



## **GEORGIA YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

### Competition Informational Guide

At the Georgia Youth Assembly Program there are multiple awards that students can be awarded. These awards are competitively based and determined by GCCE Conference Staff and a select Awards Committee chosen to evaluate the performance of the delegates in attendance. More detailed information will be shown on following pages:

#### **OUTSTANDING OVERALL DELEGATION:**

This award goes to the school that checked all the appropriate boxes during the Youth Assembly experience. From registrations, to Bill submissions, appropriate delegate dress, delegate behavior, preparedness of delegates, to delegate participant engagement, this school will put forward the ideal overall conference experience that other schools might seek to seek after.

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS:**

Best Conference Bill  
Outstanding Senate Bill  
Outstanding House Bill  
McCutchen Award Senate (Outstanding Debater x2)  
McCutchen Award House (Outstanding Debater x2)

#### **LOBBYIST PROGRAM AWARDS:**

Outstanding Lobbyist Delegate

#### **MEDIA PROGRAM AWARDS:**

Outstanding Media Delegate

#### **JUDICIAL PROGRAM AWARDS:**

Best Orator  
Best Judicial Brief  
Best Judicial Team



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#### MCCUTCHEN (OUTSTANDING LEGISLATIVE DELEGATE) SELECTION CRITERIA

At the Closing Joint Session of Youth Assembly, the four (4) McCutchen Award Winners are named. The McCutchen Awards go to the Outstanding Statesmen in both the Senate and House Chambers. All delegates in the Senate & House are eligible. A committee of Conference Leadership as determined observe/judge delegates throughout Youth Assembly & select the winners.

#### ***Each recipient is judged on the following points:***

- 1) Knowledge of the delegates Bill &/or other Bills selected for debate in the Bill Book.
- 2) Knowledge of the rules & parliamentary procedure.
- 3) Ability of the delegate to express opinions with clarity & without offensiveness to other members of Youth Assembly.
- 4) Ability to make a presentation with poise, conciseness, humility & yet demonstrate assurance of position.
- 5) Judgment to know when to speak & when to remain silent.
- 6) Personal appearance & demeanor.

#### OUTSTANDING BILLS AND BEST BILL...SELECTION CRITERIA

At the Closing Joint Session of Youth Assembly, at least three (3) Outstanding Bill Awards will be recognized. These awards are presented by the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement Staff & Board of Directors. The Youth Assembly Bill Selection Committee determines the Outstanding Bills & Best Bill based on the following points:

- 1) The Bill deals with only one subject.
- 2) The Bill expresses the subject accurately in the Purpose.
- 3) The Bill deals with a matter that is within the jurisdiction of the state rather than within federal, county, or city ordinances.
- 4) The Bill expresses the author's intent in concise, everyday language.
- 5) The Bill represents clear & analytical thinking by the Author(s).
- 6) The Bill includes a definition of terms, if needed, in an early part of the bill.
- 7) The Bill follows the proper order of arrangement.



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#### OUTSTANDING DELEGATION

At the Closing Joint Session of Youth Assembly, the Most Outstanding Delegation is named. The McCutchen Awards go to the Outstanding Statesmen in both the Senate and House Chambers. All delegates in the Senate & House are eligible. A committee of Conference Leadership as determined observe/judge delegates throughout Youth Assembly & select the winners.

***Each recipient is judged on the following points:***

- 1) Knowledge of the delegates Bill &/or other Bills selected for debate in the Bill Book.
- 2) Knowledge of the rules & parliamentary procedure.
- 3) Ability of the delegate to express opinions with clarity & without offensiveness to other members of Youth Assembly.
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#### LOBBYIST PROGRAM INFORMATION & COMPETITION RUBRIC

The GCCE Lobbyist Program began with the 29th Youth Assembly in 1974.

The Lobbyist Program was actually created as a result of something that happened at a previous (28th) Youth Assembly. John Prien, then President of the Georgia Society of Association Executives, was invited to speak and be interviewed by the Press Representatives. His topic was "the part a Lobbyist plays in Legislation." Mr. Prien was so impressed with the reaction and questions he received from the Press group that he approached Gerald Wade, then Executive Director, about starting a "Youth Lobbyist Program."

The following Youth Assembly, the Lobbyist program, with Mr. Prien as Chairman, began. The following "real live adult Lobbyists" assisted Mr. Prien in conducting the first Lobbyist program:

Gene Dyson, President, Georgia Business and Industry Association

Abit F. Massey, Executive Director, Georgia Poultry Federation

Bryce W. Holcomb, Executive Vice President, Georgia Soft Drink Association

William F. Morie, Executive Vice President, Georgia Automobile Dealers Association

Don Rooks, Administrative Assistant, Georgia School Boards Association

Bill Sanders, Executive Secretary, Georgia Egg Commission

A good definition of a "real" Lobbyist, as suggested by Abit Massey at the first Lobbyist program, is: "A Lobbyist is a representative of an interest group whose principal function is to link organized interests with public officials."

