



COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY

WHAT IS COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY?

County Youth Government Day is a field day experience at the county courthouse that provides high school students with firsthand knowledge on how county government plays an important role in their daily lives. Elected officials provide insight on their roles and duties; and give condensed lessons on how the government operates within the county. Students are encouraged to actively engage in meaningful dialogue and participate in activities with elected officials and administrative staff. The program's goal is simply to develop in youth an awareness about how their county government functions and assist them in becoming well-informed and active citizens in their communities.

wilegion.org/county-youth-government-day

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The American Legion County Youth Government Day program is designed to teach students about the importance of their county government before they turn 18, so they have the information and confidence necessary to increase the voting numbers at the polls. The ultimate goal is for participating students to educate others to become better citizens and create an atmosphere for a cleaner and more effective government.

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Designed to teach students about the importance of their county government to give information and confidence necessary to increase the voting numbers at the polls. Ultimately educating youth to become better citizens and create an atmosphere for a cleaner and more effective government.



WHY COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY?

- Teaches students the importance of their county government.
- Increases students' interest in government and citizenship.
- Provides students with the opportunity to participate in the operations of county government for one day.
- Students spend the day job shadowing county professionals to learn more about local government.
- Provides firsthand experience of the vital role local government plays in the lives of young people, their families, and the entire community.
- Inspires high school students to explore careers in government and public service.
- Provides positive public relations for both the schools and the government.

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK



1. Set up a committee from your county organization to help assure a good event for all involved. Contact county officials to set a date and assist in organizing the day's events.
2. Invite area schools, teachers and top students in the County to participate in County Youth Government Day.
3. After the date has been set and you know the schools that have agreed to participate, the classroom plans should be exclusively in the hands of the school. Many schools have juniors and seniors participate with the thought that they will soon be eligible voters.
4. It is suggested that teachers get students involved in a class-wide election process. Each participating school selects a full slate of elected county officials: Sheriff, District Attorney, Register of Deeds, County Circuit Judge, Clerk of Courts, Treasurer and County Clerk. Once students decide to become a candidate, have campaigned, and have been duly elected, they would represent the school and the students at the County Youth Government Day. If the school has foreign exchange students, ask them to be present also; not as candidates for an office, but as interested individuals eager to learn about county government.
5. The program agenda may vary with each county. With registration followed by a general assembly, the students should then be allowed to visit with their counterpart to learn the many duties of the office. At noon, there is a luncheon provided by the Post. The sponsoring Posts should share the expense of the lunch, as well as transportation, if any. Allow the students to sit in on a portion of a County Court session or County Board session. Close out the day with another general assembly, which would be an ideal time to hand out student and county officials citations.
6. Notify the local media of the event. Get pictures of the participants during the day and have them published along with a good story. Give your elected officials proper credit for their time and assistance. Send thank you letters to the school officials.