

2018 Lobby Corps Manual



YMCA New Jersey Youth and Government Program

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A Program of the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties

OVERVIEW

The Lobby Corps provides one of the most unforgettable experiences in conference, allowing for its member delegates to undergo the legislative process from the unique perspective of a lobbyist.

While not authors of bills, lobbyists have the privilege of being able to speak in favor of or against any bill presented during chamber sessions, besides their initially assigned bills, in accordance to the positions of the clients that they are representing. Coming into conference, lobbyists will not only have considerable knowledge of their initially assigned bills, but also a significant understanding of the backgrounds, beliefs and interests of their respective clients. In addition to speaking on bills, lobbyists are also tasked with participating in the Think Tank, in which lobbyists offer valuable advice and points to willing authors on their bills during scheduled appointments, ultimately preparing the authors for inquiries and debatable questions that they may be faced with.

Besides bill debate and the Think Tank, lobbyists have multiple options to participate in entirely different areas of the conference. These opportunities include serving as consultants in the Executive Response Committee, speaking on cases presented in the Judicial Courts as "amici curiae," and even defending bills brought forth to the Governor's Cabinet.

Lobby Corps Mission Statement:

It is a lobbyist's goal to respectfully and powerfully influence and advocate for the passage or defeat of legislation. A lobbyist relies on his or her ability to vocalize client's position in an effort to change the opinion and vote of the legislature by informing voting members of the full breadth of issues surrounding pieces of legislation. Lobbyists are the voice of non-governmental stakeholders within the Youth and Government Program.

LOBBYISTS

Lobbyists are veteran delegates who can contribute to legislative debates by helping legislators with their bills, as well as representing the interest of firms during bill debate. Lobbyists will be divided into groups of four lobbyists and will be assigned three to four liberal and three to four conservative clients. The smaller groups of lobbyists will be assigned bills and will work together to ensure they cover their assigned bills in an effective manner. Outside of bill debate, lobbyists are expected to work with legislative delegates in Think Tank, in order to improve their debate skills for the purpose of passing their own bill and their co-sponsor's bill. The smaller lobby groups will rotate between lobbying for bills and Think Tank at the discretion of the Lobby Firm Presidents. Lobbyists are given great amounts of

freedom throughout conference, including moving between legislative rooms in both the hotel and the state house, and thus are expected to behave professionally and to respect all officers, delegates, and staff.

The lobbyists' duties are as follows:

Prior to the Pre-Legislative Conference...

- Complete Pre-Legislative Session Assignment

During the Pre-Legislative Conference...

- Propose edits and improvements for a sample bill during a Lobby Corps-wide Think Tank appointment simulation
- Conduct a series of scheduled Think Tank appointments with legislative delegates

During Conference...

- Closely follow the live Bill Docket feed in order to speak on assigned bills
- Speak either in favor of or against assigned bills, depending on your assigned client
- If list of assigned bills has been exhausted, make yourself available to authors interested in having their bill assigned to a lobbyist
- In between bill debate sessions, conduct Think Tank appointments with bill authors
- Inter-Committee Sessions (spots are limited)
 - *Executive Response Committee* - Lobbyists represent firms to provide insights into the crises presented in the ERC. In addition, lobbyists can play a role in the debate of proposals on how to solve the crisis.
 - *Judicial* - Lobbyists will serve as "amici curiae," which literally translates to friends of the court, to give statements that provide pertinent information on the general issues presented by the court cases.
 - *Governor's Cabinet* - Lobbyists will argue various bills in the Cabinet when the Cabinet requests an outside opinion. Opportunities to argue these bills are spontaneous throughout conference.
 - *Jr. Legislators* - Jr. Legislators will be shadowing lobbyists for parts of conference in order to see how the Lobby Corps works. In addition, lobbyists will hold a Think Tank to discuss the bills of Jr. Legislators during conference.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

As touched on previously, lobbyists are given a great amount of freedom from a procedural as well as a behavioral standpoint. Because of this, it is essential that the rules and regulations of the Lobby Corps be followed. Any discipline problems will be reported directly to a delegate's advisor. Any procedural infraction will be handled by Program Staff. The rules and regulations are as follows:

