



The Virginia YMCA  
P. O. Box 10365  
Lynchburg, VA 24506

The Virginia YMCA  
P. O. Box 10365  
the 64th Annual

## Model General Assembly



April 14-16, 2011  
Richmond, VA

### *What is the Virginia YMCA?*

The Virginia YMCA focuses all its energies and funds on quality leadership development activities for teenagers throughout the Commonwealth—a unique responsibility amongst YMCAs in Virginia. The Virginia YMCA is a part of the YMCA family which helps mold the kind of people who care about others, who are firm in their own sense of worth, whose outlook is both community-wide and worldwide, and who give to others. By exposing young Virginians to the inner workings of state government with model government programs and by offering opportunities for community service through Hi-Y and Youth & Government clubs, the Virginia YMCA continues its commitment to the youth of Virginia.

### *What is the Model General Assembly?*

The Model General Assembly program is designed to introduce high school students to the legislative process of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Youth senators and delegates have the opportunity to debate legislation in committees and on the floor of the Senate and House of Delegates. Other students serve as officers, reporters, lobbyists, and as members of our new underclassmen legislature.

Since its inception in 1948, over 50,000 students have attended this hands-on program at the Capitol in Richmond. Many former participants credit MGA with their interest in government and with their current professions.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## When is MGA?

MGA will begin Thursday, April 14th (check-in is at 4 PM) and will conclude before lunch on Saturday, April 16th.

## Where is MGA?

The State Capitol, Richmond, VA. The conference hotel is the Crowne Plaza Downtown Richmond, 555 East Canal Street.

## Are meals provided?

There will be a cocktail-style banquet on Friday evening. All other meals are on your own. There are plenty of dining options around the hotel and Capitol, and grab-and-go breakfast will be available at the hotel.

## Is there entertainment?

The Youth Governor's Inaugural Ball is held after the banquet on Friday evening. Men must wear their shirt and tie and women should be in either their MGA attire or a cocktail dress. Flip flops and bare feet are not allowed.

There will be a game room provided for those not attending the dance.

## Is there adult supervision?

At least one adult advisor is required for each group. YMCA staff will be supplemented by college staff.

## Do I have to submit a bill?

Yes, each delegation submits at least one bill with their registration on December 1. The bill should either change a portion of the Code of Virginia (available online) or add a new section. Please contact us if you need help.

## Who may attend MGA?

Any high school student in Virginia.  
**Lobbyist**—10th, 11th, or 12th grade  
**Reporter**—10th, 11th, or 12th grade  
**Senator/Delegate**—10th, 11th, or 12th grade  
**Underclassmen Legislature**—9th or 10th (new participants).

## What is the dress code?

Men must wear a coat and tie. No sneakers. Women must wear suits, skirts, or dresses—skirts must be an appropriate length. No bare shoulders or midriffs and nothing revealing. Flip flops are not allowed (but they are encouraged for walking from the hotel to the Capitol). The Virginia YMCA reserves the right to ask students and adults to change if they do not adhere to this code.

## How are officers selected?

Elections are held at MGA for the following year's officers. Current juniors may run for office and must submit a signed Candidate Filing Form to the Virginia YMCA by March 18th. Minor officers are appointed by the YMCA.

## Is there training available?

Yes. Workshops are held in February and March throughout the Commonwealth. Your club may register for whichever one suits your needs. Bill books are distributed at the workshops.

## How do I register my group?

All forms can be found on the Virginia YMCA website, [www.vaymca.org](http://www.vaymca.org). The following forms and deposit must be received by the YMCA by December 1, so your local deadline will be earlier.

- \* Individual Registration Form (attached—complete and return to your advisor)
- \* Group Registration Form
- \* Room Assignment Form
- \* Committee Chairperson Nomination Form
- \* Payment Transmittal Form
- \* Legislative Bill(s), with House & Senate patrons listed
- \* Deposit (\$100/person, including adults)

The balance of fees (\$250 for students, \$100 for adults with shared room, \$200 for adults with private room) is due February 1. Please contact the YMCA if you have questions regarding the number of students you may bring.

## Why am I assigned a seat?

There will be a selection committee using seat numbers to identify promising students for the Conference on National Affairs, which is held every summer with students attending from over 35 states. Virginia typically brings 20 of its most promising debaters to this conference in North Carolina, which will be held July 1-8, 2011. Please stay in your seat so the committee makes the appropriate selections.

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Name:            |        |
| Address:         |        |
| City, State, ZIP |        |
| Email:           |        |
| Phone:           |        |
| School:          |        |
| Sex:             | Grade: |
| Shirt Size:      |        |

MGA Role:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor           | <input type="checkbox"/> Reporter                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senator           | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbyist                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate          | <input type="checkbox"/> Underclassmen Legislature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appointed Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officer           |

We have read, understand, and agree to comply with the conference guidelines found on this form. Furthermore, in the event that medical services are required, we authorize the Virginia YMCA to arrange for such services in a manner that it deems appropriate. We also authorize the use of any photos taken of MGA participants to be used in YMCA publications

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 MGA Guidelines

- \* Possession or use of alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs is strictly prohibited. Anyone violating this rule will be summarily dismissed from the conference.
- \* The use of any tobacco products during the conference is prohibited.
- \* Attendance is required at all scheduled activities.
- \* All participants must be in their rooms and quiet by 12:00 AM.
- \* Any damage to the property at the hotel, Capitol, or General Assembly Building will be repaired at the expense of the participant(s) causing the damage.
- \* Liability for expenses occurring as a result of injury to others will be incumbent upon the person(s) responsible for the injury.
- \* The Virginia YMCA will make room reservations and room assignments and reserves the right to make any changes it deems necessary.
- \* Neat, conservative, business-professional dress is required of all participants (students & adults).  
 Men: Dress pants, coat, and tie.  
 Women: Dress, skirt & blouse, or dress pants with a jacket. No bare shoulders or midriffs. No shorts, capris, crop pants, flip-flops, or sneakers. *The Virginia YMCA reserves the right to say what is appropriate and to ask members to change if necessary. Please ensure clothing is not too short or revealing.*
- \* Use of personal cars during the conference or visitation by persons not associated with the conference is not allowed.
- \* Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited during legislative functions.
- \* The Virginia YMCA does not provide accident or medical insurance. Emergency medical services are available locally. Written statement from a physician and notification to YMCA staff is required for the use of prescription drugs.

# Virginia YMCA Model General Assembly

P. O. Box 10365, Lynchburg, VA 24506 (434)385-9117 (tel) (434)385-9118 (fax)  
[www.vaymca.org](http://www.vaymca.org) sharon@vaymca.org landon@vaymca.org