



## AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference—2024

The AACCS hosted the 30th annual Youth Legislative Training Conference from July 8 to 12, 2024. This year, 34 high school students from 17 states gathered in Washington, D.C., to learn about a Christian political worldview, to sharpen their leadership skills, and to forge lifelong friendships. Conference highlights included a mock senate, a congressional briefing in the U.S. Capitol, meetings with congressional offices, insights from top conservative leaders, and tours of some of our nation's historic sites. The mock senate provided each student the opportunity to role-play a current senator and participate in one of four committees. Under the instruction of Mrs. Gail Nicholas, a 5-Diamond coach in the National Speech and Debate Association, the students crafted legislation, led committee meetings, debated the bills, and voted on their peers' legislation. Through this experience, the students learned Senate procedure and the confidence to engage in the political process.

The week included a "Day on the Hill" where students were privileged to attend a special congressional briefing in the U.S. Capitol and hear from members of Congress who share Christian values and are working to protect the cause of freedom. These speakers included Senator James Lankford (OK), Chairman of the Senate Values Action Team; Representative Virginia Foxx (NC), Chair of the House Committee on Education and Labor; Representative Bob Good (VA), Chair of the House Freedom Caucus; Representative Mary Miller (IL), Chair of the Congressional Family Caucus; Representative Burgess Owens (UT); and Representative Josh Brecheen (OK). At the close of each presentation, a student had the opportunity to pray for these leaders on Capitol Hill.

Throughout the week, the students also heard from other speakers. William Wagner, president of Salt and Light Global, spoke to the students about how a biblical worldview should influence their approach to politics. Tim Goeglein, Vice President of External and Government Relations for Focus on the Family, encouraged the students to push on as Christians in government as the work is far from done. In addition, the students heard from Leadership Institute's Director of Digital Training, Stephen Rowe on using technology and social media strategically in politics. A highlight of the week was our "YLTC Alumni Panel," that featured D.C. professionals Luke Ball and Peter Holland who both attended the YLTC in high school, and Worth Loving, a Christian school alumnus who has been connected to the AACCS since his arrival in D.C. They spoke about the Christian presence in the political world and the powerful influence staffers have on members of Congress and public policy.

Other highlights of the week included watching the Marine Corps Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial and touring the Holocaust Museum. Dr. Tim Schmig joined the students on an evening monument tour featuring the Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam War, Korean War, and WWII memorials, and the Washington Monument. The students enjoyed hearing Dr. Schmig explain the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials' historical significance and interesting building features. The week culminated with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where four exemplary YLTC students were awarded the honor of representing AACCS by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We are grateful for an incredible week and pray for God's blessing and guidance for the students. The AACCS is grateful for the volunteers, donors, and chaperones who made this year's YLTC a success. For pictures of the week, please visit our [Facebook page \(@AACCSeducates\)](#) or our [YLTC Instagram account \(@yltc\\_aacs\)](#).