What is Student Y?

Student Y is a student-led program for middle and high school students (grades 6-12) interested in making an impact in local and global communities. Students can participate as individuals or with their school as a Student Y Chapter. Student Y is a way for your school or community organization to engage in meaningful service learning projects throughout the school year, and develop into compassionate community leaders.

Throughout the year, Student Y members learn, serve, and lead as a chapter and as individual members in the following areas of programming:

- Civic Engagement
- Servant Leadership
- Character Development

Within each area, chapters and their student leadership can design and develop a yearlong plan that best serves the needs of their school and community while fulfilling the mission of the YMCA.

When you become a Student Y member, you are not only joining a network of over 10,000 students in Kentucky, but a nationally recognized movement of students working toward creating a better community for all.

“Student Y has by far been the most transformative program I have ever been involved in! I have participated in just about every student Y program offered to me from trainings to leadership conferences to youth and government conferences to service trips and they all changed me in multiple ways.”

- Anna Hearne, class of 2020
Benefits of Student Y

When you establish a Student Y at your school, we equip you and your students with the tools and resources to create a successful chapter led by students.

**This year, Student Y benefits include:**

Joining a network of **10,000** students and teachers who want to do good in their school and community

Access to our **partner network’s** resources and events (TedEd, MobileServe, World Affairs Council, & more)

A fully comprehensive **Student Y Manual** created to assist students in leading their chapters throughout the year.

A few of the resources included are:

- Student Y officer roles and responsibilities
- Agenda templates for chapter meetings
- Tools and tips for how to ensure your chapter is student-led
- Goal setting and reflection activities and worksheets
- Fun get-to-know-you and ice breaker activities
- Kentucky Youth Assembly and Kentucky United Nations Assembly bill/resolution writing workshops and curriculum
- How to take your chapter virtual

Virtual events including **region roundups** where students can collaborate and discuss volunteer opportunities or plan local events together with students in the same area

Member-only and member-discounted events & programming

**Y-Staff led workshops** including:

- How-to’s on leading chapters, holding voter registration drives, + more
- Service project planning
- Leadership/personal development workshops
- Bill/Resolution writing workshops
Inside the Manual

GROUP ICEBREAKERS

The Student Y Manual is full of games and activities to get your chapter feeling comfortable and bonded as a group.

STUDENT OFFICER GUIDANCE

Full breakdowns of student officer roles help put the power in the hands of the chapter and help it become truly student-led.

VIRTUAL MEETING PLANNING

To ensure all students are able to be a part of Student Y, we have virtual options for Chapter meetings, service planning, and more!

GOING VIRTUAL?

Virtual engagement can be just as important as your physical meetings and conferences. It often the first exposure people outside of your chapter have to Student Y and can be an event to foster community. To make what the situation is here and ensuring that virtual engagement can be used to foster these kinds of relationships.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Planning events that can be enjoyed after school or on the weekend that don’t require in person attendance are a great way to engage students that can’t or won’t be there. Virtual events can be for personal or professional development. Projects and events can be used to create a virtual option so you can capture all of the benefits.

IMPACT STORIES

Stories and events can be used to create a virtual option so you can capture all of the benefits.

VIRTUAL PLANNING COMMITTEES

Student Y project teams are a critical part of the planning and service process. There are many events and training sessions that can be planned by your Student Y project teams.

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Inside the Manual

VOTER REGISTRATION RESOURCES

The manual has plenty of tools to help your chapter increase civic engagement at your school.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Everything your students need to be the best leaders for their communities.

SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

You can volunteer at:
- A local animal shelters
- A nursing home
- Schools
- Summer camps
- Community theatres
- Local food pantries
- Local Y's

TEN PRINCIPLES OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

SERVICE PLANNING

Helpful guides and tips for organizing meaningful and impactful service projects!
As part of Student Y, students have access to a number of our local and global partners and partner resources. Within the Student Y Manual and online, students will have access to the tools they need to plan intentional service in their communities, register their peers to vote, and to share information on topics they’re passionate about. A few of our partners include:

- TedEd
- Limestone Bank
- Y-USA
- WaterStep
- MobileServe
- Kidizenship

**Chapter Service**

**Servant Leadership** is a core value of the KY YMCA Youth Association. We believe that our students can see immense personal growth through intentionally planned service projects.

We provide our students resources to plan effective and meaningful service using the service-learning philosophy, **IPARDC(s)**.

As well, our **resources** guide students in implementing servant leadership within their chapters and even within their daily lives.
As a Student Y member, youth civic engagement is a priority. Members are equipped with the tools and resources needed to hold voter registration drives at schools or within communities!

Review the Student Y Manual to learn how to register students to vote and how to become eligible to win the Frederick Douglass Award from the Secretary of State’s Office!

Our students’ voices matter. The Student Y program provides Chapters with the resources to effectively elevate students’ voices to enact change in their school, community, or world. Our advocacy portion of Student Y teaches how to utilize students’ passions and turn them into policy.

Outside of advocating on their own or with their chapter, Student Y Members have the opportunity to advocate directly to state and national policy-makers through the Advocacy Days program.
GET STARTED WITH STUDENT Y
REGISTER AS A CHAPTER OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL

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

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!

kyyymca.org/student-ymca

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

Follow us on Instagram @kystudenty
Kentucky YMCA Youth Association