

October
2010

YLF NEWS



Hello everyone! The office is so busy keeping up with processing blue cards that you're sending in, either by U.S. Mail or online! I'm very impressed with the level of commitment you have to your schools and your communities! Keep it up!

Guess what?! I've spoken to "Lyrical" LeDerick and he will be returning to YLF for his third summer! YAY! I'm also in touch with Michael Beers and am hopeful he will be returning for his fourth summer!

Online Resources for you:

<http://www.allforgood.org/> - Helps you find volunteer activities!

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/> - Helps you find volunteer activities!

www.wordle.net - You can create "word clouds." This is really is cool. I sat and played with it for a couple of hours when I first found it!

<http://animoto.com> - Create a slideshow!

www.shmoop.com - Study guides on topics from literature, history, etc.

<http://memoov.com> - A free service for creating animated videos!

<http://soshiku.com/> - A free online student assignment organizer. I use this to help me keep up with my graduate assignments. It can even send you assignment reminders to your e-mail or to your phone!

Save the Date: YLF 2011: June 14-18!

LOOK! <http://okylf.pbworks.com/FrontPage>

NEWSLETTER CONTEST!

Can you be the first person to name this person? A hint for you: He has been a delegate and an alumni mentor.

Call or e-mail me your answers!
405-521-4964, 1-800-836-4470, or
jenifer.randle@okdhs.org.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Katy Young - YLF'10
Cristina Craig - YLF'09
Prince Gould - YLF'09
Aaron Ramos - YLF'09
Jessica Baker - YLF'08
Jessica Craft - YLF'08
Dylan Drury - YLF'08
Kim Hoang - YLF'08
Truly Pettijohn - YLF'07
Rachel Hall - STAFF

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kedrian Glazier - YLF'08
James Estes - YLF'06

Chris Borden - YLF'05
Andrew Rains - YLF'05
Kylie McFeeters - YLF'04
Tiffany Priddy - YLF'04
Julie Evans - STAFF
Cristina Anderson - STAFF

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Meredith Oliver - YLF'09
Jenny Olson - YLF'06
Kami Hayslip - YLF'05
Allison Jones - YLF'05
Joy Johnson - YLF'04
Dusty Teague - STAFF
Bob "the Builder" Heinemann - STAFF



DON'T FORGET ELECTION DAY ON NOVEMBER 2

It's YOUR I.E.P. Meeting!

TIPS TO REMEMBER FROM MICHAEL BEERS

1. YOU are in charge of YOUR meeting!
2. Only YOU have to live with the decisions made at the I.E.P. meeting! Be active in the process!
3. People who will be at your I.E.P. meeting could include You, your parent(s), a special education teacher, your regular education teacher(s), an administrator, a school counselor, a vocational rehabilitation counselor. You may invite others to attend with you; some one that can help you in the decisions!
4. You can have an I.E.P. meeting when YOU feel it necessary, but there must be one at least once a year!



Things to do **BEFORE** your IEP meeting:

1. Make a list of things that are important TO you. Things that make your day go better. For example: I like to have a soft drink (coke) in the morning. Without a coke, I'm grumpy until I get one.
2. Make a list of jobs, classes, and topics that interest you. Things you enjoy doing and are good at.
3. Make a list of things that help you the most in classes. For example: ways that teachers teach, technology devices that help, etc.
4. Be ready to tell other people about what you want—what are your goals, your strengths, your struggles?
5. Find out from your teachers how you are doing in class. Are you missing assignments? Ask for help!
6. Invite someone to your meeting that knows you really well and can support you. Maybe a brother, sister, friend, another teacher or coach, neighbor... It's up to you!

December 5 is International Volunteer Day

Get Involved

There are a lot of ways to get involved in your community. Volunteering your time in the community, also called community service, can be a great way to get involved in something you care about, learn new skills, and make new friends! A lot of places and groups are looking for new volunteers. Below are some tips, stories and resources about how you too can volunteer in your community.

Here is some advice and tips to help you get involved in community service:

You can make community service accessible to you! Your disability is not a barrier!

