

**THE CARPENTERS' COMPANY  
OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA**

*presents the*

**YOUNG**  
*People's*  
**CONTINENTAL  
CONGRESS**

*America 250 Starts Here!*

**PHILADELPHIA ★ JULY 2024**



# AMERICA 250 STARTS HERE!

The First Continental Congress led directly to the Second Continental Congress, which culminated in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. This gives YPCC in 2024 the opportunity to serve as a kickoff to the 2026 Semiquincentennial Celebration. YPCC has been designated a National Partner Program by **America 250**, the official United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and it has been endorsed by **America250-PA**, the Pennsylvania Semiquincentennial Commission, and **Philadelphia 250**, which will coordinate local Semiquincentennial activities in Philadelphia. In 2026 the YPCC delegates will reconvene virtually to share how they have progressed towards implementing the recommended actions they ratified in 2024.



Photos: (left) Charles Uniatowski, Carpenters' Hall; (right) Independence Historic National Park

## WHAT IS YPCC?

The First Continental Congress was one of the most significant events in the founding of our nation, as colonial delegates convened in **Carpenters' Hall** to discuss their grievances with Great Britain, solidify a united American identity, and lay the groundwork for the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, the **Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia**, the nonprofit organization founded in 1724 that owns and operates Carpenters' Hall, will collaborate with **National History Day®**, **Generation Citizen** and a consortium of history and civic organizations to convene a **Young People's Continental Congress (YPCC)**. In July 2024, student and teacher high school teams from all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions will gather in Philadelphia to examine the history of our country's founding principles as it relates to contemporary issues, democracy, and civic engagement.

## WHY IS YPCC NEEDED?

YPCC connects history to issues of contemporary relevance and engages young people in understanding and addressing them. On the 2018 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Civics Assessment, over 75% of American students scored "below proficient." According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, in the 2016 presidential election only 50% of the nation's eligible voters aged 18-29 voted, and in the 2018 midterms only 30% voted. Students who study history are more likely to vote, volunteer in their communities, and engage in civic activities.

*“ YPCC will be a transformative opportunity for the delegates and a perfect way to launch America250 in the birthplace of our nation.”*

CATHY GORN, Executive Director, National History Day

# WHAT WILL STUDENTS ACCOMPLISH AT YPCC?

Beginning six months before the on-site YPCC program, student and teacher teams will engage in monthly discussions based on reading assignments. Delegates will explore the issues and context of the First Continental Congress and historical case studies in which these issues were tested, and they will attend a live virtual program with a historian to discuss the case studies. Each student and teacher team will discuss and report on connecting the historical themes to current issues. Then, in July, teams will gather in Philadelphia to learn from historians, museum curators, thought leaders, and policymakers to consider ways in which students might learn from the past to make recommendations for current civic issues in their communities.

Photos: (left) Charles Uniatowski, Carpenters' Hall, (right) The Library Company of Philadelphia

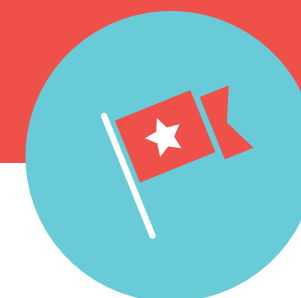


*YPCC delegates will achieve the following*

## LEARNING OUTCOMES



YPCC will trace the historical roots of civic engagement and provide a forum for civil discussion and active consideration of current issues.



Delegates will gain an appreciation for civic unity by building relationships with other young people from around the country.



Delegates will apply and refine their learning through a meaningful at-home advocacy project inspired by this experience, and they will research and produce a National History Day project on a related topic.



YPCC will continue to engage students in advocacy work through 2026, using Generation Citizen's Action Civics curriculum and culminating with the Semiquincentennial of America and with the delegates' graduation from high school.

# YPCC AMBASSADOR

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell

“*This will be a powerful moment in our nation’s history to spotlight Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the many partner institutions through the power of our youth.*”

THE HONORABLE EDWARD G. RENDELL

*Photo: (left) The Library Company of Philadelphia, (right) Charles Uniatowski, Carpenters’ Hall*



# PARTNERS

## NATIONAL PARTNERS



## YPCC CONSORTIUM

African American Museum in Philadelphia

American Philosophical Society

Committee of Seventy

Community College of Philadelphia

Historic Philadelphia, Inc.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Independence National Historical Park

Library Company of Philadelphia

Museum of the American Revolution

National Archives of Philadelphia

National Constitution Center

National Liberty Museum

PA Humanities

Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Education

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

## ENGAGE WITH YPCC

To explore how you can help to make YPCC a success, contact The Carpenters’ Company Executive Director Michael Norris: [michaelnorris@carpentershall.org](mailto:michaelnorris@carpentershall.org) • (215) 925-0167

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CONGRESS



OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF

20 | *Philadelphia* | 24

EST. 1724

HOME OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

1774

[www.carpentershall.org/ypcc](http://www.carpentershall.org/ypcc)