



## AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference—2022

The AACCS hosted its annual Youth Legislative Training Conference the week of July 11 to 15. This year, 33 enthusiastic high school students from 20 states were selected to gather in Washington, D.C., to learn about politics from a biblical perspective, sharpen their leadership skills, and forge lifelong friendships. The YLTC highlights included a mock senate, constituent meetings with senators and representatives, insights from top conservative leaders, and tours of historic sites. At the end of the week, students returned home with a deeper respect for our government and a better understanding of a Christian's role in the political process.

Every student role-played a current senator and was assigned to one of four committees. Under the instruction of Gail Nicholas, a 5-Diamond coach in the National Speech and Debate Association, the students crafted legislation, led committee meetings, debated their bills, and voted on legislation drafted by their peers. Because of this hands-on experience, students left with a better understanding of Senate procedure and the experience to educate their friends and classmates back home.

The students were privileged to listen to a variety of speakers during Tuesday's Congressional Briefing, including Representative Bob Good (VA); Senators Ted Cruz (TX), James Lankford (OK), and Rick Scott (FL); and conservative media specialist Rachel Semmel. A common theme throughout many of the presentations was an emphasis on viewing God's call into politics as a ministry and service opportunity. At the close of each presentation, a student from each member's state closed with a personal prayer and blessing for his or her representative. The students also had the opportunity to hear virtual remarks from Representatives Virginia Foxx (NC) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA), along with presentations from the Leadership Institute personnel, including the Director of Communications Training, Ryan Brann; the Christian Leader Program Manager, Amanda Spiers; and the Director of Political and Fundraising Training, Kirsten Holmberg.

Hill staffers and former AACCS intern or YLTC graduates Luke Ball, Nicole White, and Peter Holland returned to participate in a panel discussion that challenged students to find their true motives for political involvement. They advocated standing up for biblical principles and ended by answering student questions about internship opportunities and making a difference as young Christians in politics.

Other highlights of the week included a tour of the Holocaust Museum and a monument tour of national landmarks including the Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam War, Korean War, and WWII memorials, along with the Washington Monument. The week culminated with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where four exemplary YLTC students, who had been selected and awarded the honor of representing AACCS, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We are grateful for an incredible week of YLTC and pray for God's blessing and guidance for the students who participated. The AACCS is grateful to everyone who made the week possible, whether volunteering time or donating money for student scholarships. We are especially grateful for the group of dedicated chaperones who helped make this year's YLTC a success. For pictures of the week, please visit our [Facebook page](#) (@AACSEducatess) or our [YLTC Instagram account](#) (yltc\_aacs).