Behavioral Regulations

1. Lobbyists may not wander, sit or “hang out” in the state house or annex at any time. Lobbyists must be lobbying or be in the Lobby Corps Room in either the State House or the Hotel.
2. All Lobbyists must arrive and return to the Lobby Corps room on time.
3. When moving between the State House and the Hotel, Lobbyists must move with at least one other lobbyist and must notify the Lobby Firm Presidents or the Program Advisor

Lobbying Procedures

1. During Committee and Chamber sessions lobbyists have the same speaking rights as all other delegates. They may speak on a bill, speak with authors or other delegates, etc.
2. Lobbyists may bring a maximum of two students into the hallway to speak with them.
 - a. This meeting may not last longer than 5 minutes.
 - b. If permission is not granted, lobbyists may not ask students to leave.
3. Lobbyists must ask delegates if they are willing to leave the room. Delegates may decline and if so the lobbyist must respect that request.

The following is prohibited:

I. Bribery

A lobbyist may not use unofficial bribery to make gains in passing or failing a bill. This includes but is not limited to payment, the distribution of food or drink, and promises of removing delegates from chambers for extended periods of time. A lobbyist may use his or her power to influence delegates to vote on a bill. For example, a lobbyist may tell a delegate that if the delegate votes for a certain bill, the lobbyist will help the delegate pass a separate bill, regardless of whether that is true.

A lobbyist caught using unofficial forms of Bribery will be subject to removal from the Lobby Corps. Remember: if you think it’s bribery, it most likely is.

II. Disruption

A Lobbyist may not enter the chamber floor. If a lobbyist needs to retrieve a delegate, he or she will do so quietly and respectfully.

A lobbyist may view the chamber from the wings. Any form of disruption (e.g. written signs) when viewing chambers will not be tolerated. A lobbyist may respectfully signal to delegates for the purpose of temporarily removing them from chambers.

A Lobbyist may enter committee sessions and proceed to speak on bills. A lobbyist must wait to be called on by the chair. A lobbyist may respectfully remove delegates from committee at the discretion of the chair. A lobbyist will conduct all business outside of committee.

III. Freedoms

A lobbyist is granted an exorbitant amount of freedom. There is no strict schedule to adhere to, aside from scheduled check-in times. With this freedom, a lobbyist will not abuse privileges given to him or her. The Lobby Corps thrives on a mutual respect between the administration, the lobbyists, and the delegates; therefore, all freedoms are subject to removal if abused.

A lobbyist will be respectful of the State House when traveling between locations. A lobbyist may not remove a delegate from sessions or chamber to discuss outside topics. A lobbyist will use all of his or her time constructively. Although it is not necessary, a lobbyist should remember that the conference doesn't end when chamber is out of session. Meals and downtime are fair and acceptable places to lobby for bills, but are in no way recommended nor required.

CLIENTS

Business Concerns

Environmental Protection Agency (Liberal)

The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. To ensure that all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work, the EPA takes national efforts to reduce environmental risk based on the best available scientific information.

Monsanto (Conservative)

Monsanto is a sustainable agriculture company focused on empowering farmers, while also conserving natural resources. Monsanto works towards increasing agricultural production within the United States to keep pace with population growth, and thus are large proponents of GMOs or genetically modified organisms. Monsanto has gone great lengths to prevent the government from regulating GMOs in any form, and generally opposes agricultural regulation on all fronts.

US Oil & Gas Association (Conservative)

Since 1917, the United States Oil and Gas Association has promoted the well-being of the oil and natural gas industries in the United States. The USOGA represents companies involved in the refining, transportation, production, marketing, and use of oil and natural gas products. The primary goal of the USOGA is to address government regulation and taxation of oil and natural gas, supporting legislation that allows for free expansion of the oil and gas industries. The USOGA generally supports legislative actions promoting the sustenance of the domestic petroleum industry, thus advocating against alternative energy sources and use of foreign oil and gas products.

