**YMCA Youth & Government**

Conference on National Affairs

Info Supplement

Thank you for your interest in the Conference on National Affairs (CONA).

2021 CONA will be a virtual event from **June 26, 2021-July 1, 2021.** Delegates are asked to plan for a 6-hour commitment each day.

The fee to attend CONA this year is $80, details on submitting payment will be provided to you following your acceptance to CONA.

Delegates must complete an online application no later than April 23rd. Delegates who apply to CONA may be asked to take part in an interview and their work during conference will be viewed as a tryout.

Be sure to join the Leadership Roundtable on March 23rd to learn more about CONA and get details on this year’s meeting/training schedule.

Additional details on the history of CONA and what is expected of delegates can be found on the following page. If you have any questions, please let a member of Management Team know.

Ready to apply? [**Click Here**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVLd07O25gTrdrz_6vMkFZ60d2yEsQHM5Mzsq88NRsSWu7ag/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Conference on National Affairs - CONA**

**Background**

In 1967, a group of young people, having enjoyed their experience in the State Youth in Government Programs, determined that the experience could be broadened to a more meaningful level by participation in a conference dealing with matters of national and international concern. As a result of their idea and the work that followed, the first YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs (CONA) had its small beginning in 1968 at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Now located at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina, the program will hopefully continue to grow until youth from all states with Youth in Government programs are involved.

**Purpose**

This program offers unique opportunities for delegates to conduct research in the areas of national and international concerns, organize this information into proposals, engage in intensive discussion, and debate their ideas with outstanding delegates from other states. Advisors and young people who have participated in the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs are unanimous in their agreement that the CONA experience makes a vital contribution to helping citizens learn more about the democratic form of government. The specific objectives of the conference include:

1. Increasing awareness of national concerns and issues
2. Increasing understanding of the Federal Government and its relation to state, national and international matters
3. Enhancing communications to appropriate persons and groups at the Federal government level
4. Developing an understanding of needs, responsibilities, and opportunities for youth to serve in government
5. Working creatively and productively together with youth and adults
6. Strengthening commitment to - and better understanding of - the core values of the YMCA:

Caring, Honesty, Respect & Responsibility.

Each CONA delegate is required to write a proposal of National or International significance and be prepared to share their proposal during hearings at CONA. Leadership positions within the delegation will be voted on and provided to CONA Leadership who make a final determination on delegate leadership roles.

CONA delegates may be first year delegates and do not need to have legislative experience.