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Nebraska program promotes youth election workers

LINCOLN – Nebraska youth ages 14 to 18 are encouraged to participate in the democratic process by working as election workers for the Nov. 4 general election.

The Youth Election Service (YES), sponsored by Secretary of State John Gale and the Nebraska Bankers Association, is designed to increase interest and involvement in the election system among young people.

"Elections don't just happen," Gale said. "They require modern equipment, preparation of ballots, good polling sites and trained poll workers. Our poll workers are democracy's unsung heroes.

"YES allows young people to serve our democracy, learn about the election system and provide community service."

Participants in the program are eligible to take part in drawings for 10 \$50 savings bonds, which will be provided by the Nebraska Bankers Association. A youth must serve a minimum of four hours to qualify for the drawings.

In addition, all YES participants will receive a certificate of recognition from Gale.

Youths interested in serving as paid workers or volunteers should contact their county election offices by Oct. 1. Youth organizations seeking community service also are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the program, people should visit the secretary of state's Web site (www.sos.ne.gov) or call (402) 471-6148.

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