



FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

CIVIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

Youth In Government & USFSP Partnership

The Civic Fellows Program is a partnership between the Florida YMCA Youth In Government program and the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, to provide college credit for up to 75 YIG students. This yearlong academic course begins and ends in June with a Summer Civics Institute and runs throughout the YIG program, with students learning in a hands-on model and receiving credit in POS 3182 Florida Politics and LDR 3263 Community Leadership.

The Civic Engagement Citizen Scholar Program at the Center for Civic Engagement at the University of South Florida partnership with Florida YMCA Youth In Government has existed since 2017. In its time, the program and Summer Civics Institute have maintained a nonpartisan commitment and ensured students hear from various local and state officials across all party affiliations. In addition, the program has broad support from the legislative leadership in the state.



The First Three Years

89 students have completed the Civic Fellows Scholarship Program and received six credit hours for their participation.

Students have had the opportunity to visit the **Supervisor of Elections**, multiple municipal governments, city halls, museums, and community organizations.

The Civic Fellows have had the opportunity to learn from USFSP professors, nationally regarded authors, elected officials and staff, and more. They have also met with **Lt. Governor Nunez** and legislative leadership including **Speaker Chris Sprowls** and **Chairman Latvala**.



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2021-2022 Program Year

Students will participate in their local Youth In Government Programming, complete two civic project papers, and attend both statewide YIG events. The program concludes with the week long USFSP YMCA Summer Civics Institutes at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg. The program is tentatively scheduled for June 12-18, 2022.



Citizen Scholar Program Civics Projects

- Attend City Council, School Board, County Commission, or City Commission meeting
- Volunteer for a community agency
- Volunteer for a political campaign
- Visit the local Democratic or Republican Party headquarters
- Visit a political campaign headquarters
- Attend a campaign event
- Visit a state or federal legislator's office
- Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about an issue of concern to you
- Watch a Florida Supreme Court oral argument online
- Visit a state or local courthouse and watch a proceeding
- Attend a neighborhood association meeting
- Meet with a lobbyist regarding legislative agenda
- Interview a journalist who covers state, local, or national politics
- Visit the Supervisor of Elections Office, or either register to vote and/or help a friend to register to vote