Become a Leader at YLF!

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) wants to help you lead your own future. At YLF, you will spend a week on a college campus with other driven students. Together, you will explore career options, improve your leadership and advocacy skills, and create a plan to reach your good life!

No One Likes a Label... We Don’t Either!

We agree with you that you are much more than a disability label. We want you to finish high school with pride in your abilities and your disability.

The key to YLF is leadership by example. During YLF, you will learn from others who have common challenges and experiences. YLF will help you learn how to be a successful member of your community, advocate for your rights, and understand your responsibilities.

How Can I Participate in YLF?

For an application or information about becoming a staff member, visit our website or contact us:

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
PO Box 25352
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
(405) 521 - 4984
Email staff@okddc.ok.gov

www.okddc.ok.gov

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How Are Students Selected?

YLF wants Oklahoma high school sophomores, juniors or seniors who have a disability to apply. The application process includes an essay, letters of recommendation, and an interview. Don't worry about these. We can help you! Students should include if they have shown leadership potential in their school or town.

What Happens at YLF?

During the week, students will create life plans, learn about helpful resources, and participate in fun social activities. The goal is to learn how to lead a well-rounded life!

Students will have access to valuable resources, including books, assistive technology and community support systems, and scholarship information for higher education opportunities. Students will meet leaders and professionals in Oklahoma, spend a day at the Oklahoma Capitol talking with state officials, and learn about disability rights and laws from national and state speakers.

After YLF, students agree to follow the goals they set in their good life plans. They will be invited to attend follow-up events where they can meet new people, keep up with their personal growth, and support one another.

Is There a Cost for Me to Attend?

No. Participation costs are paid for by the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO).

Our goal is to help youth with disabilities grow personally, socially, and academically; to become a strong leader and advocate for themselves and their community.

DON’T MISS OUT! IT’LL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

LISTEN TO OUR GRADUATES

“As a person that hated the idea of a leadership camp...I can honestly say YLF changed my life for the better! It will change yours, too.”
– Morgan, Class of 2012

“It was a huge stepping stone into building my confidence and a step into being an adult with a disability and how to manage it better.”
– Caitlyn, Class of 2015

“YLF gave me more information about the history of disabilities. Made me more open with my disability so I’m not scared of it.” – Phylicia, Class of 2013