Citizens Against Government Waste (Conservative)

CAGW works towards reducing inefficiency and mismanagement in the federal government. CAGW generally supports measures such as welfare reform and wasteful spending cuts in order to shrink the size of the federal government. CAGW advocates for trickle-down economic policies and tax cuts, as well as the reduction of federal spending and loans. In addition, CAGW promotes transparency in the federal government, especially in terms of its financial actions.

National Association of Manufacturers (Conservative)

NAM is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing Americans who contribute \$2.09 trillion to the US economy annually. While the NAM supports the legalization of workers and providing healthcare to workers, the organization currently supports the interests of coal and oil over alternative energy sources. NAM currently denies climate change as a legitimate issue, and also opposes trade agreements which give foreign companies too much say in US markets.

National Federation of Independent Businesses (Liberal)

NFIB, as the leading advocate for small business owners, seeks to defend the right of small business owners to run their businesses without undue government interference and to advance public policies that promote their success. Furthermore, this organization is dedicated to leveling the playing field with Big Business, Big Government, and Big Labor in areas such as taxes, healthcare, and regulations.

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (Liberal)

The AFL-CIO is seen as the umbrella federation for U.S. unions, with 56 unions representing 12.5 million working men and women. By working to ensure that all people who work receive the rewards of their work—decent paychecks and benefits, safe jobs, respect and fair treatment, the AFL-CIO prioritizes making the voices of working people heard in all facets of the government.

Government Affairs

National Rifle Association (Conservative)

Formed in 1871, the NRA has been promoting freedom to own and utilize firearms for generations, for both recreational and defense purposes. The NRA works to educate law enforcement, hunters, and gun enthusiasts about gun safety and proper use of firearms. The NRA is also a large proponent for the protection of the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms. The NRA's primary goals include expanding firearm rights for all citizens and providing educational tools for gun owners to improve firearm safety.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (Liberal)

With its mission being to "create a safer America for all of us that will lead to a dramatic reduction in gun deaths and injuries," the Brady organization encourages policies that keep guns out of the wrong hands. Some of these policies include, but are not limited to, background checks being applied to all gun sales, stopping the 5 percent of gun dealers that supply 90 percent of all crime guns, and increasing the awareness on the real dangers of guns in the home.

National Police Accountability Project (Liberal)

The National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) is an organization dedicated to protecting the human and civil rights of individuals in their encounters with law enforcement. One of the central missions of NPAP is to promote the accountability of law enforcement officers and their employers for violations of the Constitution or laws of the United States.

American Civil Liberties Union (Liberal)

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country. The ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach.

League of Conservation Voters (Liberal)

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national, state and local priorities. The LCV, in collaboration with advocates for sound environmental laws and policies, holds elected officials accountable for their votes and actions, and elects pro-environment candidates who will champion the LCV's priority issues.

Citizens United (Conservative)

Citizens United is an organization committed against the overextension of federal government, and the restoration of the power of the people. The organization takes

an active stance on the expansion of free enterprise, traditional family values, and national security. Citizens United's most famous action was their role in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, allowing private companies to create political advertisements separate from political campaigns. Citizens United spreads its message through large scale advertising efforts and the release of documentaries concerning their conservative ideals.

NJ State Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Conservative)

The NJSPBA is an organization of law enforcement officials in New Jersey for the purpose of legally defending its members. The NJSPBA advocates for increasing budgets in the law enforcement system, and the righteousness of all people involved in NJ law enforcement. The NJSPBA opposes various police accountability measures, due to privacy concerns, and the reduction of law enforcement budgets on both the state and local levels.

Social Issues

Family Research Council (Conservative)

The Family Research Council was founded in 1983 in order to preserve marriage and family as the foundation of society. The FRC generally believes in religious liberty and the traditional image of marriage and family, coinciding with their Judeo-Christian worldview. Due to their religious values, the FRC are firm advocates against LGBT rights and contraceptive freedoms. The FRC actively promotes abstinence prior to marriage, opposing HPV vaccination as a requirement for school attendance and supporting abstinence-only sexual education in schools. The FRC usually involves itself in issues of sexual freedom, the legality of medical procedures, and the rights of the LGBT community.

