

2019 Young Leaders Summit (YLS)

Staff FAQ's

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About the Young Leaders Summit (YLS)

When and where is the YLS?

August 7 –11, 2019 (Wednesday – Sunday) at the University of Chicago

What is the Young Leaders Summit?

The Young Leaders Summit (YLS) is a free, four-day, overnight, college empowerment conference for a diverse cohort of low-income high school juniors, selected through a competitive application process. It is designed to give these young leaders the practical tools they need to successfully apply to top universities, have full access to scholarship and financial aid opportunities, and set a course for academic and career success.

What organization is hosting the YLS?

The Youth Leadership Consortium (YLC), is a partnership, led by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, of organizations such as the American Indian College Fund, College Board, College Greenlight, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Jack and Jill Foundation, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and HSF, brought together by the mission to provide students and families of all backgrounds and ethnicities with the knowledge and resources to successfully complete a higher education. The YLC works to ensure that the families we collectively serve at these events are representative of the diversity of the United States.

What have past participants said about the YLS?

The YLS is highly rated, as evidenced by our post surveys. Below are a few examples of what past participants have said:

- *“This program is more impactful than you could possibly know, it makes a difference for the students in such a profound way that truly can’t be expressed in words. Thank you.”* YLS Participant 2018
- *“YLS was an opportunity like no other. It was a place where I met new people that I will never forget and continue to network with in the future. The knowledge gained and the experiences created were amazing and will always be thankful.”* YLS Participant 2018

Volunteer Roles

What is my role as a Mentor?

As a YLS mentor, you will supervise and lead a “squad” of 5-6 YLS students throughout the program. Mentors serve as the point-of-contact for their students in the weeks leading up to, during, and following the YLS program. Mentors are responsible for facilitating workshop transitions, leading nightly squad debriefs, and assisting with YLS sessions, as needed. Mentors must be current college undergraduates.

You will be expected to follow up with your squad members throughout their senior year in high school, following instructions on reporting the students’ progress back to YLS.

What is my role as a Fellow?

If selected for the fellow position, you will serve as the “student lead” for the YLS. As a fellow, you will work closely with YLS professional staff in overseeing all components of the programming: introducing speakers, leading some sessions, serving as points of contacts for the mentors, and handling any situations that arise along with YLS professional staff. Although you will not have a squad of your own, you will serve as the student face of the program and will interact with participants, mentors, YLS staff, and visitors/speakers.

Fellows must have been YLS mentors in the past.

What is my role as an A-team member?

A-Team members are a critical component for the success of the YLS. This group is always a few steps ahead of everyone else, as they play a crucial role in set up and logistical coordination needed for the YLS program to occur. Although most of the work is behind the scenes, this group is a tight community of past YLS participants that are eager to give back to the program through selfless work and dedication. Most past A-Team members return the following year as mentors, once they are enrolled in college.

Cost

Is there a cost to attend the YLS?

No, it's **FREE** to apply and participate. The Young Leaders Summit sessions, meals, and room and board, are covered by the consortium for the duration of the conference.

Will the cost of transportation be covered?

Round trip transportation to Chicago will be provided for staff with a financial hardship, and all requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Please indicate in your application if there is a need for financial assistance as it relates to travel. If you are selected to receive transportation assistance, you will be contacted to provide information about your travel needs.

Will the cost to and from the airport be covered?

The cost will be covered for shuttle transportation to and from the airport to the University of Chicago for all students and staff. However, the cost from the staff member's home to hometown airport will not be covered.

I will be driving to campus and parking overnight, will the cost for parking be covered?

Mileage will not be reimbursed, but overnight parking at the college campus will be covered for YLS participants.

Eligibility

I will be graduating with my undergrad degree this spring/summer 2019. Can I apply?

Current college seniors are only eligible to apply to be a “fellow”, not a mentor (so long as they have been mentors before).

I am a graduate student, am I eligible to be a YLS staff member?

No, only undergraduate students are eligible to be YLS staff members.

I am currently enrolled in community college, can I apply for the mentor role?

No, we are only accepting students enrolled in four-year institutions.

Do I have to be a minority student to apply to be a staff member?

