



# KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY | KYA

[kyyymca.org/kya](http://kyyymca.org/kya)

# WHAT IS KYA?

The [Kentucky Youth Assembly \(KYA\)](#) is an experiential learning program in which students serve as part of a model state government. KYA offers students the opportunity to learn and debate policy issues, develop critical thinking skills, and articulate their beliefs while engaging with peers from around Kentucky.

Available to middle and high school students (grades 6–8 and 9–12), KYA provides an in-depth experience into the legislative process. Through preparing for and participating in the conference, students learn about the local issues that matter to them, and expand their perspective on issues facing people across Kentucky that may be completely new to them.

Throughout KYA, students engage with each other through debate and civil discourse at the Kentucky Capitol, and come together to celebrate what it means to be a Kentuckian.

## WHY KYA?

### **To learn about Kentucky and expand your perspective**

While researching their bill topics, students learn in-depth about Kentucky: the challenges it faces, and the things that make it truly special. At KYA, participants interact with peers from all across the Commonwealth, learning about the issues they hold dear and the differing perspectives they may have.

### **To learn and practice civil discourse**

Participants at KYA learn what to do when we disagree, how to treat each other with respect and positivity when it happens, and how to work with their fellow Kentuckians through cooperation and compromise towards a common goal.

### **To sharpen your skills and build confidence**

At KYA, participants practice their skills in debate, both in terms of quality of speech and ability to think critically about different issues and solutions. Alongside some of the best youth leaders in Kentucky, students can learn from each other and watch their confidence grow each time they step up to speak.

### **To empower youth to be the leaders of today**

No matter how old you are, you have the power to impact your community. At KYA, students learn the agency they have now, and how to empower themselves to enact change everywhere they can. Through researching and writing bills, they find the issues they're passionate about, and through debate, they find the power their individual voice can have.

# KYA FAQ

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Q. What is an advisor and how will they be involved?

- Advisors are school representatives that are the official adult contact for each school.
- Pre-conference, Advisors coordinate their students to ensure they are prepared for the conference, and also take care of registering their school for KYA.
- At conference, Advisors regularly meet with their students throughout each day to make sure everyone is ready to go, assist their students when necessary, and observe their students during debate.

## Q. How does conference registration work?

- All registration takes place through the Kentucky YMCA's online community, which Advisors can be added to by contacting their Outreach Director.
- Schools must first choose their conference dates and reserve their spot at that assembly by submitting an intent, including an estimated number of students and adults attending.
- A few weeks before the assembly dates, conference registration will open via the online community, where advisors will submit student rosters, bills, and student roles.

## Q. If I have questions, who is my Outreach Director?

- All schools have an Outreach Director responsible for helping them get prepared for KYA. They are your primary contact for any questions about the conference or registration process, and are dedicated to helping you and your students feel comfortable and confident.
- You can find contact info for your Outreach Director at: [www.kvymca.org/regions](http://www.kvymca.org/regions)

For our full FAQ, visit <http://www.kvymca.org/kya/FAQ/>



# KYA PROGRAM AREAS

At KYA, students participate in one of our program areas based on their grade, experience, and preference. Each program area has a variety of delegate roles available to students, which are summarized below and outlined in greater detail at [www.kvymca.org/kya](http://www.kvymca.org/kya)

KYA is an entirely student-led assembly, with Presiding and Supporting Officers leading each program area. Interested students can learn about the different ways they can serve at [www.kvymca.org/kya/officers](http://www.kvymca.org/kya/officers)

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

### Bluegrass House & Senate | Commonwealth House & Senate

Our Legislative program is our largest program area, and is split by grade and experience into Bluegrass and Commonwealth. Students research, write, and debate bills on state issues as Senators and Representatives.

## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

### Executive Cabinet & Lobbyists

1 Lobbyist per Commonwealth Bill

Lobbyist delegates represent clients in support and opposition of Commonwealth Bills by testifying in committees, distributing talking points during debate, and meeting with members of the Executive Cabinet.

### Media Corps

2 students per delegation

Media Corps delegates cover the news and events of the Assembly through a variety of multi-media journalism practices.

### Supreme Court

1 team of 1-3 students per delegation

Supreme Court teams serve as attorneys by preparing and presenting oral arguments on a case before legal professionals and student Justices of the KYA Supreme Court.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL DATES

MS KYA 1 • Nov. 16 – 18

MS KYA 2 • Dec. 3 – 5

MS KYA 3 • Dec. 14 – 16

## HIGH SCHOOL DATES

HS KYA 1 • Nov. 12 – 14

HS KYA 2 • Nov. 19 – 21

HS KYA 3 • Nov. 29 – Dec. 23

HS KYA 4 • Dec. 10 – 12

## SIGN UP TODAY!

PICK YOUR CONFERENCE DATES AND SAVE YOUR SCHOOL'S SPOT AT

[KYVMCA.ORG/KYA](http://KYVMCA.ORG/KYA)