American Atheists (Liberal)

Since 1963, American Atheists has been the premier organization fighting for the civil liberties of atheists and the total, absolute separation of government and religion. American Atheists was born out of the *Murray v. Curlett* case of 1959, which challenged prayer recitation in the public schools. Today, American Atheists is dedicated to working for the civil rights of atheists, promoting separation of state and church, and providing information about atheism.

Catholic Church (Conservative)

For centuries, the Catholic Church has remained influential throughout the world, with 1.254 billion members worldwide, and is currently led by Pope Francis. The core beliefs of the Church involve the promotion of social justice and care for the poor, sick and disabled. The Church is currently the largest non-government provider of education and medical services in the world, managing 26% of healthcare facilities worldwide, including hospitals, orphanages, and pharmacies. The Catholic Church has established a clear opposition to controversial issues such

as access to contraception methods and LGBT rights, while supporting an expansion of international aid. While the Church has had issues with sexual abuse involving minors in the past, Pope Francis has recently released statements to help prevent further cases of abuse.

National Organization for Women (Liberal)

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights. NOW is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States, seeking to address issues such as reproductive rights, violence against women, economic justice, and LGBT rights among several others.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (Liberal)

The vision of the NAACP is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race. This association seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes and oversee enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights.

Freedom's Watch (Conservative)

Freedom's Watch advocates for protecting privacy rights, free speech, civil liberties, and the use of foreign products. Strongly opposing socialism and terrorism, Freedom's Watch concerns itself with supporting interventionist foreign policy. In recent years, Freedom's Watch has supported the Iraq War and various other anti-terrorism measures in the Middle East. Thus, Freedom's Watch supports legislation which heightens national security measures and prevents further violent attacks from foreign groups.

National Education Association (In favor of common core) (Conservative)

The NEA is an organization made up of educational professionals which works to provide public schools for all students throughout America. The NEA believes in equal educational opportunity for all Americans, regardless of social status. The NEA supports increases in educational funding and inclusion for all students. However, the NEA opposes the No Child Left Behind Act, disliking its emphasis on standardized testing, and promotes education reform at the state level rather than at the federal level.

Public Health

American Legion (Conservative)

The American Legion was incorporated into Congress in 1919 and is dedicated to helping and advocating for veterans. The firm supports increased funding for veteran's program, religious freedom, and the safety of active duty troops. In the past, the Legion has been in fierce opposition of openly gay men serving in the military and the removal of religious symbolism from government buildings,

explaining how the structures are representative of American heritage. The American Legion firmly believes in the protection of American values, and continues to defend these values in the face of governmental opposition.

The Heritage Foundation (Conservative)

Since its founding in 1973, the Heritage Foundation has been a research and educational institution dedicated to creating conservative policy. The Heritage Foundation holds a strong belief in traditional American values, including freedom of religion and equal economic opportunity. While the Heritage Foundation is involved in a variety of political affairs, the firm places great emphasis on foreign policy and economic opportunity. The Heritage Foundation dictates that America should have a strong line of defense, reinforced borders, and everyone should be responsible for their own economic status.

Planned Parenthood (Liberal)

As “America’s most trusted provider of reproductive health care,” Planned Parenthood provides vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. Additionally, Planned Parenthood has promoted a commonsense approach to women’s health and well-being, based on respect for each individual’s right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning.

Death with Dignity (Liberal)

The Death with Dignity organization expands the freedom of all qualified terminally ill Americans to make their own end-of-life decisions, including how they die. In doing so, this organization provides information, education, and support about Death with Dignity as an end-of-life option to patients, family members, legislators, and the interested public, and mounts legal defense of physician-assisted dying legislation.

NORML (Liberal)

The mission of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) is to move public opinion sufficiently to legalize the responsible use of marijuana by adults, and to serve as an advocate for consumers to assure they have access to high quality marijuana that is safe, convenient and affordable. Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers.