- Be Proactive! Go out there and talk to local community centers, churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, schools or other places you think might need help.
- Try to choose things that you enjoy doing!
- Don't be afraid of letting anyone down because of your disability, just do what you can.
- Try to look for adaptive materials/technology, so you can help in new ways!
- Don't give up! If you find you're having difficulty with something, try to find new ways to help.
- If it turns out that you can't help because of your disability (and can't come up with adaptive ways to do something), don't be hurt, just try to find something else to do, or another place to volunteer.
- Don't be intimidated, you can volunteer however you want to. Volunteering doesn't always mean helping out physically. If you can't do physical labor, like lifting, try to see if you can tutor, help organize or do paperwork.
- Be Confident!

Most importantly, work hard and smart, and always remember you are helping others.

Hamza's story about volunteering: I always wanted to get involved in community service, but was afraid that there wasn't much I could do because of my disability, and I was afraid that I would mess up the things that I could do. However, a few years ago, I got involved with Adaptive Community Approach Program (ACAP), a community service organization in Waukesha County Wisconsin, which helps disabled people find ways to get active in their community. I learned that I was able to do much more than I thought and have been serving my community ever since. I've also been inducted into the National Honors Society, which focuses on youth volunteer work, and have been able to assist in volunteering. I hope to pass on the things I learned to all disabled youth who want to make their communities better. Good luck! I hope your volunteering brings joy to yourself and others.

Best viewing for the Orionids Meteor Shower is after midnight

OCTOBER 20-24 - Look to the east!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



(Cut a rug) Kara Patterson was spotted at the Harvest of Hope this month, organizing the stick horse games!

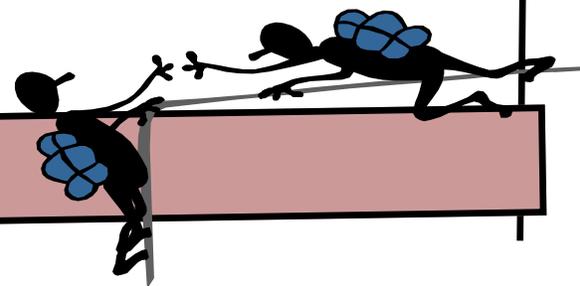
(Awesome) Aaron Bullock completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Children's Center.

David Blose to teachers and vocational counselors at the 2010 Oklahoma Transition Institute!

Brett Cunningham was elected to the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Board of Directors.

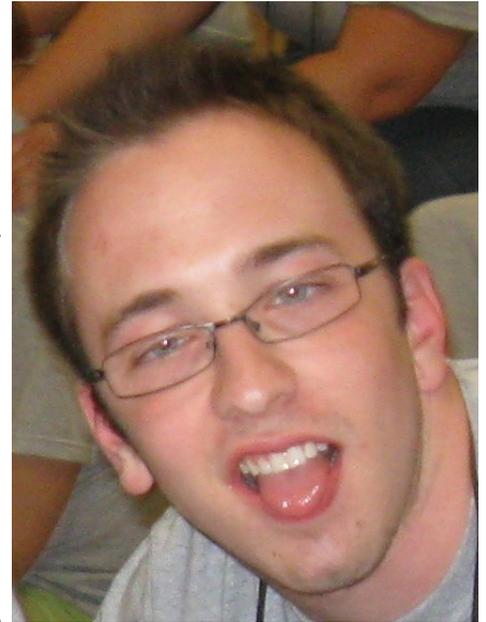
Send me your biographies, photos, stories, articles, cartoons, recipes, drawings, poems for the next YLF News Edition! Let everyone know what you're doing! **E-mail:** jenifer.randle@okdhs.org **Or Call:** 405-521-4964 OR 800-836-4470

Lend a hand to someone!



Brian's Corner

Hello YLF Alumni,



My name is Brian Smith and I am 2004 YLF graduate. I want to congratulate you all on an elite alumni association. You are part of a network that extends all throughout the great state of Oklahoma and beyond. We all face different obstacles throughout our lives, but I want you to know that anything is possible through hard work and determination. You are also not alone. With more than 90 Alumni, I believe we can help each other in our own unique way. I am a recent graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism. I have had to deal with many obstacles as a result of being born with Cerebral Palsy, but I have worked hard to become mostly independent. YLF has been and continues to be a great resource to come up with modifications to help me remain independent. I want you all to know that they are here to help you and me. I will start writing inserts in the newsletter, sharing my experiences on topics that are relevant to you now or things that you might face in the future. **Please let know if you want me to address a specific topic that is important to you.** You can e-mail me anything at: brian-h-smith@hotmail.com.

