THE CARPENTERS’ COMPANY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA presents the

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

America 250 Starts Here!

PHILADELPHIA ★ JULY 2024
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
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.

**WHAT WILL STUDENTS ACCOMPLISH AT YPCC?**

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.

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

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NATIONAL PARTNERS

YPCC CONSORTIUM

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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 • (215) 925-0167