



AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference—2019

July 8–12, the AACS hosted the 25th annual Youth Legislative Training Conference (YLTC), giving 41 high school students from 18 different states the opportunity to experience the political workings of Washington, D.C., from a biblical perspective. During the week-long conference, the attendees participated in a mock senate, spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress, heard from conservative leaders, and toured several historical sites in our nation's capital. These activities were designed to give the students a greater understanding of our government and an appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy.

During the mock senate, each of the participants role-played a current Senator, engaging in caucus meetings and committee meetings where participants drafted legislation on domestic and foreign policy issues. At the end of the week, the students debated and voted on the bills they created. The mock senate provided the students with some first-hand experience of the Senate's legislative process.

The conference also gave the teens the opportunity to hear from a range of wonderful speakers, including several Leadership Institute (LI) speakers, such as Hannah-Catherine Smith, who serves as LI's Communications Training and Studios Coordinator, Ben Woodard, who is LI's Deputy Director of Career Programs, and Autumn Campbell, who works as LI's International Program Coordinator. Other speakers included Timothy Goeglein, Vice President for External Relations at Focus on the Family, and Representative Russ Fulcher (ID), who encouraged the students to consider serving the Lord through public service. A special Day on the Hill gave the teens the opportunity to attend a congressional briefing designed just for them and also to visit their own Representatives and Senators. During the briefing, they heard from Representative Mark Walker (NC), Representative Virginia Foxx (NC), Senator Mike Lee (UT), and Jim Neill, Policy Advisor for Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

A highlight of the week was a panel of [Hill staffers](#) who were either YLTC alumni or former AACS interns who pointed to the YLTC as the event the Lord used to direct them into their current careers in the political world. How exciting for our conference students to see what is possible for them in the future and hear how the Lord opens doors when one is yielded to Him!

Throughout the week, the students also enjoyed a tour of the National Archives, a sunset monuments tour, and an after-hours tour of the Capitol led by Representative Barry Loudermilk (GA). The week culminated with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where four of the students who excelled throughout the week represented AACS in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We pray that God will use the unique experiences and lessons from this amazing week to influence and guide their lives. The AACS is grateful to the many people who contributed to the program, providing financial support for student scholarships. We also extend our appreciation to our corporate sponsor, [WORLD News Group](#), a news organization seeking to produce daily coverage of current events from a biblical worldview. For pictures of the week, please visit our [Facebook page](#). To view a video of the week's activities, [click here](#).

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