Tobacco Industry (Conservative)

The Tobacco Industry, as the name implies, is made up of tobacco manufacturers in the United States, which is led by Philip Morris International, RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, and Lorillard Tobacco Co. Formerly known as the Tobacco Institute, the

firm has been sued on various occasions in recent history for withholding health information about tobacco products. As one would expect, the tobacco industry supports the de-regulation of tobacco based products and the abolition of trade agreements to prevent foreign tobacco corporations from infiltrating American markets.

Action on Smoking & Health (Liberal)

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) seeks to end the worldwide disease, damage and death caused by tobacco. In order to accomplish these goals, ASH takes action to educate the public and decision makers, track the tobacco industry, and work for sensible public policies at the local, national and global levels.

Sample Assignment Due before Pre-Legislative session:

The actual assignment template can be downloaded from the YAG website under the Lobby Corps tab. The below assignment is a sample of how the questions should be formatted and answered.

Name: Neil Trivedi

Delegation: Hunterdon Central Regional High School

Years in YAG: 4

In what other committees have you participated during previous conferences? Describes your experiences in these committees. (At least 100 words)

- *If you have been in legislative committees, make sure you talk about your experiences in writing bills, cosponsoring legislation, presenting your own bill, speaking on others' bills, and generally cooperating with delegates.*
- *For Courts, ERC, or Press, explain your role in the committee, your experiences speaking or producing content, and your successes and failures.*

How do you see the role of a lobbyist during conference? (At least 250 words)

- *For this question, explain how you have seen lobbyists interact with other conference members. Note how you have seen them and how you think they should interact with others, speak with other delegates, and generally conduct themselves.*

Have you participated in Think Tank in the past as a legislator or lobbyist? If yes, describe your experiences in Think Tank. (At least 100 words)

- *This question is to help the Lobby Firm Presidents adapt Think Tank to better suit legislators and lobbyists. Be as detailed as you see fit.*

What issues facing America are you most interested in (i.e. gun control, immigration)? List 3 and explain why. (At least 250 words per issue)

- *For each issue, be as specific as possible about why this issue holds importance to you and cite legislation which affects the issues you select.*
- *While you are allowed to reveal your stance on the issues, it is not necessary and an overview of each issue is acceptable as long as you cite recent legislation regarding the issue.*
- *Make sure you pick issues you are actually interested in, not just the ones that are the most well-known*

Are you interested in doing work in specialized committees such as courts or ERC?

- *This can be a simple yes or no, along with which committees you would be interested working with*

Any other information about yourself you would like to share.

Sample Assignment Due Before Conference

The actual assignment template can be downloaded from the YAG website under the Lobby Corps tab. The below assignment is a sample of how the questions should be formatted and answered.

As a lobbyist, it is your duty to represent your clients' beliefs to the best of your ability as you speak on your assigned pieces of legislation. Respond to the following questions FIVE TIMES -- once for each of your FIVE assigned bills.

In just one sentence, briefly describe your client's mission as an organization.

- *Responding to this question is an opportunity to summarize and familiarize yourself with your client's aims and values.*
- *While the client descriptions section provided in the Lobby Corps Manual is a great resource in responding to this question, please make an effort to research further into your client beyond what is provided in the Lobby Corps Manual.*

How is your assigned bill relevant to your client? (50 words minimum)

- *The response to this question should be as objective and straight-forward as possible.*
- *Be sure to mention what particular sections of your assigned bill have relevance to the topics and issues associated with your client's mission.*
- *Think about any specific programs or actions your client has taken that highlight the bill's relation to their objectives.*

What would your client's position be on this assigned bill? As their lobbyist, what arguments would you make to either support or oppose this bill? (100 words minimum)

- *Take this opportunity to formulate the points that you would like to bring up on the chamber floor as your assigned bill is being presented.*
- *Refrain from representing your own personal beliefs. Rather, as the representative of your client, please adhere to your client's values and objectives.*
- *Think through what arguments opponents of the bill may say as a guiding point for formulating arguments. A great strategy is to imagine how you would refute the most likely points of opposition your bill would face, taking the vantage point of the other side.*

***These questions are to be responded to a total of FIVE TIMES -- once for each of your FIVE assigned bills.**