

What is the YLF all about?

YLF is an educational and motivational forum with an intense schedule. Small 'working teams' explore personal, leadership and career plans. Social, artistic, athletic, and recreational activities abound, as these are part of leading a well-rounded life. Guest speakers address topics such as disability rights and laws, employability skills, and innovations in technology. A farewell dance will allow a time to celebrate accomplishments with new friends. The key to YLF is leadership by example. Young adults with disabilities who have traveled the same path serve as mentors, team leaders and assistant team leaders during the week. Many other volunteers, some with disabilities and some without, help to make the program a success.

Is there a cost to attend?

No. The commitment of the YLF is to empower youth with disabilities 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 fund raising, sponsored scholarships and corporate donations.



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South Dakota Businesses and Corporations,
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DD Council
Office of Special Education Programs

Youth Leadership Forum

June 3-7 , 2012

**Northern State University
Aberdeen, SD**

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?

YLF....Determination, Motivation, Self-Confidence.....it's what ties us to success!

What is the Purpose of Youth Leadership Forum?

Youth Leadership Forum is a week-long leadership training and career awareness program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. It provides training in leadership, self-advocacy skills and career awareness to approximately 40 students with disabilities throughout South Dakota 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, to 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!

Other activities that make YLF fun and unique are art activities, a dance, volunteering opportunities, picnics, sports and most of all hanging out with new friends who are experiencing similar situations.

All activities are developed so everyone can participate! What YLF alumni have said about their YLF experiences...

- ◆ *"It's been extremely helpful to learn about others' disabilities and learn transition techniques to work toward our future education and employment."*
- ◆ *"The project has helped me improve myself and prepare me for the future."*

At YLF, student delegates will.....

- ◆ Work in small teams with other delegates and staff to talk about their interests and concerns and practice leadership skills.
- ◆ Meet in large group sessions to hear from inspiring guest speakers on a variety of topics.

For more information on YLF,
please contact your Regional Transition Liaison or
Dan Rounds, Transition Coordinator:
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Mark your Calendar: Deadline for applications is December 23, 2011!

Applications can be downloaded from: www.tslp.org or ask your high school special education teacher