

Idaho Youth Leadership Forum Application

We invite future community leaders to attend the Idaho Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities

July 13-17, 2009

At Boise State University, Boise, Idaho

- Approximately 25 high school juniors and seniors with disabilities will be selected to attend.
- There is **no cost** for selected student delegates. All expenses will be paid, including transportation to and from the forum.
- YLF is an exciting, fun, and educational weeklong training program, which includes meeting Idaho lawmakers and community leaders, and an exciting job shadow experience with community employers.
- Please see the Application Instructions and Rules and Guidelines sheets on the next pages of this application packet for more details about the forum.

***Note:** Students who have attended the Idaho Youth Leadership Forum in the past may not apply. Students who have applied in the past, but were not accepted as delegates, may apply again.*

Application Deadline:
**Applications must be received at the Idaho Council
on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) Office by**
March 20, 2009

(Keep pages 1, 2, and 3. Do not mail them back with your application.)

Application Instructions

1. To be able to apply for the Youth Leadership Forum, you must:
 - A. Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act - go to <http://www.adata.org/whatsada-definition.aspx> to see the ADA definition of disability);
 - B. Live in Idaho;
 - C. Be enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2008, and be between the ages of 16 and 21;
 - D. Not be a past Youth Leadership Forum delegate.
 - E. Demonstrate current leadership potential in your school and the community by showing...
 - i. Academic Effort/Success
 - ii. Involvement in Extra-curricular Activities
 - iii. Community Involvement
 - iv. The Ability to Interact Effectively with Others
2. Interested students must mail the completed application packet to Tracy Warren at the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, no later than **March 20, 2009**.
3. Semi-finalists will be selected and contacted by telephone to set up a personal interview. Interviews will happen in April 2009.
4. All applicants will get a letter telling them whether or not they have been chosen to attend the forum. (Letters will be mailed by May 1, 2009.) Up to 25 students will be chosen to attend.
5. After being selected, students will be asked to sign a rules and guidelines form and provide additional information to the Youth Leadership Forum's Committee staff.
6. All appropriate expenses will be paid by the Youth Leadership Forum management, including expenses like travel, lodging, food, interpreters, and personal care attendants, if needed.

(Keep this page. Do not mail it back with your application.)

Rules and Guidelines for Student Delegates at the Youth Leadership Forum

In order to provide a fun, safe learning experience at the Youth Leadership Forum, all delegates will be expected to follow the rules listed below. Students are expected to act in a responsible way and demonstrate their leadership ability, and must:

1. Be on time, beginning with your transportation pick-up point in your community. (Delegates who miss their scheduled transportation will have to provide their own.)
2. Be at scheduled places and stay with your assigned group at all times. You must attend all sessions.
3. Have a respectful attitude toward fellow delegates, counselors, and forum staff.
4. Respect the facilities (keep the campus residence rooms and all other areas in good condition). Delegates will have to pay for property damage they cause and for lost room keys or towels.
5. You may not smoke, have or use illegal chemicals or alcohol. (You must bring a list of your prescription or other approved medications, this list must be signed by your parents/guardian. These medications can only be given under supervision by the forum medical staff.)
6. All other campus residence halls and facilities are off limits. We recommend that delegates **do not bring** walkmans, radios, and electronic games to the forum. Cell phones must be turned OFF during presentations and other forum activities.

If you break these rules you will be sent home immediately at your parents'/guardians' expense. Your application to the Youth Leadership Forum shows that you accept these rules and guidelines. However, if you are selected to be a delegate, we will ask you to sign a rule acceptance form.

It is important to remember that delegates are chosen to attend the forum because of their leadership abilities. Be aware of the responsibility that goes with the honor of being selected . . . and plan to have a great time!

(Keep this page. Do not mail it back with your application.)

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must be received at the ICDD office by:
March 20, 2009

- Students must complete ALL information on this application.
- You can fill out the application form online, download the form to your computer, fill it out and email it back, or print out the form, fill it out, and mail it back.
- Please type or print with black or blue ink.
- Mail the completed application to:
Tracy Warren, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
Idaho Youth Leadership Forum
802 W. Bannock, Suite 308
Boise, ID 83702-5840 or FAX to: 1-208-334-3417
- Please see page 2 and 3 of this application for additional instructions.

