

2019 Young Leaders Summit (YLS)

Student FAQ's

<u>About YLS</u>	2
<u>Cost</u>	3
<u>Eligibility</u>	4
<u>Application</u>	6
<u>Selection</u>	7
<u>Housing & Dining</u>	8
<u>Staff & Supervision</u>	9
<u>Agenda</u>	10

About the Young Leaders Summit (YLS)

When and where is the YLS?

August 8 –11, 2019 (Thursday – 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, 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 consortium works to ensure that the families we collectively serve at these events are representative of the diversity of the United States.

Why should I attend?

By participating in the Young Leaders Summit, you will benefit in the following ways:

- Meet high-achieving students of diverse backgrounds from across the nation
- Fine tune the practical tools needed to successfully apply to top universities, effectively access financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- Experience what it's like to live on a college campus and interact with current college students
- Interact with accomplished professionals and university representatives; Participate in professional skills training workshops covering interview skills, networking, and team building
- Create lasting friendships and expand your network with future leaders from all around the country!

How long has this YLS program existed for?

The first YLS was hosted in 2018 at the University of Chicago, for the class of 2019.

What have past participants said about the YLS?

The YLS is highly rated, as evidenced by our programmatic impact reports. 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

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?

Roundtrip transportation to Chicago will be provided for students with a financial hardship. 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. However, the cost from the student's home to hometown airport will not be covered.

I attend high school in a US territory, or I am currently studying abroad for this semester. Can you provide assistance with travel?

Travel assistance will only be provided to/from the 50 US states & Puerto Rico.

I live within driving distance from the University of Chicago, would my parents get reimbursed for mileage?

The cost of mileage will not be reimbursed.

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

Who can apply to participate in YLS?

Here are the eligibility requirements:

- Students of all ethnic backgrounds are welcomed to apply
- Current high school junior, Class of 2020
- 3.0 GPA or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent based on your school scale
- Low income, as defined by Pell eligibility
- Currently attends high school in the United States or a U.S. territory
- Plans to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a U.S. accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university after high school graduation

How do I know if I am low income?

YLS participants must come from a low income background, as defined by [Pell eligibility](#).

Given that you are a high school junior and have not filled out the FAFSA yet, please complete [THIS FAFSA4caster](#) to estimate your Pell-eligibility.

[FAFSA4caster LINK](#)

I completed the form, where does it say if I am eligible? See below for a picture example.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA4caster website interface. At the top, there are logos for Federal Student Aid, the American Mind, and FAFSA. Below the logos is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, FSA ID, StudentAid.gov, and Help, along with a search box. The main content area is titled 'Federal Student Aid FAFSA4caster' and 'How It Adds Up'. It contains text explaining the 'College Cost Worksheet' and a 'Calculate' button. Below this is a form with a text input field for the college name, a numeric input field for the college cost, and a 'Calculate' button. A 'Help and Hints' sidebar is on the right. At the bottom, there is a 'Grants and Scholarships' section with a table of funding sources. A red callout box points to the 'Federal Pell Grant' field, which has the value '2,670' entered. The callout text says: 'A value in this field indicates Pell-eligibility'.

Grants and Scholarships	Amount
Federal Pell Grant	\$ 2,670
State Grants (fill in an amount)	\$
College Grants (fill in an amount)	\$
Scholarships (fill in an amount)	\$

Do I need to fall under a specific income bracket to qualify?

Yes, YLS participants must come from low income background, as defined by pell eligibility.

Do I have to be a minority student in order to apply?

Low income (Pell-eligible) students from all ethnic backgrounds are eligible to apply.

If I am not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident, am I eligible to apply?

If you are a low-income high school junior attending school in the United States or U.S territory, you are eligible to apply, regardless of citizenship status.

If I am a refugee or have established asylum status, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. You must attend high school in the US or US territory in order to qualify. High school juniors must have a valid form of identification if traveling to the program. If you have additional questions, please contact us through YLS message center.

I currently attend high school in another country, can I apply to attend the YLS?

No. You must currently attend high school in the United States or US territory to apply.

I'm currently studying abroad but will resume high school in the US in the Fall of 2019, can I still apply?

Yes, as long as you are back in the United States in time for the program, are a high school senior in Fall 2019, and will graduate high school in 2020. Your "home" high school, where you will resume school in the Fall, must be in the US or within a US territory.

Application

How do I apply?

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

When is the application for the Young Leaders Summit due?

Application deadline is Friday, March 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.

The major and industry questions do not include a field or industry I am interested in, what should I choose?

Choose the option closest to your interest.

Do I need to submit essays?

Yes. Each application requires two short essays.

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 will not be able to edit your 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 by **early April, 2019**.

When will I receive an update regarding my application?

You will be notified of admission decisions in **early April, 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 you contact my parents directly?

If admitted, and a YLS representative will call your parent to receive consent of your attendance, answer questions, and confirm the information you provided.

How many students are selected to participate in the YLS?

200 students will be selected to participate.

Will I be notified if I do NOT get selected?

You will be notified of admission decisions by **early April, 2019**.

Is there a waitlist if I do not get accepted?

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

Housing & Dining

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

Students 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 program staff will attempt to accommodate for all dietary needs.

Safety & Supervision

Since I am a minor, my parents want to come with me. Can they attend? Can their travel and stay be accommodated?

Parents are welcome to drop off and pick up their students. However, all sessions, conference activities, and dorm access is strictly limited to program participants. Additionally, accommodations cannot be provided for travel and stay.

In case of an emergency, will there be staff members readily available?

Students will be under the strict supervision of program staff and mentors throughout the program.

What safety measures does the staff take in ensuring my safety?

At the beginning of the program, we will have a campus safety representative who will address campus safety measures, protocols, and contacts. All dorms are accessible with ID card only, and campus representatives control access to the building. Additionally, a strict curfew for students is enforced, and staff members will monitor halls to ensure students are in their rooms before curfew. Last but not least, all program staff and mentors go through a rigorous background check prior to being hired.

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 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, students need to be present for the entire duration of the program, as the agenda has been carefully tailored to ensure all participants receive all the information they need.

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

Participants will follow a full-day structured agenda and will not be permitted to leave the campus due to safety measures.

When does the program officially end?

You may depart following the Closing Ceremonies, which conclude at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon (August 11th).

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

If you have additional questions, please contact us.