



Dear Educators, Parents/Guardians, and Families,

Each year, the YMCA works with hundreds of middle school and high school educators around the country who help sponsor and advise our YMCA Youth and Government program (www.ymcayag.org) – one of the nation’s oldest and largest extracurricular civic education opportunities for students.

Through a new partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship, or NCoC (www.ncoc.org), the Y is recognizing, training, and supporting middle and high school educators as Civic Health Champions who will work to strengthen the civic health of their schools through their sponsorship of the Youth and Government program.

Strengthening “civic health” – how we work together to define and address public issues – is only possible with greater inclusion and support of youth voices. The Y’s civic health strategy invests in our work to empower young people – not just as program participants, but as active contributors and stakeholders in decision-making within our schools, communities, and institutions.

As part of their role, Civic Health Champions will facilitate their school’s participation in the Y’s **Youth Civic Health Survey**, inspired by NCoC’s Civic Health Index (CHI) and consisting of indicators adapted from the Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Supplement of the US Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (CPS).

You can view the full survey, including each of the 20 indicators/questions, at the online link below, which also includes a PDF download of the indicators:

www.ymcayag.org/civic-health-survey

The survey will be offered to students at your school via this online portal prior to March 31st, 2022. Each Champion will work with their fellow faculty and administrators to determine the best strategy for offering the survey at their school. This survey is completely anonymous – no personal or contact information will be collected beyond basic demographic data – and participation is voluntary.

At the end of the year, the Y and NCoC will publish a joint report on the work of our Civic Health Champions, including findings from the data collected through the Youth Civic Health Survey that will guide our ongoing efforts to support the civic health of our students, schools, and communities around the country.

If you have any additional questions about the Youth Civic Health Survey, or the work of our Civic Health Champions, please feel free to contact me at derek.summerville@ymca.net.

Sincerely,

Derek Summerville

Director, Youth Engagement
YMCA of the USA