

**CALIFORNIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

**FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

# 2023 California Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities Informational Guide

**July 13-15: Virtual Sessions on Zoom**

**(July 16: No Sessions)**

**July 17-19: In-Person Sessions at CSUS**

(Dates are tentative and subject to change from venue.)

# What is YLF?

YLF is a six-day leadership program for students with disabilities, which will be held through a combination of online Zoom sessions and in-person activities in Sacramento (at California State University, Sacramento). Students will learn advocacy and leadership skills from alumni and professionals with disabilities and create a “Personal & Career Leadership Plan” to help reach their future education, independent living, and career goals.

Students interact with state and national leaders with disabilities, which may include celebrities, politicians, entertainers, and other adult role models with disabilities. Participants also make lifelong friendships with other statewide delegates and have mentorship opportunities with alumni.

Students will attend a combination of large group presentations and small group meetings during the forum. Additional optional post-YLF program sessions in the months following YLF will be offered. These are one to two hours each and hosted virtually on the Zoom platform.

# What does it cost?

There is no cost for students who are selected to attend. Delegates will be provided with any additional technology and reasonable accommodations they need to attend online sessions, and all costs including travel, lodging, meals, and accommodations will be covered for the sessions in-person in Sacramento. Funding for YLF is provided through a public-private partnership.

# Who can attend?

California residents with a disability who are high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors during the 2022-2023 school year, ending in June 2023.

The most highly qualified applicants are students who have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community. All students with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

# How are students selected?

A Delegate Selection Committee reviews and scores all of the applications and will schedule interviews with the most highly rated applicants.

Interviews will take place in person or over Zoom during January or February 2023. A panel of Disability Community leaders will make the final selections in March of 2023.

# If selected to attend the YLF, What happens next?

Delegates and parents/guardians will be informed of their selection through email.

Once selected, delegates and parents/guardians will complete a confirmation form and provide additional information to the planning partners, including details about what reasonable accommodations and technological supports are needed.

More detailed information about the forum’s schedule and activities will be sent in late spring, and delegates are required to attend both virtual and in-person sessions.

YLF planning partners continue to track health trends and safety guidance within California. Delegates may be expected to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and to test negatively for COVID-19 in the 24 hours before arriving in Sacramento.

# To Apply

Visit the [Youth Leadership Forum](http://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/ylf) website at [www.dor.ca.gov/Home/ylf](http://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/ylf) to download the application and learn more about the YLF including messages from past delegates.

E-mail the application, essay, and letter of recommendation to [YLF@dor.ca.gov](mailto:YLF@dor.ca.gov).

In the email subject line, put your first name initial, last name, and the words “2023 YLF Student Application”. (For example, “A. Applicant YLF 2023 Student Application”)

Only typed application packets will be accepted.

# Application Deadline

The deadline date to send in your application is Friday, December 30, 2022.

# Have questions? Contact Us

Contact the CCEPD office at (855) 894-3436 (voice) or email us at [YLF@dor.ca.gov](mailto:YLF@dor.ca.gov).

For relay services please call 711.

# Who coordinates YLF?

The YLF is sponsored by the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and administered annually through a collaborative effort of state agencies, non-profit organizations, private industry, and YLF Alumni. A YLF Governance Committee comprised of representatives from several YLF partners provides guidance, direction, and support on aspects of the program.