Remember you can do whatever you want if you work hard enough.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Smith

2004 Graduate of the Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum

SCHOOL CHECKLIST FOR SENIORS

September

- Discuss your course load, college plans, and test scores with your high school counselor.
- Request college applications.
- Arrange campus visits.
- Register to take the SAT/ACT, if necessary.
- Search for scholarships and ways to pay.
- Run College Answer's **FREE scholarship search**.
- Submit a CSS/PROFILE form, if required.
- Stay organized. File copies. Update your calendar.

October

- Verify that your transcripts are accurate.
- Find out which financial aid applications are required at your choice colleges.
- Ask for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.
- Work on admission application essays.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- "Early decision" candidates should complete college applications (deadline is often November 1 or 15).

November

- Continue completing your college applications.
- Determine which financial aid forms your choice colleges require—when in doubt contact the financial aid office.
- Search for additional sources of student financial aid.
- Use College Answer's **Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Calculator** to estimate how much your family could be expected to contribute to your education.

December

- Complete school applications ideally by December 1.
- Print the "FAFSA on the Web Worksheet." This form can help you gather the necessary information to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit <http://fafsa.ed.gov>.
- Take SAT or Achievements, if registered.
- Stay organized and watch deadlines.

January

- Submit your FAFSA via the Web as soon after January 1 as possible because some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Fill out and submit required financial aid forms. Follow instructions carefully and make copies.

February – March

- College acceptance and financial award letters begin to arrive.

- Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR). Carefully examine the results.
- Don't panic if you're selected for verification. Just provide the college with the documents they need.
- Stay on top of important financial aid deadlines.
- Respond quickly to college requests for additional documentation.

April

- Use College Answer's **Award Analyzer** to compare the award letters you receive.
- Make a decision, most colleges request your reply by May 1, and send your tuition deposit.
- Register for Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if necessary.
- Mark your calendar with important deadlines (housing, meals, transportation, financial aid, etc.).

May

- Verify that your final transcripts have been mailed.
- Notify other colleges of your decision not to attend.
- Continue to search for scholarships.
- Look for a summer job and save money for school.
- Evaluate student loan lenders.

June

- Save some of your graduation money for school.
- Respond to requests from the college you will be attending. Keep copies of everything you send.
- Read and be familiar with your college catalog and semester class schedule.
- Talk with friends who are home from college.
- Make travel arrangements, if necessary.
- Send thank-you notes or postcards to those who helped you get into college.

July – August

- If you still need money to pay for college, consider a student loan. **Apply online at College Answer.**
- Register and attend a college orientation session.
- Confirm housing arrangements and meal plans.
- Finalize your college budget.
- Notify the financial aid office of loans you will receive.
- Consider taking out a renter's insurance policy.
- Return borrowed items, such as library books, rental videos and things borrowed from friends.
- Make note of tracking numbers of boxes you are shipping to school.
- Open a bank account near campus.
- Review your cell phone plan to limit roaming charges.
- Contact your roommate and coordinate what to pack.
- Pack for college. Use College Answer's **Packing for College Checklist**.

Scholarship Tips for Students

Think you won't qualify for a scholarship? Chances are you're in for a big surprise. Not all scholarships are based on academic performance or financial need. In fact, there are hundreds of scholarships available based on all types of criteria—minority status, heritage, community affiliations, educational goals, and more—that you may qualify for. To learn more, read on. Then visit CollegeAnswer.com/freemoney.

How much do you know scholarships?

Did you know millions of scholarships reward nearly every talent? Did you know many scholarships are based on career paths, leadership, and community service? How about talent? Do you have any? If you do, you'll like this: A lot of scholarships are based on talents like debate, art, music, sports, and even the ability to bake an apple pie. Yes, apple pie. Pretty cool, huh? Guess that means having straight As and financial need are not always a prerequisite for winning scholarships. The key is to identify your strengths and then find the awards that are right for you. But before you do that, it's time to learn the basics about scholarships.

What are scholarships?

