Youth Leadership Forum

Transition Services Liaison Project
www.tslp.org

Dan Rounds, Coordinator
221 S. Central Ave, Suite 33
Pierre, SD 57501
1-800-224-5336, ext. 518 or
(605) 494-3618
Email: drounds@tie.net

Regional Transition Liaisons

Southeastern Region -
Bev Petersen
811 E. 10th Street, Dept. 21
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 367-5330
Email:
bev.petersen@state.sd.us

North Central Region -
Cindy Kirschman
1707 4th Ave. SE, Suite A
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 626-2398
Email:
cindy.kirschman@state.sd.us

Western Region -
Dave Halverson
PO Box 218
Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 347-4467, ext. 229
Email:
dhalverson@bhssc.tie.net

South Central Region -

221 S Central, Suite 33
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 494-3612
Email:

YLF Application & Videos found online at www.tslp.org.

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!"*

· *"After YLF, I feel I can do anything I put my mind to!"*

· *"Thank you YLF for all that you teach & all that you inspire!"*

Activities are developed so ALL can participate & enjoy!!

What is the Purpose of YLF?

Youth Leadership Forum is a week-long leadership training and career awareness program for high school students with disabilities. It provides training in leadership, self-advocacy skills and career awareness. Approximately 40 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 to make decisions. They also learn organizational skills, different leadership styles, the legislative process, disability laws, how to influence others, etiquette, and much more!

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 a dorm 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. Nursing students also offer their assistance throughout the day.

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 11:00 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.

20th Annual Youth Leadership Forum
Application Form
June 3-7, 2018
Deadline for postmark on mailed application: 12/15/17

- 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.

Please take the time to apply—

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 **9** **10** **11** **12**	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.)
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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, 2018. 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.

- 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 be receiving a letter by mid-March, 2018 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.

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)	

Thank you for completing this application.
If you have any questions, please contact Dan Rounds at (605) 494-3618.

Please mail completed application by December 15, 2017 to:

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

TSLP
Transition Services Liaison Project

Check out YLF videos from previous years at:
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 3-7, 2018.

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 it can be submitted with the completed application by ***December 15, 2017.***

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**
Character					
Concern for others					
Responsibility					
Leadership					
Self-Initiative					
Curiosity					
Ability to work with others					
Maturity					
Communication Skills					
Determination					
Interest in Community Affairs					

5.

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.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____/_____/____

Signature of Reference Date

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_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____/_____/____

Signature of Reference Date