

# Youth Leadership Forum

# 2023



## Transition Services Liaison Project [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)

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**Western Region**  
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**YLF 2023  
APPLICATION  
FORM  
INSIDE!!**

# 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!”*
- *“For once, I felt accepted!”*
- *“Thank you YLF for all that you teach & all that you inspire!”*
- *“No one judges you at YLF—because YOU ARE SOMEONE!”*

**Activities are developed  
for ALL  
to participate & enjoy!**

## What is the Purpose of YLF?

Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a five-day leadership training and career awareness program for high school students with disabilities. It provides training in leadership, self-advocacy skills and career awareness. Approximately 45 students throughout South Dakota are selected each year.

The Youth Leadership Forum enables young adults who have a disability to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models. Students learn more about their own disability and others' disabilities, analyze their own strengths and weaknesses and gain skills to become a self-determined individual. They also learn different leadership styles, the legislative process, disability laws, and much more! Students gain the power to reach their post-secondary goals in education, employment and independent living.

## Is there a cost to attend?

No. The commitment of the YLF is to empower youth to grow personally, socially, and academically. No student should be denied this opportunity because of economic hardship. 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, educational games, 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, with delegates in their dorm rooms and lights out at 10:30 pm.

## Is YLF a safe place?

YLF delegates are never alone. Delegates are divided into four teams. Each team has three leaders present to supervise and assist with whatever need the delegate may have. Delegates go to and from all activities in groups.

# 24th Annual Youth Leadership Forum

## Application Form

June 4-8, 2023

**Deadline for postmark on mailed application: 12/23/2022**

- ◆ 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 proud of.  
You'll have the time of your Life!!!**

### STUDENT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M \_\_\_ F      Birthdate \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Student Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/legal guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/legal guardian Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a consumer of the SD Vocational Rehabilitation Services—either Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) or Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (SBVI)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ If so, please list your counselor's name. \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about YLF? (circle)

Teacher      VR Counselor      Parent      Friend      Other

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

School telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Current School Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ HS Special Ed Teacher \_\_\_\_\_



**SCHOOL and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Please list school, volunteer, religious, social, athletic, or other activities or organizations in which you have participated during your high school years.

ACTIVITY/ORGANIZATION	GRADE IN SCHOOL	ADULT CONTACT

**EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

Do you currently have a job? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If so, how many hours per week do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you involved with the Project Skills program? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

EMPLOYMENT SITE	SUPERVISER	DATES WORKED



## Youth Leadership Forum

### SHORT ANSWER CONT.

3. What 3 things concern you most about your future?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who do you look up to? (Tell us about a person who has positively influenced your life and why.)

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**DELEGATE INFORMATION** (This information allows us to select a diverse group of delegates.)  
Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Autism Spectrum Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/> ADHD
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Disability (Cognitive Impairment)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind/visually Impaired	<input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/Hard of Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/> I read with Braille	<input type="checkbox"/> I use sign language.
<input type="checkbox"/> I read with large print.	<input type="checkbox"/> I read lips.
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Depression
<input type="checkbox"/> Math	<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety
<input type="checkbox"/> Written Expression	<input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuromuscular/Orthopedic	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Disabilities (please list)
<input type="checkbox"/> I use a wheelchair.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot walk upstairs.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Long distances are hard.	_____

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In your own words, please describe how your disability affects you at school and at home.

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### **PERSONAL REFERENCE FORMS**

Select two individuals to provide references for you. The criteria for selecting your personal references are:

- ◆ must be over the age of 21 and
- ◆ not related to you
- ◆ 1 individual from your school, and
- ◆ 1 individual from your community (Employers make good references)

**Have your references complete the enclosed reference forms and give back to you. Mail these references with your application.**

### **Additional Information:**

- All applicants will be interviewed in January-February 2023. Transition liaisons will call the school or student to schedule an appropriate time. For contact info on your local transition liaison, go to [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org).
- All applications are reviewed by a selection committee, and students will receive written notice in March of whether they are accepted or not.
- Students will receive a letter by March 30, 2023 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

**Completed application (including two completed reference forms ) should be submitted by December 23, 2022. If mailing, mail to:**

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

**\*Check out our YLF video at: [www.tslp.org/events](http://www.tslp.org/events)**



[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 five-day 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 from June 4– 8, 2023.*

*The person named above has applied for the SD Youth Leadership Forum. The Committee is mindful of the time necessary to complete this reference and is grateful for your help. Please return this form to the applicant so it can be submitted with the completed application by December 23, 2022.*

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

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

### ***INFORMATION***

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

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

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

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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  
221 S Central Ave., Suite 33  
Pierre, SD 57501

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

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