



WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Washington State Candidate Application

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

I have participated in:

- Youth Legislature
- Mock Trial
- CONA

Name: _____ Team/Delegation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Birthday: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian(s): _____ / _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Applications should include:

- Student information form
- Candidate questionnaire
- Proposal

Submit applications to: jnewall@seattleyymca.org

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please describe the following items, using up to five (5) typed 8 1/2" x 11" pages.

1. Your participation in YMCA Youth & Government activities, including leadership positions held and awards received.
2. Your future goals within the Youth & Government program.
3. Your participation in school activities, volunteer or paid work in community organizations, and other activities including any leadership positions.
4. What you hope to accomplish during your experience at the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs.
5. The strengths and weaknesses you will bring to the Washington Delegation.
6. Your understanding of "servant leadership" and how it has affected you in leadership roles you have undertaken.
7. The importance of balancing spirit, mind, and body and how you work to develop and balance these in yourself.
8. Any other thoughts or circumstances you wish to share with the review committee in connection with your application.

CANDIDATE PROPOSAL

Please fill in this template with a proposal that you feel is of particular importance to the nation or world and include it with your application materials.

Proposals should include:

Please submit proposals in the below format. Do not include numbering or headers/footers. Proposals cannot be more than two typed pages.

AUTHOR:

Name

Washington Delegation

TITLE PURPOSE:

Short (one line) description of what your proposal seeks to accomplish.

Major Areas to be Affected:

Include all government agencies, systems, groups of citizens and other governments that will be affected by your proposal in either a positive or negative way.

Justification:

A brief background on the issue including the importance of the issue to people's lives. Why this issue is important and relevant for consideration.

Proposal for Action:

Specific changes you are proposing to in regard to this issue.

Result to be Expected:

What are the foreseeable long and short term results of your proposed change.

SAMPLE PROPSOAL

YMCA CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS (CONA)

AUTHOR:

Your name here

TITLE PURPOSE: Giving the President of the United States the power to appoint a Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States every two years.

Major Areas to be Affected:

The United States Supreme Court, the United States Senate, the President of the United States.

Justification:

Since the ratification of the Constitution, average life expectancy in the United States has more than doubled. Accordingly, the average term length of a Supreme Court Justice has increased from fifteen years from 1789-1970, to twenty-six years from 1970-2005. First Chief Justice John Jay spent only six years on the court before leaving; Chief Justice William Rehnquist served three times that length. Because of this, life terms for Supreme Court Justices represent a lasting concentration of power in the hands of a select few. The length between vacancies occurring on the Court has doubled since 1789. An aging Supreme Court is a concentration of power unanticipated and unwanted by the Founding Fathers.

Proposal for Action:

The United States Congress shall pass a bill eliminating the nine-member cap on the Supreme Court set by the Judiciary Act of 1869, and allowing the President to nominate a new member of the Supreme Court once every two years (given confirmation by the Senate). Only the nine most junior Justices of the Court shall decide the docket, and hear and vote on cases. More senior Justices shall have the right to retain their position, but shall only hear cases with the Court when one of the nine junior members must recuse him or herself or is unavailable. In such a case, the most recently appointed Senior Justice shall serve. Justices shall not be eligible for reappointment.

Result to be Expected:

Most importantly, the balance of power will be restored to the branches of the federal government. The higher recycling rate on the Court will allow power to be spread out across members, not concentrated in a few marathon justices. The new system will balance the Court equitably with the other branches without compromising judicial independence. Since appointments will be frequent, the Court will be updated faster and will cease to have prolonged eras of conservatism or liberalism that lag behind long-term trends. As such, the Court will more closely follow the will of the people, the true intention of the founders.