Volunteer staff positions are open to college students of all ethnic backgrounds

Do I have to come from a low income background to apply to be a staff member?

Volunteer staff positions are open to college students of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Application

How do I apply?

[Go to our website](#) and create a profile. After you create it, select “YLS 2019 Staff Application.”

When is the application for the Young Leaders Summit due?

The deadline to submit your completed staff application is Friday, February 8th 2019 at 1pm **PST**.

Why is the application not allowing me to submit?

If you cannot submit your application, go back and ensure you answered each required question.

If I exit the application, will my information be saved?

Yes. All the information provided will be saved

Can I review my application before submitting the information?

Yes. You will be able to return to any section to edit and review before submitting. Once the application is submitted, you will NOT be able to edit your application.

I submitted my application, can I edit my information?

No. Once the application is submitted, you cannot edit the information.

How do I update my online application if my personal information changes?

Once your application has been submitted, you **will not** be allowed to make any changes. If your information changes and you are selected, you will be able to update your information at a later time.

Selection

My application and supporting documentation have been submitted, when will I receive an update regarding my application?

The Selection Committee will review all applications. You will be notified of admission decisions in **early March 2019**.

When will I receive an update regarding my application?

You will be notified of admission decisions in **early March 2019**.

What happens if I'm selected?

If selected, you will be asked to confirm your participation and provide additional details. A program representative will contact you after you submit the confirmation form to answer any questions you may have.

Will I be notified if I do NOT get selected?

You will receive notification of your application status via e-mail in **early March 2019**.

Is there a waitlist if I do not get accepted?

Yes, there will be a limited waitlist. You will be notified in **early March 2019** if you have been placed on the waitlist.

Housing & Dining

Where will I be staying for the duration of the program?

Staff will be staying at the University of Chicago's residence halls on single gender floors. Residence halls provide mostly double rooms shared by two students.

Will meals be provided?

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided for you during the program.

I have dietary restrictions, will they be accommodated?

Students and Staff will dine in the college dining hall. There will be multiple food options, and YLS will attempt to accommodate for all dietary needs.

Staff Responsibilities and Commitments

I am a student at the University of Chicago, can I sleep at my apartment/dorm?

No, all YLS Staff are required to remain on YLS-provided college dorm/room(s) throughout the duration of the program and cannot leave at night to go to their apartment or dorm.

I am interested in applying for the mentor position, and was wondering if it would be possible to leave the program early because I have an internship I must get back to.

No, all Staff members must be committed to the entirety of the program (Wednesday to Sunday).

My Internship will only allow me to miss one or two days, can I arrive Thursday, instead of Wednesday?

No, all staff members must arrive Wednesday morning for training.

I am applying for the Fellow position, if I am not selected, will I need to reapply to be considered for the mentor position?

No, your application will automatically be considered for the mentor position if you are not selected as a Fellow.

Agenda

What topics will the YLS cover?

The YLS will cover a variety of topics to prepare students for the road to college and leadership development workshops. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, financial aid, admissions panel, networking, meeting successful professionals, etc.

What does the schedule look like?

Students and staff will follow a full-day, structured agenda with workshops and activities. All workshops are spread across campus and will require a lot of walking. Note: Upon acceptance, you will be provided with a detailed agenda.

Do I have to attend every day of the program? / What if I cannot attend every day of the program?

You must be able to attend the conference in its entirety. This includes all sessions, group activities, and workshops.

I will need to excuse myself for a few hours to complete an assignment, will I be able to attend?

No, staff members need to be present for the entire duration of the program, as we depend on mentors to ensure all participants are safe and accounted for. Staff members are welcome to work on any personal matters after curfew in their rooms or dorm lounge.

Will I have time to leave campus and visit the city or visit relatives in the area?

Staff members will follow full-day structured agenda and will not be permitted to leave the campus due to safety measures. After the program concludes on Sunday, staff members are free to explore at their own expense, and missed flights will be reimbursed.

When does the program officially end?

You may depart following the Closing Ceremonies, which conclude at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon.

I have additional questions about the YLS; how/who do I ask?

If you have additional questions, please contact us.