



Culver Palms Family YMCA Youth & Government Delegation
4500 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Culver City, CA 90230
Tel. 310.390.3604 Fax. 310.390.1695
www.cpydelegation.org

Culver-Palms Family YMCA Youth and Government Handbook 2006 – 2007

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I Will Follow the Upward Road

--Mary S. Edgar

I will follow the upward road today.

I will keep my face to the light.

I will think high thoughts as I go my way.

I will do what I know is right.

I will look for flowers by the side of the road.

I will laugh and love and be strong.

I will try to lighten another's load,
this day as I fair along.



*We build strong kids, strong families,
strong communities.*



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General Information

Meetings

The Culver-Palms Youth and Government Program consist of Thursday night delegation meetings from 5:30pm – 7:00pm (optional delegation dinner follows) at the Culver City City Hall Chambers, and are run by youth elected delegation officers. Attendance is mandatory for participating delegates because the content directly relates to the Model Legislature and Court experience. Agenda items include:

- Nominations and elections of delegation and statewide officers
- Speeches from statewide candidates and guests
- Parliamentary procedure workshops and role training
- Court case workshops and training
- Group building
- Bill development

Three Conferences

November 10 – 12, 2006 – Training & Elections Conference #1 (Bob1)

This Friday – Sunday conference over Veterans Day weekend takes place at Camp Roberts National Guard Base, just North of Paso Robles. The conference combines the election of some statewide officers and a general introduction and training of the roles that the delegates will be assuming in the Model Legislature and Court. Delegates depart from the YMCA at approximately 4:00am on Friday morning and return around 6:00pm on Sunday night. They will need to bring warm clothes, CPY attire, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, etc.

January 13 – 15, 2007 – Training & Elections Conference #2 (Bob2, or ReBob)

This Saturday – Monday conference over the Martin Luther King weekend also takes place at Camp Roberts. This conference focuses on detailed delegate training in their specific roles and the remaining officers are elected. Delegates depart from the YMCA at approximately 4:00am on Saturday morning and return around 6:00pm on Monday night. They will need to bring warm clothes, CPY attire, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, etc.

February 14 – 19, 2007 – 59th Model Legislature & Court Sacramento Conference

This five day conference is the climax to the Youth & Government program. The delegates take over the actual state government chambers and offices to put on a Model Legislature and Court. The program is housed at the Sacramento Hyatt Regency and Sheraton hotels across from the Capitol Building.

There are several “Joint Sessions” where the whole Youth and Government program is addressed by important speakers like Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O’Connell. On Thursday night, the real Legislature moves out and the high school delegates move into the Capitol. For the next 3 ½ days the government is run in a Model fashion.

Between 8:00am and 10:00pm delegates are required to be in “dress code.” The dress code includes a coat, tie and slacks for males, and skirts, dresses, or pant suits for females. Delegates need to bring dress clothes for 4 days, money to cover meals, and casual clothes for nighttime activities.



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Fees & Fundraising

Fund Raising Committee

A fundraising committee is formed each year to assist delegates and parents in raising money to offset the cost of Youth and Government. Please give any suggestions to the Delegation Treasurer, Amanda Thompson.

Financial Aid

There are three types of financial aid that you can apply for: statewide scholarships, assistance through the Gary Troy Foundation and assistance through our YMCA. Only delegates that apply for statewide assistance will be considered for other assistance. Your child will receive an application in one of the first few meetings this year. Payment plans are available. All applications must be turned in by October 12, 2006.

Fee Schedule/Due Dates

\$225 Due: September 22, 2006

\$225 Due: October 27, 2006

\$200 Due: November 17, 2006

\$200 Due: January 12, 2007

Fees include all conferences, transportation, some meals, and advisor/delegation costs.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Garage Sale
Concessions at Bob
Delegation Dinners

More events, dates and information will be given at weekly meetings.



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Delegation Criteria

In a time of what appears to be decaying moral values and political turmoil, it becomes the responsibility of today's youth to rise up and represent change for the better as models for the future of our world. Within the Youth and Government program, participants have the unique opportunity to put into practice the values and actions necessary to achieve a better tomorrow. As a member of the Culver-Palms Family YMCA, each of us will strive to uphold the character values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship as defined by the Character Counts Coalition of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. We will always do what is morally correct, not what is politically popular. We must support, encourage and educate others of the need for positive change, goodness towards others and shall exemplify this in our actions at all related events as representatives of our delegation and program.

Members of the Culver-Palms Family YMCA Youth and Government Delegation are committed to a delegation code of conduct and delegation criteria which outline the basic principle that we will display accountable behavior. Our code of conduct models how delegates of such a prestigious program shall conduct themselves at all times. While demonstrating our commitment to integrity and self-control, we will symbolize leadership traits that are deeply grounded in Culver tradition.

Delegation Criteria Guidelines:

Attendance

- All weekly Delegation Meetings are Mandatory – Unexcused absences shall have bearing on role selection priority and overall eligibility for participation.
- All conferences are mandatory for participation, which includes T&E I, T&E II and Sacramento.
- As stated in the Statewide code of conduct, ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS ARE MANDATORY for all attendees. An unexcused absence from a conference session can result in dismissal from the program.

