

Youth Leadership Forum-Virginia

Empowering Young Leaders for the 21st Century

The YLF-VA program, operated by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, seeks to develop leadership skills in young people with disabilities. Based on the California model of youth leadership development, the program recruits rising high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who have demonstrated leadership potential and motivation.

The 2009 YLF will be held at Christopher Newport University in Newport News **July 13th-17th, 2009**. The deadline for the receipt of applications from prospective student delegates is **March 31, 2009**.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible for the 2009 YLF-VA, the student must:

- have a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disability Act;
- be in 10th or 11th grade as of December 15, 2008;
- have demonstrated leadership potential in his/her school and community;
- reside in Virginia;
- agree to assist as a YLF-VA volunteer within 2 years of attending as a Student Delegate.

How are delegates selected for the forum?

- Twenty-five students are selected as YLF-VA Delegates in a competitive application process administered statewide.
- All applications are reviewed for compliance with application procedures. Following a screening and selection process, semi-finalists are contacted by phone to arrange a personal interview. Finalists selected to attend the forum are notified by letter.
- All forum expenses are paid by the YLF-VA, including lodging, transportation, food, materials, and individual accommodations, such as sign language interpreters and personal care assistants.
- Applications for the 2009 YLF must be received no later than **March 31, 2009**.

What happens at the Youth Leadership Forum?

- During the Forum, Delegates receive specialized, intensive career and life goal identification training, leadership skill development, social skills enhancement, and an unforgettable experience interacting with enthusiastic peer and successful role models.
- Throughout the training, small working groups explore personal leadership and career plans.
- Guest speakers address such topics as disability rights laws, innovations in technology, and community resources.
- A guided tour of the Capitol involves interaction with government dignitaries and members of the press.
- Student Delegates possess a greater knowledge of community resources and career and higher education opportunities when they leave the forum.

For more information about the Youth Leadership Forum, please contact:

YLF-VA Sponsored Programs Manager or Sponsored Programs Assistant at 1-800-846-4464 (voice or TTY)

email: Teri.Barker@vbpd.virginia.gov or Kara.White@vbpd.virginia.gov

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