Scholarships are financial awards to students that do not have to be repaid, also known as "free money." Scholarship awards can range from just a few dollars to covering the full tuition bill.

Who offers scholarships?

Think about what makes you different, and find groups that value that difference. Many organizations offer scholarships, including:

- State & local governments
- Businesses
- Employers
- Clubs
- Associations
- High schools
- Civic groups
- Church & religious organizations
- Trade associations
- Labor unions
- Political parties
- Military associations
- Private foundations
- Private charities
- Ethnic organizations

Where to Search for Scholarships?

College Answer's Free Scholarship Search provides access to an award database containing more than 2.4 million scholarships. Start searching today and check back often. Every time you log on or update your profile, a new search matches you with the latest scholarship opportunities at www.CollegeAnswer.com/scholarships.

Plenty of scholarships are perfect for you, and once you identify them, you can dramatically increase your chances of winning. We can help you devise a strategy with this useful information:

- Get tips for a successful scholarship search.
- Learn how to write a winning scholarship essay.
- Avoid scholarship scams.
- Download a checklist to track your scholarships.

Follow these guidelines to help make your scholarship search a successful one.

- Strictly observe deadlines and strive to submit applications early.
- Be honest about grades, experiences, memberships, qualifications, family finances, and other information.
- Only apply if you meet the scholarship's minimum requirements.
- Carefully follow instructions.
- When submitting the application, only include items requested.
- Proofread your application carefully.
- Keep copies of everything you send in case your application is misplaced.
- Send your application packet by registered mail so you know your materials arrived safely.



BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

"You can't find this information anywhere else." Yes, you can. They don't know about anything that you can't learn on your own.

"You're a finalist!" or "You've won!" a contest you never entered. The caller offers to hold your award funds in return for your credit card or bank account number. Hang up!

"First come, first served." This may apply to some legitimate forms of financial aid, but not to scholarships. However, legitimate scholarship sponsors do impose deadlines.

"Millions of dollars go unclaimed." False! Every legitimate scholarship sponsor predetermines award amounts and works very hard to select the most qualified recipients.

"It's guaranteed!" What's usually guaranteed is search "results"—not scholarship money. We can show you how to conduct your own first-rate search."

"We'll do the work for you, for a fee." The fee may be nominal and the offer may come from someone sounding official, so make sure you do your research before paying anyone to do a search for you.

Scholarship Tips for Students

REQUESTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship Title	Scholarship	Scholarship	Scholarship	Scholarship	Scholarship
Award Amount	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brief Description					
Sponsor					
Address					
Contact					
Telephone					
E-mail					
Web site					
Fax					
How Info Was Requested					
Info Requested	/	/	/	/	/
Info Received	/	/	/	/	/
Application Submitted	/	/	/	/	/
Notes					
Conclusion					

YLF ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT CARDS "BLUE CARDS"

Congratulations to all the Alumni who sent in one or many "BLUE CARDS" last year! It's important for you to remember to fill these out and mail in! It helps us know what you are doing with the training you received during YLF.

Since we have a new class of YLF graduates, every class restarts at 0 blue cards for the year. You guys better watch out though...Check out the 2010 YLF class! Only 4 months since June, and check out how many they've turned in as a class!

Remember—you can mail in your blue cards or complete them ONLINE!

YLF 2004: 3 blue cards
 YLF 2005: 4 blue cards
 YLF 2006: 3 blue cards
 YLF 2007: 4 blue cards
 YLF 2008: 0 blue cards
 YLF 2009: 23 blue cards
 YLF 2010: 80 blue cards

***Remember: If you need more blue cards, write us a letter, e-mail me, call me! I'll send them to you!**

Speaking of Blue cards... Don't forget to record or copy what you are sending in to me! You need to know your activities when you complete college and job applications! You can create your own form like the one below. This form can be found at: <http://okylf.pbworks.com/Helpful+forms+and+Information>.

ACTIVITIES FORM	List all the extracurricular, community, and personal activities in which you have participated. Include clubs, debate, sports, student government, arts, volunteer work, youth programs, music, scouting, etc.				
ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATION BY YEAR				SHORT DESCRIPTION, POSITIONS HELD, ETC.
	9 TH	10 ^T H	11 ^T H	12 ^T H	