



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov



Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

742 Miller Dr. SE Leesburg, VA 20175

571/246-8813

Youth in Government Day 2019 Teacher Information Sheet

Dear Social Science Teachers:

Thank you for your help in making last year's Youth in Government Day 2018 a success! Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services staff members are hard at work to make sure this year is even better. We greatly appreciate your role in selecting the student participants for Youth in Government Day. The following fact sheet is intended to help you answer questions from your students.

Date/ Location: Youth in Government Day 2019 will be held at the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison St SE, Leesburg VA 20175 on Tuesday May 7, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 6:30pm, at the end of the Board of Supervisors meeting that evening. All participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the event.

What will students do at Youth in Government Day? Students will meet their representatives from the Board of Supervisors, they will problem-solve with representatives from local government agencies, they will have lunch with County agency representatives and members of the Board of Supervisors. This year students attending Youth in Government Day will participate in an Oxford Debate. Oxford-style debates follow a formal structure by which participants argue for or against a given topic that is important to Loudoun County local government. Youth in Government Day student participants will learn how to respectfully argue their opponents' points while defending their own. A winner is declared in an Oxford-Style debate either by the majority or by which team has swayed more audience members between the two votes. The idea behind the debate is to show our youth the complexities, compromise and nuances elected officials are faced with when making decisions on behalf of local government and citizens. (Please note that students do not need to have experience with debating a topic. This will be an introduction to learning how to respectfully argue a position on an important issue facing local government. Students will break into teams in the morning session where they will be accompanied by a group facilitator who will prepare them for their argument and provide guidance for following the rules for the debate.) Students will also participate in the Board of Supervisors meeting that evening, and will be provided dinner.

How many students can participate? Each Loudoun County high school is asked to send 4 students.

How do I select students to participate? Since this is an opportunity to see government in action, we welcome any high school student you select to participate. Other factors you may consider: interest in government, leadership characteristics, professionalism, etc.

After I select 4 students to participate, how do the students complete the paperwork? Students will complete the student application (now online) by **April 16th, 2019**. Applications can be found at www.Loudoun.gov/YouthInGovernmentDay we ask that you only share this link with the 4 nominated students. **We highly encourage students to submit their applications early so that unfilled spots can be re-assigned to another student from your school. Turnaround time between the due date and new student selection to fill an empty school slot will be VERY limited.**

Application Deadlines: Students must complete the online application (please see link above) no later than **April 16th, 2019**.

What happens after the social science department head selects four students to apply? Once the student completes his or her application, Alex Beard will review their student application and contact the students with additional and updated information via email. Social Science department chairs will be cc'd on accepted student notifications to help keep track of school registration progress.

Who do I contact if my students or I have questions? You may contact Alex Beard by phone at (703)737-8335 or by email at Alexander.Beard@Loudoun.gov.