

# Youth Leadership Forum



[www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)

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**YLF 2021  
APPLICATION  
FORM  
INCLUDED!!!**



# Tell Me More, Tell Me More!

## Are you . . . . .

- A youth with a disability?
- ♦ Interested in leadership training?
- ♦ Interested in learning about self-advocacy?
- ♦ Interested in education and employment after high school?
- ♦ Interested in having fun?
  - . . . . If so, YLF is for you!



## What YLF alumni say . . . . .

*"I will remember YLF for the rest of my life—all you guys changed my life!" -Curtis*

*"YLF changed my life!" - Nathalie*

*"Being at YLF made me feel appreciated."  
- Caleb*

*"No one judges you at YLF—because YOU ARE SOMEONE!" —Zach*

**Activities are developed so all can participate & enjoy!**

## BECOME A FUTURE LEADER

### At YLF you will:

- Learn about your disability and others' disabilities
- Know your own strengths and weaknesses
- Gain skills to become a self-determined individual
- Learn about up-to-date available resources and assistive technology
- Identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to overcome those barriers
- Interact with professionals with disabilities who serve as mentors and role models
- Gain the power to reach your goals in education, employment and community leadership
- Spend five days with peers your age developing a social network

### Is there a cost to attend?

No. All costs, including transportation, are paid for through public and private donations.

### Where do the students sleep while at YLF?

Delegates stay in dormitory suites on the NSU Campus. Males and females are separated and YLF leaders supervise students while at the dorm. A night time security guard is also present.

### What happens if the student needs medical attention?

There is 24-hour nursing care available. Two nursing staff are on-site at the dorm overnight and also during all daytime activities.

### What does a typical day look like at YLF?

The day generally starts with breakfast at 8:00 am in the college cafeteria. Large group presentations, hands-on activities, and small group activities fill the day hours. Every evening a special event, such as a picnic, dance, park activity, etc. is planned. The day ends with some free time, and lights out at 10:30 pm.

### Is YLF a safe place?

YLF delegates are never alone. Delegates are divided into 4 teams, with each team having 3 leaders present to supervise and assist with whatever need the delegate may have. Delegates go to and from all activities in groups.

# 23rd Annual Youth Leadership Forum

## Application Form

### June 6-10, 2021

**Deadline for postmark on mailed application: 12/18/2020**

- ♦ Type or print neatly. Remember, a neat application makes a favorable first impression!
- ♦ You may have whatever assistance you need to complete this application.
- ♦ Audio or video applications are accepted provided all information is included.
- ♦ You may dictate your answers to someone and they complete the form with you.

**Being selected to attend YLF is a distinct honor that you can be very proud of.**

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name		Gender M    F
Parents Name		
Mailing Address		
City, state, Zip	Email address	
Parent Phone #	Student Phone #	

#### SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of High School	City, State, Zip
Spec. Ed. Teacher/ Case Manager	School Phone #
Grade Level <b>9</b> <b>10</b> <b>11</b> <b>12</b>	Anticipated Graduation Date

Please tell us about your plans for after you graduate from high school.


#### OTHER INFORMATION

If you are currently a consumer of the SD Division of Rehabilitation Services (VR) or Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (SBVI), please list your Counselor's name.

How did you hear about YLF?

Teacher      VR Counselor      Parent      Friend      Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are you receiving services from any of the following agencies?

Vocational Rehabilitation      Mental Health Agency      Family Support 360      Community Support Provider

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	ADULT CONTACT	SCHOOL YEAR INVOLVED

## WORK EXPERIENCE

JOBS	SUPERVISER	DATES WORKED

**WHAT DISABILITY IS LISTED ON YOUR IEP?** (This info allows us to include delegates with a diversity of disabilities.)

**\*\*If you are unsure, please look at your IEP document or ask your teacher who is in charge of holding your IEP meetings.**

Autism Spectrum Disorder	Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Other Health Impairment (ADHD)	Specific Learning Disability
Cognitive Disability (Intellectual)	Emotional Disturbance (Mental Health)
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	Orthopedic Impairment
Blind/Visual Impairments	Multiple Disabilities (please list)

***Any additional comments regarding your disability that may be helpful for us to know—  
(Use wheelchair, walker, need interpreter, read Braille, Enlarged font size, etc.)***

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## **Required Essays**

Please choose **two** of the topics below. Type or record your responses to the two topics on separate paper and attach to your completed application packet. If you have difficulty writing, you may have someone type your responses for you or you may submit a recording.

- ♦ Explain why you feel you are qualified to be a delegate to YLF, and why you want to attend.
- ♦ Tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life as a leader and why. (Families, teachers, friends, public officials or celebrities are appropriate examples.)
- ♦ Describe two important experiences you have had as a young person with a disability.
- ♦ Describe your plans for after high school graduation. (Please be specific about your examples.)

## **Personal References Forms**

Select two individuals to provide references for you. These individuals must be over the age of 21 and not related to you. **Have them complete the enclosed reference forms and mail them with your application.** Individuals to be a reference for you may be a representative from your high school, church or community.



## Additional Information:

- All applicants will be interviewed in January-February, 2020. Transition liaisons will call the student or school to schedule an appropriate time. Transition liaison contact information can be found on the front page of this application or you can go to [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org).
- All applications are reviewed by a selection committee. Students will be receiving a letter by March 15, 2020 stating whether they are selected or not. If selected, students will need to fill out additional forms, and additional information will be provided.
- If selected, all appropriate expenses will be paid for by YLF: including travel, lodging, food, interpreters, and/or personal assistants as needed.

### Thank you for completing this application.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Rounds at (605) 494-3618.

Use the chart below to make sure your application is complete!	
REQUIRED ITEMS	CHECK IF ENCLOSED
1. Neatly Completed Application Form (pp 3 & 4)	
2. Two Completed Reference Forms	
3. Written Response to Two Topics (2 of the 4 choices given on page 4)	

**Please mail completed application by December 18, 2020 to:**

**Youth Leadership Forum  
Black Hills Special Services  
221 S. Central Ave., Suite 33  
Pierre, SD 57501**

**Check out YLF videos from previous years at [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)**



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Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)  
Black Hills Special Services  
221 S Central Ave., Suite 33  
Pierre, SD 57501

## REFERENCE FORM

(Please give to reference)

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR THE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDING REFERENCE INFORMATION

*Youth Leadership Forum is a week-long leadership training and career awareness program for high school students with disabilities. YLF enables young adults to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models. YLF will be held on Northern State University campus, June 6-10, 2021*

*The person named above has applied for the SD Youth Leadership Forum. The Committee is mindful of the time necessary to prepare this reference and gratefully acknowledges your help. Please return this form to the applicant so he can submit it with his completed application by December 18, 2020.*

Name of Reference : \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Firm/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **INFORMATION**

1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you consider the applicant's primary talents or strengths?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Comments on the applicant's relationships with his or her peers

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Please use the scale below to compare the applicant with other high school students you have known. Place a X in the column that best describes your knowledge of the applicant.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unable to Judge
<b>Character</b>					
<b>Concern for others</b>					
<b>Responsibility</b>					
<b>Leadership</b>					
<b>Self-Initiative</b>					
<b>Curiosity</b>					
<b>Ability to work with others</b>					
<b>Maturity</b>					
<b>Communication Skills</b>					
<b>Determination</b>					
<b>Interest in Community Affairs</b>					

5. Please comment generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his or her behavior in a group setting (participant or observer?), interest in community affairs and potential for becoming a community leader. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Reference

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date





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Black Hills Special Services  
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Pierre, SD 57501

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Reference

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date