

Youth Legislative Development Conference



- Learn the American political tradition
- Participate in a mock senate and draft legislation
- Enjoy tours of D.C. attractions and historic monuments
- Explore a Christian's role in politics and society
- Attend an exclusive congressional briefing
- Make friends with like-minded students
- Meet political leaders and hear how their faith influences their work

Cost: Student participants are responsible only for a modest registration fee and personal expenses, including souvenir shopping and personal transportation to/from Washington, D.C. The full conference costs (i.e., lodging, meals, sightseeing) are covered through AACs scholarships that are funded by generous donors. Please see your school administrator or principal for application details.



Attendees to the Youth Legislative Development Conference (YLDC) must be nominated by their state association office. If you are interested in attending the YLDC, ask your high school principal to contact your state association office.

Don't Miss
an incredible opportunity!

July 6-10, 2026



AACS Youth Legislative Development Conference

2026 FACT SHEET

WHEN: July 6–10, 2026

Begins on Monday, July 6, at 2:00 p.m. and ends on Friday, July 10, at noon

Plan to arrive at The Leadership Institute (LI) no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6, to register and be ready for the first session. A prompt beginning is important for the success of the week. Registration will take place in the lobby of The Leadership Institute (LI) building.

WHERE: The Leadership Institute
1101 North Highland Street
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: (703) 247-2000

The students will be housed separately in secure, locked, dormitory-type housing in The Leadership Institute's Steven P. J. Wood Building. The AACS, not LI, will provide adult chaperones to supervise the young people.

WHO: For students from AACS member schools who will graduate in 2026, 2027, or 2028.

WHAT: The Youth Legislative Development Conference is designed to inform AACS young people about the American political system through the prism of a biblical worldview. The students will participate in a mock senate, meet their senators and representatives, attend a Congressional briefing designed just for them, and glean important lessons from a wide variety of workshop speakers who will give them practical insight into the workings of Washington. Students also have the privilege of touring significant sites in the area.

COSTS: A \$25 registration fee is required for each student selected to attend the YLDC. This fee is due *after* the student has been notified by the AACS of his selection and when the student sends in the registration form (not when initially applying). The registration fee will increase to \$50 if not received by the deadline of May 25. There is also a nominal fee for students who require AACS transportation to and from the airport (see the Transportation section). Each student selected to attend the conference will be given a scholarship that will cover the cost of the conference, lodging (Monday night through Thursday night), meals (Monday dinner through Friday lunch), and the scheduled sightseeing trips.

Late Departures

Additional meals prior to Monday dinner or after Friday lunch will be the responsibility of each individual.

TRANSPORTATION:

The scholarship does not include the cost of a student's transportation from his hometown to and from Washington, D.C.

Airline transportation: The most convenient airport to LI is the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Morning transportation is preferred. Dulles International Airport (IAD) is a secondary choice, and travel to and from Dulles incurs a significant additional transportation fee.

Transportation to and from LI from the airports can be arranged by AACS. The cost is \$10 per person for roundtrip transportation from DCA, \$50 per person from IAD. This charge is payable when registering.

TRANSPORTATION (Cont.):

If possible, select flights that arrive or depart DCA within the following time intervals:

Airport Arrival Times: Monday, July 6 8:00 a.m.–noon

Airport Departure Times: Friday, July 10 2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

For information on ground transportation from the airports, contact the Washington Office at (202) 547-2991.

Ground transportation: Students will not be allowed to drive their vehicles during the days of the conference. Parking is extremely limited and expensive around the LI building. Please contact the AACS office if your student plans to drive himself to the conference.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

The AACS expects high standards of Christian conduct. Conduct of participants is expected to follow

1 Timothy 4:12: “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” Insubordination or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. An uncooperative student is subject to dismissal.

DRESS GUIDELINES:

Young Ladies: Knee-length dresses, or skirts with blouses (please, no T-shirts or sleeveless tops), and dress/casual shoes should be worn for all sessions and tours. Tennis shoes or flip-flops may be worn on select tours. Sunday-dress attire should be worn for the Congressional office appointment and the Thursday final debates. Loose fitting slacks may be worn in the recreation area and on the monument tour. Shorts are not to be worn outside of dorm rooms. All clothing should be modest. Please, no tight-fitting clothing or shirts with low necklines.

Young Men: Neat, collared shirts (tucked in), dress/casual slacks, and dress/casual shoes should be worn for all sessions and tours. Tennis shoes may be worn on select tours. A suit or sports coat, dress shirt, and tie should be worn when visiting Congressional offices and for the Thursday final debates. Polos and khaki pants may be worn in the recreation area and on the monument tour. Shorts and tank tops are not to be worn outside of dorm rooms. Please, no tight-fitting clothing or shirts with objectionable pictures or words.

The AACS reserves the right to ask any student to change clothing if, in the estimation of the staff, the clothing does not comply with these guidelines.

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the large amount of walking around D.C., all students are encouraged to bring shoes that are comfortable for walking. Also, students may wish to bring warm pajamas.

WHAT TO BRING:

Bible, pen, paper, hangers, umbrella or rain jacket, toiletries (including a washcloth if desired), spending money for incidentals or souvenirs. Also, please bring a laptop or tablet if you have one for the mock senate. LI provides linens and a towel. (Note: Washcloths are not provided.)

DO NOT BRING:

Tobacco/drugs/alcohol, weapons, fireworks, regular playing cards.

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE APPOINTMENTS: Each participant should make an appointment in advance with his Representative or a Senator for Tuesday afternoon, July 7, between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. in their respective offices. (If your Congressman is not available to meet at that time, you may ask to schedule a meeting with his education staffer.) When you call, ask for the “scheduler.” Inform him of the reason you are in Washington, D.C., and why you desire to meet with the Congressman. Tell him that you would like a photo opportunity if possible. You may be asked to email this information to the scheduler. If you need assistance with phone numbers or how to handle the conversation, visit your [Congressman's](#) or [Senator's](#) website or contact your principal, Christian school association state director, or the AACS Washington Office.