Governor's Cab.	✓	✓	
Lawyer			✓
Press Corps			✓