

November 30, 2021

Press Release

From: Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center

SILVER BAY YMCA RESUMES YOUTH & GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Silver Bay, NY: The Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center is pleased to announce the return of the Youth & Government Program for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 local students joined 22 other students from across New York State in Suffern, New York earlier this month to participate in the first meeting through the Youth & Government Program, a national program of the Y that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model government programs.

"Youth & Government is pivotal in shaping tomorrow's leaders, providing first-hand experience in governmental processes as they learn how to discuss issues, negotiate and debate topics, and present their position in front of others," said Chief Executive Officer Steve Tamm. "Knowing that it has been over 18 months since local teens have been able to meet, learn and experience the legislative process, it is a major win for students in our local communities that we can resume this impactful program."

This first meeting, specific to those who will serve as justices at the Annual State Conference in March 2022, provided essential leadership training to help strengthen their judicial skills. There are several other Youth & Government students who have already begun developing proposals on a wide range of topics and have started to learn more about their responsibilities as legislators, lobbyists, attorneys and other roles.

"It is impressive to see these young students coming together to discuss and debate issues that affect their communities and learn the importance of democracy first hand," stated Youth and Teen Director Jackie Palandrani, who has coordinated the local district of Youth & Government for over 18 years. "They are our future leaders and it is so inspiring to see their passion and dedication as they learn and grow."

Local students will continue to refine their proposals and practice civic engagement throughout the school year and gather for the annual district conference at Silver Bay YMCA in early 2022. The program will culminate with the Annual New York State Youth & Government Conference in March 2022, when students will take to the floor of the Capitol building in Albany to present their legislature.

Youth & Government is one of many youth programs that Silver Bay YMCA has restarted to support local teens, including the Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center in Ticonderoga with a date to be determined in early 2022.

"We are committed to providing safe, healthy spaces and activities for local youth, including through Youth & Government and the Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center," stated Tamm. "We are so grateful for all those who have made programs like these possible through their kindness and generosity and we are excited to see how these programs will grow and thrive."

Silver Bay YMCA Media Contact:

Steve Tamm

CEO

SILVER BAY YMCA

87 Silver Bay Road, Silver Bay NY 12874

(P) 518 543 8525

(E) stamm@silverbay.org

Note to the 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. 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:

- Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center in Ticonderoga (Free access for local teens)
- 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 and R Program (Free getaway for recently deployed veterans and their families)
- Brookside Trinity Ministry (Free respite and sabbatical getaways for clergy)
- Vacations Made Possible (Free getaways for local underprivileged families)
- Silver Bay's Annual Community e-Waste day collects over 3,000 lbs. of unwanted electronics for recycling.

Our MISSION: To foster relationships, strengthen communities and nurture spirit, mind and body for all.

Our IMPACT: Because of Silver Bay YMCA, connections between people and family are stronger. People are more connected, respectful and caring. They have the confidence to develop to their full potential and to positively impact the communities in which they work and live. As a result, communities are more dynamic, inclusive and diverse. As stewards of Lake George, we inspire people to be stewards of the environment while they are visiting our magnificent campus and in their home communities.

www.silverbay.org