KENTUCKY YMCA
YOUTH ASSOCIATION

kyyymca.org

KYA
KUNA
Student Y

GFI
LTC
Y-Corps
WHAT WE DO

EMPOWER VOICES & BUILD CONFIDENCE

PROMOTE PERSONAL GROWTH & BUILD EMPATHY

INSPIRE SERVANT LEADERS TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCATING FOR ISSUES

GIVE TEENS A SPACE TO BE THEMSELVES AND HAVE FUN

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH
AREAS OF FOCUS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In Youth and Government programs, students learn about local and international issues by experiencing the legislative processes we use to address them. KYA and KUNA expose students to new perspectives, create a setting to share ideas via civil discourse, and empower our youth to feel comfortable and confident in their agency and their voice.

Additionally, policy and advocacy programs like MYA help show students a direct path to creating a positive impact.

SERVICE LEARNING

Through Y-Corps, students are given the training they need to plan service projects, philanthropy drives, and advocate for the needs of their communities. A the end of the program the students head out across the state or country to serve and connect with communities in person, building empathy, understanding, and servant leadership.

In Student Y, student chapters work together to coordinate service projects and use their combined power to make a direct impact on their local communities.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Through character development conferences like Go For It and the Leadership Training Conference, students come together for a weekend of guided discussions through a program designed to help them self-reflect, connect with others, and think about how they can be more active in facilitating their own self-growth.

Through the Presiding Officer program, and national conferences like CONA, NJC, and National Advocacy Days, students learn what it means to represent Kentucky and lead their peers in positive practices for good.
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

KYA (November/December) and KUNA (March) are 3-day experiential learning conferences that students attend with their schools. To get your school involved, visit kymca.org/regions and contact your Region Director.

Kentucky Youth Assembly | KYA
Model Kentucky Legislature Conference

At KYA, students take on the role of Kentucky state legislators looking to tackle pressing issues through governmental procedure. Students research local issues and write bills to solve them, then come together with students from across the state to share their ideas and debate the best strategies to make positive change.

Kentucky United Nations Assembly | KUNA
Model United Nations Conference

At KUNA, students take on the role of United Nations ambassadors, choosing a country to represent and speak from the perspective of. Students research international issues and write resolutions for the U.N. to help tackle them, then come together to debate these issues with youth from across Kentucky.

By sharing the vibrant cultures and worldviews from around the world, KUNA students help build empathy and understanding, and learn about their own place in the world and impact they can make along the way.

Specialized Programs (HS Only)
Supreme Court (KYA) | International Court of Justice (KUNA)
In this intensive courtroom style program, students argue cases in teams of advocates.

Cabinet & Lobbyists (KYA) | Secretariat & NGOs (KUNA)
Students advocate on behalf of the private sector in this highly technical program.

Media Corps (KYA & KUNA)
Taking on the role of the press, students cover the conference across several media platforms.

Security Council (KUNA only, also available at MS)
A more intimate and free-form style of debate, students discuss matters of international security.
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Go For It (January) and the Leadership Training Conference (June) are 3–4 day retreats for students to build character and interpersonal connection. Through self-reflection, group discussion, and fresh, exciting new programming every year, students work together to set and meet goals for positive change both within themselves and out in the world.

Students attend GFI & LTC independently, and can find more information on the programs and how to register at kymmca.org/gfi and kymmca.org/ltc.

Go For It | GFI
Winter Character Development Conference

At Go For It, students come together for a weekend of connection and introspection. Students are put into small groups called “Families,” and over the course of multiple sessions, dive into a new program every year designed to promote personal reflection and growth.

Through a series of facilitated discussions, interactive activities, and opportunities to express themselves and have fun, GFI is a place for students to escape their busy schedules and connect with each other for the common goal of striving to be the best versions of themselves.

Leadership Training Conference | LTC
Summer Character Development Conference

At LTC, students gather in the summertime for a weekend of empowerment, inspiration, and fun. Like GFI, the students at LTC are divided up into small groups, and together go through a fresh new program designed to challenge their perspective and help them define their place in the world around them.

