Virginia Young Democrats Announce High School Leadership Academy

The Virginia Young Democrats (VAYD) are proud to announce their inaugural High School Leadership Academy.

The Academy will take place on April 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at George Mason University – Arlington.

"This Academy is an important new program for the Virginia Young Democrats. Often high school students are overlooked by the traditional media because many are unable to vote," said Jamie Nolan, VAYD President. "However, many high school students are key political leaders in their communities on both political and issue advocacy campaigns."

The Academy is open to all high school students with special preference given to students from Virginia.

"This Academy opens the opportunity for top-level political and advocacy training to high school students. Often, high school students do not have access to this type of high-level until they move on to college. That's too late; they have already missed out on jump starting their political careers," said Graham Weinschenk, VAYD Teen Caucus chair and a member of the Academy's Planning Committee.

Registration is capped at 75 students and demand for attendance is high. Interested high school students should apply immediately. Students may apply at www.vayd.com.

"This Academy will provide students with the skills necessary to research, craft, design, manage and execute an issue advocacy campaign - either in their communities or on their college campus," said Maggie Davis, VAYD Outreach Chair and chair of the Academy's Planning Committee. "We have arrange top trainers including elected officials, issue experts and members of the media. Students will learn from leaders and then work with them to develop and execute an issue advocacy campaign."

The cost of registration is \$20 for members of VAYD chapters and \$25 for non-members. Scholarships are available.



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