1. _____ 2. Male ___ Female ___
Student's Last Name First Middle

3. _____
Residence Address City State ZIP

4. _____
Mailing Address, if different than above City State ZIP

5. (_____) 6. _____
(Area Code) Home Telephone Number E-mail Address

7. _____
Parent(s) Last Name First Name(s) Phone

8. _____ 9. _____
Grade Level on December 31, 2008 Birth Date

10. _____
High School School Mailing Address City State ZIP

11. (_____) 12. _____
(Area Code) School Telephone Number Expected Date of Graduation

13. _____
Special Education Teacher or other Teacher Teacher's email address

14. _____
High School Counselor Counselor's email address

15. Please briefly describe your disability (medical or school related diagnosis):

Accommodations and supports - check **ALL** that apply:

I use sign language (ASL or Signed English?) _____

I use real time captioning I use lip reading

I read with Braille I need speakers to use a microphone

I read with large print I need help with reading

I use a wheelchair I need help with writing

I cannot walk upstairs

I cannot walk long distances

I need help with personal care (dressing, bathing, eating)

I need help transferring into and out of my wheelchair

Other _____

Please tell us about your accommodation needs during the interview process. We will provide reasonable accommodations and supports needed at no cost to the delegate.

16. Please list the school classes you are currently taking:

17. Please list your career interest and/or two jobs you would like to have in the future. Be specific. You will have a chance to meet someone who is already doing one of these jobs at the YLF Mentor's Luncheon.

1. _____

2. _____

18. Transition Services

If you are currently a client of the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and/or you are currently in a Workability, Transition Partnership Project (TPP), or other transition program, please fill out the following:

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor:

Name Telephone

Transition Counselor:

Name Telephone

20. Letters of Recommendation:

Please include two letters of recommendation that describe the leadership skills you have shown or your possible leadership abilities. One letter must be from a high school representative and one must be from someone outside of your school who lives in your community and is not a member of your family.

Give the form on page 9 to each of your references. You can photocopy the form as much as you need to.

1) _____
Name Position/Title

Organization (_____) Telephone Number

2) _____
Name Position/Title

Organization (_____) Telephone Number

21. Required Essay

Your answers to the following four topics will be used to decide if you are ready to participate in the Youth Leadership Forum. You may give us your essay answers in a way that works best for you. Choose one of the following formats for your essay:

Written Essay: please write your answers on separate pieces of paper and attach to your completed application packet. Your total essay answer for all four of the topics should not be more than four (4) typewritten pages. (Responses must be double-spaced, and either typewritten, or printed in black or blue ink.) Please let us know if you need a Braille application and/or need to complete your application in Braille.

Video Tape: please provide a video of you telling us your answers to the essay topics. The video length must be 6 minutes or less. (You may use sign language with an interpreter or use any communication devices that you need. If you need more time please contact us.) Please send a DVD, VHS tape, or digital WAV file that can be viewed through Windows Media Player.

Audio Tape: please give us an audio tape or CD of you telling us your answers to the essay topics. The recording must be 6 minutes or less. (You may use any communication device you need. If you need more time please contact us.)

Required Essay Topics

(1) **QUALIFICATIONS** - Tell us why you would be a good delegate for YLF and why you want to attend. (Let us know about how you are a leader in your school or community and give examples of how you show responsibility for reaching your school, family, community and personal goals.)

(2) **POSITIVE INFLUENCES** - Please tell us about two people in your life that you look to as an example of how to be a good leader. Why? (Families, teachers, counselors, friends, public officials or celebrities are appropriate examples.)

(3) **EXPERIENCES AS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY** – Tell us about two important experiences you have had as a young person with a disability. (Please be specific about your examples as they relate to your disability).

(4) **FUTURE PLANS** – Tell us about your plans for after high school graduation.

22. Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided.

- Application Form**
- Two Letters of Recommendation** (use form provided and photocopy)
- Essay** (response to four topics)

Signature of Student

Date

Thank you for completing this application. Please complete the application online, send by fax, or mail it to the address below, postmarked by **March 20, 2009**. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview in April 2009. If you have any questions, please contact:

Tracy Warren
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
802 W. Bannock, Suite 308
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: (208) 334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433 TTY (208) 334-2179
FAX: (208) 334-3417
Email: twarren@icdd.idaho.gov

Letter of Recommendation

Thank you for agreeing to write a recommendation for this student to attend the Idaho Youth Leadership Forum 2009. Please complete this page and return to the student in a **sealed envelope** to protect the confidentiality of your comments. Feel free to type your recommendation on a separate sheet if it is more convenient for you.

1. How do you know this student?

2. What has this student done to demonstrate leadership potential within the school or community? Please be specific.

3. Describe the personal qualities of this student in your view that show his or her leadership potential. Please provide an example or illustration.

4. How do you think this individual might serve as a role model or leader for other youth with disabilities? Please be specific.

Signature of Reference

Title

Phone Number