

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LOCAL TEENS ATTEND LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND

MARCH 20, 2018

**Silver Bay, NY:** The District 3 YMCA Youth and Government participants attended the Albany Model Legislative Weekend on March 8-11, a statewide event for the YMCA Youth & Government program.

Nearly 500 teens attended the weekend, 96 of whom were representing District 3. The Albany weekend culminates several months of hard work for participants; for three intensive days, they become completely immersed in the political process.

The teens traveled to Albany to implement the Youth & Government program events in the authentic surroundings of the State Capitol, the Legislative Office Building and the Judicial Building.

Every participant involved in the program has a specific responsibility. Students may participate as legislators, or may become involved in the executive or judicial programs or as a lobbyist, press corps.

Out of the 96 District 3 participants, 3 students were elected to state Youth & Government positions for the following year. Jordan Roberts of the Bolton Central School District was elected Editor and Chief, Kira Mantz, also of Bolton Central was elected Head Lobbyist, Zachary Phelps, and Newcomb Central School student was elected Deputy Speaker of The Assembly.

Additionally, three teens from District 3 were chosen from the nearly 500 attendees to attend the Conference of National Affairs in North Carolina this summer. Those students are Thomas Fuller of Johnsbury Central School, Kira Mantz and Molly Showers both of Bolton Central School. Three more were chosen as alternates for the event, those students are Jayden Mignot and Summer Foy of the Bolton Central School and James Gocke of the Newcomb Central School.

District 3 is comprised of approximately 100 students from Bolton, Queensbury, Newcomb, Minerva, Johnsbury, Saratoga YMCA, and Ticonderoga who participate in programs either at their school or local YMCA. Silver Bay is the site for the District 3 Conference every January and coordinates the District's participation in several state conferences including the Albany Model Legislative Weekend.

The students are working on bills that relate to a wide range of topics including domestic relations law, taxation, public health laws, labor statutes, and education reform. In addition to the teens' preparation for their upcoming conference, the District participants are collecting clothing as a service project to benefit to AMVETS.

YMCA Youth & Government is a national program of the Y that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model-government programs. Students from every corner of the U.S. have the opportunity to immerse themselves in experiential civic engagement and to, quite literally, practice democracy. Teens from across every state meet in their local Youth & Government groups throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose legislation. The program culminates with teens serving as delegates at their state conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature.

The program provides the problem-solving experience and the social arena for New York's future leaders to develop and strengthen their skills and confidence to better serve their communities. The participants conduct extensive research on their selected issue and write a report based on their findings. Local attorneys and government officials are consulted during this process. After the documents have been presented at the District conference, they are sent to the New York State Youth & Government Model Legislative Program.

**Attached photo:** View of the participants in the State Assembly Chambers, Albany NY

**Note to Editor:**

Silver Bay YMCA was founded in 1902 and is located in Silver Bay, NY, just minutes south of Hague, NY. Its 700 acre campus along one mile of Lake George shoreline offers a wide breadth of programs for all ages. Silver Bay YMCA presently employs 45 full-time staff members with a seasonal staff of 200. Silver Bay YMCA is consistently ranked one of the top ten family reunion sites in the country and is on the National Register of Historic Places with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

*Silver Bay has also won many outstanding awards and has been featured in several national media, including:*

Best Resort (2017,2015) Adirondack Life Magazine  
Best Venue for Family Reunions (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014) Unique Venues Magazine  
Best on Lake George and Best Exceptional Amenities (2016) LakeGeorge.com  
Special Distinguished Business Award (2015) Adirondack Business Council  
New York Times (Travel Section) September 2014  
Better Homes and Gardens (May 2014)

Silver Bay YMCA is a leader in Lake George stewardship and was the first on Lake George to be awarded LID (Low Impact Development) certification in 2016 for its newly relocated parking area.

As a mission based charity, Silver Bay YMCA offers outreach programs in addition to its core activities as a premier conference and family retreat center. Those activities include:

- Ticonderoga Teen Center
- Open Pathways (Access to Silver Bay YMCA for the underprivileged)
- Youth and Government Program (covering Queensbury to Ticonderoga)
- Cancer Respite Program (Free respite for local cancer patients)

- Military R & R Program (Free getaway for recently deployed veterans and families)
- Brookside Trinity Ministry (Free respite and sabbatical getaways for clergy)
- Vacations Made Possible (Free getaways for local underprivileged families)

The mission of Silver Bay YMCA is to foster a lifelong sense of belonging, strengthen relationships, and nurture spirit, mind, and body for all.

[www.silverbay.org](http://www.silverbay.org)

**Media contact:**

Liz Lastowski

Marketing & Communications Director

SILVER BAY YMCA

87 Silver Bay Road, Silver Bay NY 12874

(P) 518 543 8508

(E) [llastowski@silverbay.org](mailto:llastowski@silverbay.org)