



*A great Patriot  
of the Virginia  
who died while  
their rights Octob*  
*VICTRIX CAUSA DE  
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**Bring your  
leadership  
skills, talent,  
and potential to the  
Virginia YLF  
at Virginia  
Commonwealth  
University**

**July 18-22, 2011**  
**Application Deadline:**  
**March 31, 2011**

**[www.vaboard.org/ylf.htm](http://www.vaboard.org/ylf.htm)**

- *Learn more about YLF*
- *Watch YLF YouTube video*
- *Download application*

Rising juniors and seniors  
with disabilities, we  
encourage you to submit your  
applications via email.  
(Applications can also be  
printed and faxed or mailed.)

Contact:  
[kara.white@vbpd.virginia.gov](mailto:kara.white@vbpd.virginia.gov)  
804-786-3441 or  
1-800-846-4464

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# **Youth Leadership Forum**

# Youth Leadership Forum

*For Students with Disabilities*



## What is the Youth Leadership Forum?

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a unique training program for high school students with disabilities. Students selected to attend the YLF are called Delegates. The YLF provides Delegates with opportunities for learning, sharing, and developing skills to enhance their leadership potential at school, at work, within their families, and in their communities.

## What Happens at the Youth Leadership Forum?

Delegates participate in leadership training activities, explore career and life goals, network, develop informational resources, and explore state-of-the-art assistive technology.

Delegates also:

- ❖ Hear first-hand the real-life experiences of successful adult leaders with disabilities;
- ❖ Develop Personal Leadership Plans to implement following the YLF;
- ❖ Tour the State Capitol and meet with legislators;
- ❖ Enjoy social activities and entertainment created specially for the YLF.

## Who Can Participate?

Rising high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who have demonstrated leadership potential and motivation are eligible to apply and may be selected as YLF Delegates.

## How are Delegates Selected for the Forum?

Delegates are chosen through a competitive application process administered statewide. Each student submits an application form, a personal essay, and letters of recommendation. The YLF strives to ensure that each class of Delegates represents Virginia's geographic and demographic diversity.

## Who Sponsors the Youth Leadership Forum?

The YLF is endorsed at the national level by the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. At the state level, YLF's are generally sponsored by local Governor's Committees or by Developmental Disabilities Councils. The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, Virginia's Developmental Disability Council, led the effort to establish the YLF Virginia and provides the YLF's core funding.

## What is the Tuition for the Youth Leadership Forum?

Tuition covers all YLF expenses including room and board, instructional materials, activities, interpreters, personal care assistants, and individual medical care as required. The YLF is funded through corporate and private donations, federal grant money, and Delegate scholarships. YLF staff and volunteers support and assist Delegates obtaining individual scholarships. It is a goal of the program that Delegates attend the week-long forum at no personal cost.

## Why is the YLF for Students with Disabilities?

It is the program's view that young adults with disabilities will learn best from leader role models who have successfully met the challenges of their own disabilities. By presenting these leaders in an atmosphere of encouragement, the YLF offers youth with disabilities the opportunity to learn from one another and skilled facilitators through shared problem-solving and teamwork.

## What happens after YLF?

The YLF is intended to be a life-changing experience for the Delegates. After the Forum, Alumni Delegates are expected to follow through on the Personal Leadership Plans they developed at the YLF and become leaders in their communities.

## You can be part of the Youth Leadership Forum by

- ❖ Applying to be a Delegate
- ❖ Becoming a dedicated volunteer
- ❖ Being a parent or school booster
- ❖ Participating as a corporate investor
- ❖ Providing a Delegate scholarship

Applications are due March 31st. To receive an application, please contact Virginia Board for People with Disabilities at 1-800-846-4464 (Voice/TTY) or visit [www.vaboard.org](http://www.vaboard.org).