



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 Davis, Class of 2012

"At YLF, I learned that the solution to a situation isn't always obvious. It also helped me learn to live outside of the house I grew up in."

– Joey Keller, Class of 2008

"YLF helps you see a better future for yourself. Self-advocacy is important, and YLF teaches you that!" – Andria Lewis, Class of 2010

"YLF changed my life forever. I learned leadership skills and how to stand up for myself in school and everyday life."

– Keith Smith, Class of 2011

"This experience made me relate more to people who have struggles in their lives like me. YLF also taught me how I can overcome any obstacle that is in my way." – Ashley Snyder, Class of 2008

How Can I Participate in YLF?

For a student delegate application form or more information about becoming a staff member or sponsor, visit the council's website at www.okddc.ok.gov or contact:

Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council

2401 N.W. 23rd St., Suite 74

Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Voice/TDD (405) 521-4964

Toll-free (800) 836-4470

Fax (405) 521-4910

Email YLF@okddc.ok.gov

www.okddc.ok.gov

DHS Pub. No. 15-73

Issued 01/2016

This publication is authorized by Oklahoma Department of Human Services Director Ed Lake and printed by DHS in accordance with state and federal regulations at a cost of \$487.09 for 5,033 copies. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. DHS offices may request copies on ADM-9 [23AM009E] electronic supply orders. Members of the public may obtain copies by calling 1-877-283-4113 (toll free), by faxing an order to (405) 962-1741, or by downloading a copy at www.okdhs.org/library.



For Students with Disabilities



www.okddc.ok.gov



OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENTAL



DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Become a Leader at YLF!

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) wants to help **you lead for you**. At YLF, you will spend a week on a college campus to explore your career options, improve your leadership skills, meet with state legislators, and create a leadership 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 yourself, your abilities and your disability.

The key to YLF is leadership by example. During YLF, you will learn from each other and trainers who have common challenges and experiences with a disability. YLF shows you what you need to know to be a successful member of your community. You will realize your abilities, rights and responsibilities as you develop a plan for your good life.

How Are Students Selected?

You should be an Oklahoma high school sophomore, junior or senior who has a disability. Preference goes to students who have shown leadership potential in their school or town. You will be selected through an application process that includes an essay, letters of recommendation, and an interview. Don't worry. We can help you complete these!

What Happens at YLF?

During the week, you will work in groups to create your good life plans. You will learn about resources that can help you. Fun social activities are included throughout the week to teach you about leading a well-rounded life.

You will have access to valuable resources, including assistive technology and community support systems, scholarship information for postsecondary schools, books, and national and state speakers who will help us learn about disability rights laws. You will meet leaders and professionals in Oklahoma and spend a day at the State Capitol talking with state officials.

After YLF, graduates agree to follow through with the goals outlined in their good life plans. Follow-up activities for YLF graduates are planned to continue networking, continue personal growth, and support each other.



Is There a Cost for Me to Attend?

No. Costs for participating are paid by the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council.

The Oklahoma YLF enables youth with disabilities to grow personally, socially and academically, and to fulfill their potential in their work and lives.

*YLF PREPARES YOU FOR
LIFE'S OPPORTUNITIES AND
CHALLENGES*



*ALL STUDENTS SHOULD
HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY*