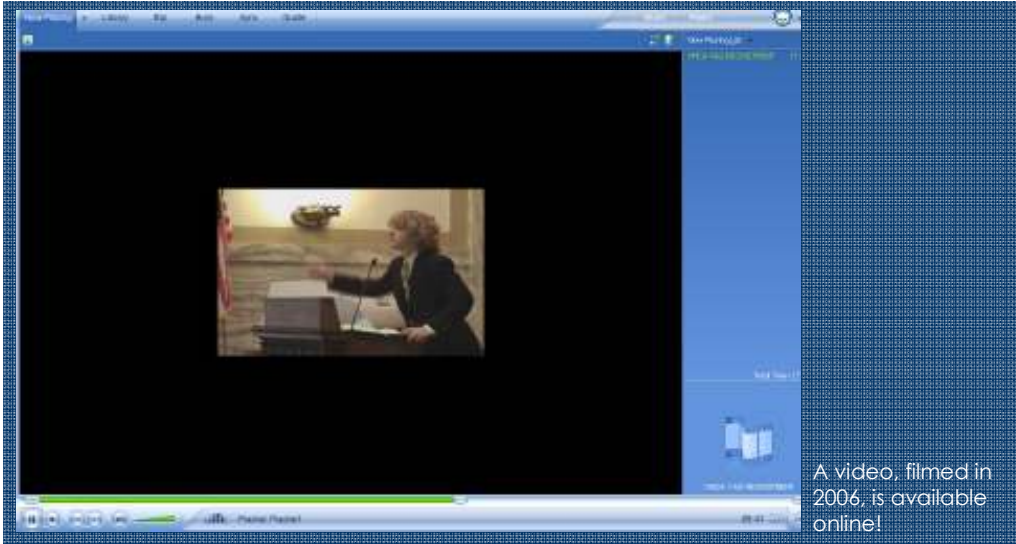


# YMCA Youth & Government



A video, filmed in 2006, is available online!

## **Reminders:**

- Registrations due February 15
- Bills due March 1 (Do you know when YOUR advisor wants them so that s/he can send them as a group?)
- Briefs are due 15

## **New recruitment video!**

The Spring 2006 GFHS Video Production Class joined us at YMCA Youth and Government last year and videotaped hours and hours of footage. After many more hours of voice-overs and editing, the 17-minute finished product is done! All current advisors received a copy of the video. If your delegation did not

get one and you would like to use the video to introduce new people to the program, please contact us and we will send your advisor a copy!

A huge thanks to Mr. Kelly Wiles and his students for the fantastic job they did on the production!

***“Democracy must be learned by each generation.”***

## **Hola from your Fearless Leader, Governor Ford Smith**

Hola everyone - how has the off-season been? Personally I have been training myself rigorously. Long days and short sleepless nights, sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night thirsty; a thirst which can only be quenched by a glass of cold water. So, I get up and get a glass of water and go back to sleep. It really isn't that big of a deal.

The 2007 Youth and Government session is soon approaching. I believe that it will be the best conference ever. With my incredible intellect and your willingness to experiment, what can go wrong?

A few things have been brought to my attention. Firstly, the position of governor is not meant to be a platform

from which to tell mediocre jokes. This conference, I hope to bring a small sense of respectability back to the position. Also, the bump and grind is under major attack from all fronts. Protecting this sacred institution of dance will be a major goal of mine. And lastly, the youth governor from Georgia gets to pick a first person. I know we can't change the way our program is run this late in the year; however, if anyone wants to check me out, feel free.

If anyone wants to contact me, you can send me an email at [youbetterbeawoman@hotmail.com](mailto:youbetterbeawoman@hotmail.com) (but seriously folks... my email is [ford\\_424@hotmail.com](mailto:ford_424@hotmail.com) email me if you have any questions or concerns!)



Delegates in the House.



The Supreme Court

## Why Stay at Fort Harrison?

Written by Miles City veteran advisor, Traci Duffin, the following are some tips about "The Fort."

### Reasons to stay at The Barracks

- it is cheap
- it is comfortable
- large metal bunks
- individual lockers
- it is safe (surrounded by soldiers and far from anything that kids can do to get into trouble)
- it is fun if you make it fun (I have them fall in, I bring a whistle, etc.)

### How advisors should prepare

- Be sure your driver has proper identification and licensing (the soldiers check)
- Be sure that you have identification and a list of your participants
- If someone is going to visit you at the barracks or drop off students at another time, be sure you let the guards know and let the visitor know to have ID

### Advisors bring

- a four-pack of toilet paper (it is hard to find help on Sunday night and that is one thing you can't do without until morning)
- an alarm clock (in my barracks we set a wake up time and have the earliest one wake others up - we also don't let anyone get up too early because it is noisy in that big open room)
- a phone
- an iron
- a simple supply of first aid supplies if you don't have it in the bus
- a folding chair, there are no chairs and the bunks are too low to sit in.

### Be prepared for

- communal showers
- no television, radios or phones
- armed soldiers inspecting your bus

## More about the Fort...

### Things you should be warned about

- more than one blow dryer will blow the breaker
- it can be very muddy if the weather is bad
- YOU and the kids have to clean the barracks on Wednesday morning before you leave (showers, toilets, sinks, garbage, lockers and floor)
- Check to make sure the passage door between the barracks in the bathroom is locked (the passage connects the boys' side with the girls' side!)

### What to bring

- Sleeping bag and extra blanket
- Pillow
- Towel
- Wash rag
- All toiletries
- Shower shoes
- Flashlight
- Lock for the locker
- Snacks and drinks (there is nowhere close)
- Folding chair
- I have lots of room to pack snacks, and we eat bagels, cereal and fruit for breakfast out at the barracks (another money saver)

Thanks, Traci, for giving everyone the heads up about this institution! Fort Harrison really is a fantastic option for delegations needing another way to reduce the cost for delegates. You spend so little time away from the Capitol anyway; you might as well use this option!



The Gallery

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**See you in Helena**  
**May 13-16, 2007**

## A Friendly Reminder...

Every other year, we march into the Capitol on the heels of the most recent legislative session. In a word, the Capitol staff is EXHAUSTED. Please keep this in mind as we use this special place for our conference. Behavior needs to be top notch and every delegate should plan to be practicing his or her BEST Captain Courteous impression in the weeks prior to arriving. Please help us out by being your best (like we'd expect anything less!!) Thanks!

## Appointed Leadership

On Saturday, March 10, the 2007 elected officials will meet to appoint interested students to the many positions that need to be filled. Once those appointments have been made, preparations are begun to train the committee chairs to do the best job possible!

Please keep in mind the two opportunities for training: Sunday, April 15 in Livingston (at Park High) and Sunday, April 29 in Helena (at the YMCA). Both sessions begin at noon (with some pizza) and end at 3:00. Each delegate who is chosen to be a committee chair needs to be at one of the trainings.

Please consider applying for one of these positions!

### POLITICAL SATIRE ANYONE?

If you need something to do, (SINCE YOUR BILL IS ALL WRITTEN) visit the Capitol Steps website (<http://www.capsteps.com>) for some political satire, poking fun at both sides of the aisle.

### AN EXAMPLE OF CAPITOL STEPS:

**LIRTY DIES** are what you get when you mix your basic national scandal with word-initialization-rejuxtaposition closely following the underlying precepts of harmony, alliteration and innuendo.

Lirty Dies follows a great political tradition: We're not quite sure what we're saying; you're not quite sure what you're hearing.

Some might say they are merely spoonerisms taken to ludicrous heights.



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