



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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Teen Legislators Take Over Statehouse April 21-22

Opening Joint Session: April 21, 9:30 am, House Chambers

Keynote address: Attorney General Wasden

More than 200 Idaho **high school** juniors and seniors will **assume the responsibilities of state legislators in a mock government session** April 21-22. A **joint opening session** will be held **April 21, 1:45pm in House Chambers**, and features speeches by youth officials as well as a key note speaker. Committee, House, and Senate sessions will be held throughout the mock session and a Youth Supreme Court is simultaneously convened to review cases presented by student attorneys.

The Treasure Valley Family YMCA Youth Government program **allows students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of our democratic government through hands-on experience.** Students go through the same steps a state legislator would take to make a go of it at the Statehouse – including running for office, drafting legislation, pre-filing bills, lobbying for votes, debating bills in committee, and answering student reporters' questions.

Bills that make it out of legislative committees are forwarded to the Youth Governor to be signed into "law". A few of the bills to be considered are:

- **Medical Care:** Counties would be encouraged to cover the cost of emergency room services and preventive care services of the medically indigent
- **Gas Tax:** There will be a considerable tax break for vehicles that are E85 compatible

- **Drug Testing:** All state level sports competitors will be required to take a mandatory drug test two weeks prior to state competition
- **School Schedules:** Secondary school start times will be pushed back to accommodate students natural sleep patterns

Started in 1937, Idaho was the second state (behind New York) to sponsor this program for high school students.

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THE TREASURE VALLEY FAMILY YMCA:

The Treasure Valley Family YMCA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. The Treasure Valley Family YMCA is guided by four core values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. With over 54,000 members across the Treasure Valley, we also serve over 37,000 children every year with our services and programs. In 2010, we provided over \$5 million in financial assistance and scholarships so that no one was turned away from a YMCA program or service due to inability to pay. We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. ymcatvidaho.org

The Y

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,687 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. ymca.net

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