Conduct

- As stated within the Culver Palms Family YMCA delegation Code of Conduct, delegates will display **accountable behavior** at all YMCA related events.
- Uphold the character values of the six pillars, Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Spirit

- PMA – Positive Mental Attitude towards the program, delegation, and all participants.
- It is not how loud you cheer, rather it is your embodiment of those characteristics.
- Understand that as a member of this delegation, we represent the Culver-Palms Family YMCA at every Youth and Government activity. Behavior has a lasting effect on other's impression of our YMCA.

Participation

- Each Culver-Palms delegate must submit a statement of interest that relates to your role in Youth & Government or our Government. This statement can be communicated through your choice of mediums: written (paragraph, legislation or outline form) or multimedia (video, PowerPoint or photographic).



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Delegation Code of Conduct

The Youth & Government program is run through the Culver-Palms Family YMCA and participates through California YMCA Youth & Government. It is designed to provide an opportunity for education and personal growth for the youth of our community. This program was developed to encourage high school students to become well informed and active in the current state of American government.

It is the tradition of the Culver-Palms Family YMCA to instill high morals in its participants. This code of conduct document serves as a tool for the delegates of the program to model their behavior in a way complementary to their morals.

It's true that kindness often begets kindness and that people are more likely to be honest to us if we're honest with them, but it's not always so. Sometimes, generosity is rewarded with selfishness and honesty is met with deceit. It's easy to justify a rule that says, "Do unto others as they *have* done unto you – or *before* they do it to you." But then we abdicate the responsibility for our own values and soon we're no better than the worst people we deal with.

The Golden Rule states a moral duty to be trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, and caring – not because it guarantees that others will treat us right, but because it is right. By doing this we can proudly proclaim that we are members of the Culver-Palms Family YMCA Youth and Government Delegation.

The Culver-Palms Family YMCA Youth and Government Delegation does hereby agree:

1. To adhere to the policies of the YMCA, specifically abstaining from possession or consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, and refraining from sexual or intimate activity (including kissing) and criminal activity at all functions and events related to the YMCA.
2. To respect the Body, Mind, and Spirit of ourselves and all those affiliated with the program.
3. To challenge ourselves to strive for our personal best and take pride in our accomplishments.
4. To uphold the spirit of healthy competition; to do what is morally correct without allowing ourselves to be influenced by political pressure.
5. To demonstrate respect when dealing with both the resources available to our delegation and the possessions of others.
6. To maintain a superior level of consistency, dedication and loyalty to our delegation and others at all YMCA events.
7. To additionally adhere to all regulations stipulated in the California YMCA Youth & Government code of conduct.

Failure to respect and adhere to the limit as well as the spirit of this code of conduct will result in immediate dismissal from the program for one full year.

I have read and understand the code of conduct. I realize that failure to adhere to the code of conduct and/or the policies of the YMCA, specifically no sex, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, will result in immediate removal from the program. I understand that any expenses related to the immediate removal of the delegate are the responsibility of the parent or guardian. This includes costs associated with the escort of an adult advisor.



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Payment, Refund, and Financial Assistance Policy

Payments

All payments must be paid in full on the date that they are due. Payments must be made by check or credit card. Payments will be accepted at meetings, as well as by Christy Lundy at the YMCA. **Please do not pay directly through the front desk.** Failure to make payments in full and on time can result in the delegate being dropped from the Youth and Government program. Payment plans are available, but must be arranged before the first payment deadline of September 22, 2006.

Refunds

Due to the nature of the Youth and Government program, refunds are very limited. If a refund is requested before November 3, 2006, you may receive a **partial** refund. No refunds will be given for requests made on November 4, 2006 or after.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance will be given on an as needed basis. There are three types of financial assistance available: state-wide scholarship, through the Gary Troy Foundation, and delegation assistance (through the YMCA.) You will receive paperwork at one of the first meetings of the year. **No one will be considered for delegation assistance that has not applied for the statewide scholarships.** Anyone receiving financial assistance will be expected to attend the majority of delegation fundraisers.



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Leadership Weekend Details

Learn leadership skills while having a great time! Your advisors are planning an exciting weekend for you. The weekend will include leadership training, as well as planning the master calendar for our entire Y&G year. There will also be time for outdoor activities during the free time break.

WHO: All interested CPY Y&G delegates (new or old)

WHERE: YMCA Camp Whittle (in Big Bear)

WHEN: Please be at the YMCA by 5:30pm on Friday, October 20, 2006 so we can depart on time. We plan to return to the YMCA by 4:00pm on Sunday, October 22, 2006.

FEE: \$50.00 includes your transportation aboard a luxury yellow schoolbus, Saturday Breakfast through Sunday Breakfast, quality lodging, and educational courses.

Payment and paperwork must be in before you can board the bus.

WHAT TO BRING: Sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, warm jacket, towel, long pants (required for ropes course).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS: All participants need to return a complete registration packet before departure on Friday. (You can find the registration packet in your Delegate Handbook.) Code of Conduct applies to this event.



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