

THE
**Youth Leadership
Forum**
WELCOMES YOU

June 7-11, 2026
Northern State University
Aberdeen, SD

Apply online here:

[https://
form.jotform.com/252403915490152](https://form.jotform.com/252403915490152)

**Check out the YLF
video at:**

www.tslp.org/events

**Applications due by
December 19, 2025!**

**Transition Services
Liaison Project**
www.tslp.org

Dan Rounds, **Coordinator**
(605) 494-3618
Email: drounds@bhssc.org

Regional Transition Liaisons

South Eastern Region
Sarah Jo Jorgensen
(605) 362-4844
SarahJo.Jorgensen@state.sd.us

North Central Region
Cate Diede
(605) 626-2398
Cate.Diede@state.sd.us

Western Region
Steph Badwound
(719) 659-3097
Stephanie.Badwound@state.sd.us

South Central Region
Miah Gillen
(320) 583-6731
Miah.Gillen@state.sd.us



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 may be 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!"

Tell Me More, Tell Me More!

The process:

- 1) An application must be completed. YLF apps can be completed here:

<https://form.jotform.com/252403915490152>

YLF apps are due by December 19, 2025

If a paper application is needed, contact your regional transition liaison to get a copy.

2) All applicants will be interviewed between January-February 2026. Transition liaisons will call the school or student to schedule an appropriate time during the school day if possible. The interview generally takes 20-30 minutes.

3) All applications are reviewed by a selection committee. Students will receive a letter by March 31, 2026 stating whether they are selected. If selected, students will need to fill out additional forms, and additional information will be provided.

4) If selected, all appropriate expenses will be paid for by YLF, including travel, lodging, food, interpreters, and/or personal assistants as needed.

5) Pack your bags for Aberdeen! YLF starts at 2pm on June 7 and ends at 2pm on June 11.

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. All the while having fun!

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 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 nighttime 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 day-time activities.

What does a typical day look like at YLF?

The day generally starts with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. 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.

Activities are developed for ALL to participate & enjoy!