Lobbyists try to keep open the channels of communication between the group they represent and the government and the public. They supply information to legislators and administrative officials and keep members of the group they represent informed.

Lobbyists perform a vital function within a democracy by keeping an eye on the activities of government and by assuring a representative form of government by presenting the views and position of particular groups to elected and appointed officials.

Depending on the year, our Lobbyists may represent the interests of a specific firm. They will argue on Bills based on firm interest and not personal feelings and will receive a very good insight into the role of a Lobbyist as he/she gathers and supplies information to legislators and administrative officials.

While at Youth Assembly, Lobbyists will have the opportunity to speak in committee meetings to garner support either in favor, or in opposition of Bills put before committees. They will have the ability to send messages via the Messenger of the Chambers to members in an attempt to communicate information regarding current Bills up for debate in the chambers. The students in this program will also work directly with the Chief of Staff communicating arguments for, or against, particular pieces of legislation in an attempt to garner support for the Youth Governor.

Additional information regarding the Lobbyist Program Scoring Model is on the following page.



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### LOBBYIST PROGRAM INFORMATION & COMPETITION RUBRIC

\*Please note, points may be awarded to a Lobbyist Participate by the Program Coordinator, at discretion for successful argument on a Bill either in Committee or Chambers that leads to the passing or failure on a Bill, and the signing or vetoing of a Bill by the Youth Governor. Specific rubric information is listed below. The criteria is broken into 4 parts: Debate, Speech, Character, and Program Coordinator Evaluation/Recommendation.

### DEBATE RUBRIC

#### CRITERION

<i>*Please review the competition rubric listed below and make the appropriate selection based upon the students performance.</i>	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
<b>DEBATE:</b> Viewpoints, facts, strengths, examples, supporting arguments, & speaking voice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SPEECH:</b> Intro, body of argument, conclusion, eye contact, use of language, body language, clarity, topic is specific & adapted to audience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CHARACTER:</b> Integrity and kindness to others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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### JUDICIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION & COMPETITION RUBRIC

Judicial Teams (two students per team) serve as Youth Lawyers to present written and oral Briefs representing both sides of an assigned Georgia Supreme Court Case. An appeal from a trial court to an appellate court normally involves two components: a written brief and an oral argument. As Youth Attorneys, you and your partner will argue an appellate case before a panel of judges.

Each team member must participate in each oral argument, and must be prepared to argue either side of the case. Each team that decides to do so may prepare one 3-5 page written brief supporting one side of the case. One member of the team will write on one issue, and the other team member will write on the other issue.

Judges use a rubric scoring sheet to grade the teams in each round of competition. Conference Awards typically given out in the closing session include: Best Team, Best Brief, Best Orator, as well as announcements of the next year's Judicial Justices.

### DEBATE RUBRIC

#### PROGRAM SCORING CATEGORIES

<i>Category topic which students are scored by in each round. Scores range from 1 point (low score) to 10 points (high score) for each topic below and for each individual student participating.</i>	STUDENT # 1	STUDENT # 2
<b>ORGANIZATION &amp; PREPARATION</b>	SCORE: ____	SCORE: ____
<b>ANSWERING QUESTIONS</b>	SCORE: ____	SCORE: ____
<b>PERSUASIVENESS, REGARDLESS OF MERITS</b>	SCORE: ____	SCORE: ____
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	SCORE: ____	SCORE: ____
<b>COURTROOM CONDUCT</b>	SCORE: ____	SCORE: ____
<b>JUDGE'S INTUITION</b>	SCORE: ____	SCORE: ____



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#### MEDIA PROGRAM INFORMATION & COMPETITION RUBRIC

The Media Corps Program provides students participating in Youth Assembly with an opportunity to understand the role of media in a participatory democracy.

Media Corps students learn by doing.

**Print Media** - Participants engage in the actual skills of newspaper production: writing, interviewing, commentary, editing, layout, photography, graphics, production, and circulation. The students publish the official newspapers (could be print or electronic), called the Youth Assembly Record, during the conference.

**Digital Media** - Participants engage in the actual skills of videography, production, and editing. The students will produce a conference video.

### **PARTICIPATION RUBRIC GUIDE**

*CRITERIA CONSIDERED BY PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:*

- ★ **Timely arrival at all scheduled meetings of the corps.**
- ★ **Bringing necessary items to successfully participate.**
- ★ **Show a positive attitude and treat others with respect.**
- ★ **Meets all conference deadlines for submissions as requested.**
- ★ **Share delegations experience via social media during event.**
- ★ **Write an article for a local online/paper organs post event.**