## NJYOUTH & GOVERNMENT BE THE CHANGE

Youth and Government gives students the opportunity to understand their role in the democratic process by providing a meaningful, memorable and fun hands-on experience.

Students prepare bills and learn to debate them to prepare for participation in the YMCA Model Legislature conference - attempting to get their bill passed through committee and assembly. Middle School students also get the chance to observe their high school counterparts.

WHO: ANY JP CASE STUDENT WHEN: WEDNESDAYS 3-4PM WHERE: TEACHERS CAFETERIA

FIRST MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

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Len Yacullo-908-483-4930 or

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## YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

**CLUB INFORMATION** 

What is it?

Youth and Government is a club run by the YMCA that meets weekly at JP Case and other Hunterdon County schools to prepare middle school students to attend the annual YMCA Model Legislature Conference to be held April 25, 26, 27, 2025 at which students will debate bills that they have prepared and attempt to pass them through a model legislature. Students will also get the opportunity to observe their high school counterparts.

Is there a cost?

There is no cost to participate in the club but there is a cost to attend the conference which includes 2 nights hotel accommodation at the Hilton East Brunswick, 6 meals, conference materials and a conference t -shirt. Final cost is currently being calculated.

What do students do?

Preparation for attendance will include learning about the workings of the state legislature, brainstorming, writing and editing bills. Students will learn public speaking, parliamentary procedures and debate to prepare them to present their bill during conference.

At conference students will use the knowledge and skills learned to present and defend their bill through a committee and legislature.

Who Attends?

About 50, 6th, 7th and 8th graders from throughout the state participate in the conference.

YMCA staff serve as club chaperones on the trip.

For Questions about Youth and Government Club Contact Len Yacullo, 908-483-4930 Iyacullo@ymcarivercrossing.org