Over the course of the conference, students learn to engage and empathize with each other, finding balance in their human connections and the world around them. Together, students learn how to manage their emotions and grow as leaders, so they can then go out in the world and make a positive difference.
**SERVICE LEARNING**

**Y-Corps (High School Only)**

6-Month Service Learning Program

**Y-Corps** is a service-learning program during which students learn how to plan service projects, fundraise for community efforts, and advocate for important issues.

The program culminates in the summer, when Y-Corps teams travel around Kentucky or a region of the United States serving others as a team, and spending time connecting with and learning from the people in the communities they serve.

**Y-Corps Teams and Service Regions**

- **Service to the Midwest**
  STTM travels around the Midwestern United States and beyond, serving the diverse and often misunderstood region.

- **Service to the South**
  STTS travels around the Southern U.S., serving and learning in one of the most culturally and historically rich regions.

- **Service to the North**
  STTN travels around the Northeastern U.S., serving in some of the country’s oldest sites.

- **Service to the Commonwealth**
  STTC travels around Kentucky, serving across the diverse geography and connecting with communities big and small.

**Y-Corps and Kentucky Y students serve over 30,000 service hours each year**

Y-Corps is an individual, application-based program for grades 9-12. To get more information and apply, visit kyymca.org/y-corps.
Student Y is a student-led program for middle and high school students interested in making an impact in local and global communities.

Student Y Chapters are given resources to help students coordinate and plan to engage in meaningful service learning projects throughout the school year, and develop into compassionate community leaders.

What Your Chapter Gets With Student Y

Access to the Student Y Toolkit, a step-by-step monthly resource guide to support chapters with starting or re-launching as a chapter, as well as action planning and service goals for the year. The toolkit includes training videos, chapter planning how-tos, and templates.

Streamlined curriculum access to a National network of youth development and service-minded partners, including WeDay KY and WeSchools, Waterstep, TED-Ed, and more.

A thorough Officer Structure, clearly defining roles for Chapter Presidents, VP’s and Secretaries, as well as Service and Civic Engagement Chairs to steer planning around service projects and voter registration drives. Officers get connected with Y-Staff members for technical support, and a larger network of Student Y Officers to connect and collaborate.

Member discounts to all KY YMCA programs, including Youth & Government and Character Development conferences.

A chance to network with over 150 Student Chapters across Kentucky, through conferences, monthly Student Y bulletins, collaborative service, and Student Y Officer meet-ups.

Student Y Chapters can be formed from scratch, but existing school clubs and community organizations can be come chapters as well. Student Y can be a great connecting piece to all other KY YMCA programs, like KYA or KUNA, but it can also be done as an entirely independent program.

To learn about Student Y and how you can affiliate a Student Y Chapter, visit www.kyymca.org/student-ymca/
GET CONNECTED

Find Us Online
Our website is designed to be an information super-source. There you can find everything you might want to know about all of our statewide and local programs, partnerships, and more!
kyymca.org

Give Us a Call
If you have questions or want to find out the best person to connect you, call our office at 502-227-7028

Contact Your Region Director
Region Directors are the direct contacts for different areas of Kentucky. These Y-Staff members can connect you with all of the necessary resources and information to access any Kentucky YMCA programming.

Find out which KY YMCA region your county is in and who your Region Director is at kyyymca.org/regions

Not a potential Kentucky Y student, teacher, or parent? There are other ways to get involved and support the Y!

Donate to the Y
The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and we rely on grants, donations, and other sources of fundraising to provide the educational and inspirational programs we run.

Additionally, in efforts to make our programs more accessible and inclusive across the Commonwealth, we provide need-based scholarships to all of our programs. Over 25% of our students are able to attend programs like KYA, KUNA, GFI & more thanks to donations and sponsorships.

To learn more about how to give to the Kentucky YMCA, visit www.kyymca.org/give

Volunteer with Us
While our programs inspire students and give them the training and resources they need to be servant leaders, we also have volunteer opportunities with our programs. All of our programs rely on volunteer support, and without them we couldn’t offer our students the opportunities we do!

Volunteering at our programs is an excellent way to connect with Kentucky, to inspire the next generation of leaders, and to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. It’s also a ton of fun.

Find out how you can get involved at www.kyymca.org/volunteer

Kentucky YMCA Youth Association
91 C. Michael Davenport Blvd, Frankfort, KY 40601
502-227-7028 | kyyymca.org