



February 06, 2017

Greetings Advisors:

Welcome to another exciting year for the 2017 Montana YMCA Youth and Government Conference! This year our conference begins Sunday, May 7th and runs through Wednesday, May 10th. **Regy.co** will once again be used for our registration, database and Bill Book. It is important to remember that every student that registers (new or returning) must also sign up for the 'Event', which is the 2017 Youth and Government Conference. If a student cannot access the bill format, or other documents, please double check to be sure they are registered "for the event". There are some other changes and details and all is set forth below.

REGISTRATION: All delegations will register through the Regy.co Website. All **legislators** will use **Bill 1** for their form. Please remind students not to copy and paste a bill already formatted – just have them type directly into the form. **Lobbyists** will use the **Lobbyist 1** form and the **Reporters** will utilize **Lobbyists/Media 3** form for the articles they submit when other students submit their bills and position papers. There is both a link to the website and a tutorial for Regy on the Helena Youth and Government Website: www.helenaymca.org/youth-gov. Questions can also be addressed to me or to info@regy.co. They are always happy to help and so am I so don't hesitate to let us know when you need assistance.

SPECIAL POSITION APPLICATIONS: The applications for **all** appointed positions are available both on Regy and on the Helena Website. We are typically short on applications for these positions; as well as for the Justice and Cabinet Applications.

PAYMENT: As soon as you have registered your delegation, you should download your invoice on Regy for the \$25 per student deposit; due **March 3rd**. The balance of your fees (**total fee is \$80; balance after deposit is \$55 per student**) will be due upon check-in at the state conference. **Keep in mind that deposits are non-refundable. If a student does not attend, his deposit will not be applied toward his delegation's balance.** However, deposits are transferable, so if you find a student cannot attend, you may send a substitute. This is particularly helpful if you have a waiting list.

COURT PROGRAM: Attorneys and Justices will register through Regy. However, like past years, the brief book will be put together by means other than Regy so briefs will need to be

e-mailed to mtyouthgov@gmail.com. Again, issues discussed in regards to this in past years are continuing to be worked on and until more than one document can be selected and formatting is more compatible, it is easier to put the book together manually.

PRESS PROGRAM: Please also encourage qualified students to apply for Editor (short of applicants here too) and if you have someone very up on social media and technology, please have them apply for Electronic Editor. Also, all Press Program participants **are encouraged to bring laptops or tablets with them to use for this particular program.**

DUE DATES: Please note that Due Dates for this year have been included. Once again, all due dates have been made as late as possible while still allowing time to assemble the Brief and Bill Books. Let me know if you have any questions about the dates. ***Also, let me know right away if any of the Committee Chair Trainings interfere with your Spring Break and I will reset them and send out a revised schedule of dates.***

BILL FORMATTING: The Bill Writing Guide has been changed to reflect the new format. Students who do not wish to work directly on Regy while drafting a bill need only type the body of the bill with **no** numbering. It can then be pasted into the form and format and numbering will be taken care of.

SECOND BILLS: All students in the Legislative Program are required to write one serious bill. Once they have finished, they may write a second bill that can be serious or a joke bill. Please encourage students to be culturally competent and mindful of joke bills. It is important to find a balance of fun without being offensive; while still upholding the values of YMCA (caring, respect, and honesty). Students can co-author a bill with another student and that will be particularly easy with any student in the Court Program as it will be their only document on Regy. However, after Registration is underway, I will set up a second event for the second bills. Once students have registered for this second event, they will have the opportunity to select another document, and whether they are in the Legislative, Court, Press or Lobbyist Programs, they can write a bill under this event. Thus, those students will have already signed up for the Event that is the Conference and they will also sign up for the Second Bill Event.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and to an exciting and great program year. Thank you for your patience and support as I move into this exciting new position.

Sincerely,

Miya Tennant

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<http://helenaymca.org/youth-gov/>