Employment Development Department
State of California

CALIFORNIA Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

Attention High School Students!

The **C**alifornia **G**overnor's **C**ommittee on **E**mployment of **P**eople with **D**isabilities

Invites You to Attend the

13th Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities

- ***What is it?***
  - An innovative and exciting **five-day leadership program** that provides available information on everything from technology to resource agencies, and also helps you to create a "Personal Leadership Plan" to help you reach your future education and career goals. Plus, you and your peers will be able to meet and interact with some of the most important people in the State and nation – celebrities, politicians, entertainers, and other role models from the "disability community."
  - The forum will take place **July 25-29, 2004,** in the State Capitol, Sacramento, California. Student delegates and volunteer staff stay in the dorms at California State University, Sacramento. If you have never experienced a university campus before, this is a great opportunity to do so!
  - Furthermore, there is **NO COST FOR YOU TO ATTEND!**

- ***Who can attend?***

  This amazing opportunity is only available to:
  - High School students in the **11th or 12th grade** with **any kind of disability** (as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, which includes an array of disabilities from learning, visual, mobility, mental health, developmental, hearing, and neurological impairments). Some age exceptions may be made.
  - Those who have demonstrated **leadership potential** in school and in the community.
  - Also, you must be a **resident of California.**

California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is affiliated with the National Association of Governors' Committees on People With Disabilities and Community/Mayors' Committees throughout California.

800 Capitol Mall • Room 1022 • MIC 41 • P.O. Box 826880 • Sacramento, CA 94280-0001
(916) 654-8055 Voice • (916) 654-9820 TTY • (916) 654-9821 Fax • (800) 695-0350
www.disabilityemployment.org • www.edd.ca.gov

- ***How do you apply?***
  - Send the completed application by **Friday, February 13, 2004.**
  - Application may be duplicated and distributed as necessary, so urge your friends to apply as well!
  - The application can also be found on-line at **www.disabilityemployment.org**
  - Students must complete **ALL** information on pages 1-5 of application including:
    - Completed **application** portion,
    - **Two letters** of recommendation, and
    - **Essay** responses to the four topics provided.
- ***How are students selected?***
  - Finalists will be contacted by telephone to arrange a personal interview. The California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CGCEPD) staff and affiliated volunteers will conduct the interview, which will take place by April.
  - **All** selected and non-selected applicants will be notified through mail.
  - Approximately 60 students will be chosen to attend.
- ***What happens if you are selected to attend YLF?***
  - Students will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information to the CGCEPD office staff.
  - The YLF staff will then send more detailed information about the Forum's schedule and activities for the week in July.
  - All appropriate expenses will be paid by the Youth Leadership Forum. This includes travel, lodging, food, and accommodations (including interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing students and personal care attendants for physically disabled students).
- ***Who funds this fantastic opportunity?***
  - The YLF is produced as a cooperative project with the State Employment Development Department, the Department of Rehabilitation, the Department of Education, and the California Workforce Investment Board. Furthermore, YLF is primarily funded by private donors including Rotary Clubs, the Wells Fargo Foundation, the California Endowment, the American Legion, and many others.
- ***Who do you contact for further information or questions?***
  - Please feel free to contact the CGCEDP office staff at
    - Voice (800) 695-0350 or (916) 654-8055
    - TTY (916) 654-9820
    - www.disabilityemployment.org
- ***Deadline***
  - Student applicants must mail the completed application packet to the CGCEPD staff office – **postmarked no later than <u>February 13, 2004</u>!** The address is listed on page 5 of the application.

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Youth Leadership Forum

APPLICATION

July 25-29, 2004

♦ **DEADLINE FOR POSTMARK ON APPLICATION is February 13, 2004!** ♦

✓ **Students must submit:**

- Completed **application** form (5 pages),
- **Two letters** of recommendation, and
- **Essay** responses to the four topics provided.

✓ Please type or print with black ink only (other ink colors cannot be accepted).
✓ To expedite the interview process, be sure to include your **county*** with your address.
✓ Please review the Rules and Guidelines.
✓ Mail the application to the address on page 5.

I. Background Information

1. _____
Student's Last Name First Middle

2. Male ☐ Female ☐ Birth Date: _____

3. Student Social Security Number ____-__-_____

4. _____
Residence Address City **County*** State ZIP

5. _____
Mailing Address, if different than above City State ZIP

6. ( ) _____
(Area Code) Home Telephone Number (E-Mail Address)

7. _____
Name of High School

8. _____
School Mailing Address City State ZIP

9. _____ ( ) _____
High School Counselor's Name (Area Code) School Telephone Number

10. _____ Date of Expected Graduation: _____
Grade Level as of Dec. 31, 2003

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_____
Student's Last Name First Name

11. Please describe your disability. This information will assist in assuring that delegates with diverse disabilities are included.

What is your medical diagnosis?_____

_____

When did you become disabled? (Date):_____

How does your disability affect your daily activities (such as reading, eating, walking, or speaking)?_____

_____

Please check **all** that apply:

__ DEAF

HARD OF HEARING

__ I use sign language
__ I use real time captioning
__ I use lip reading

__ BLIND

__ VISUAL DISABILITY

__ I read with Braille
__ I read with large print

__ ORTHOPEDIC DISABILITY

__ I use a wheelchair

__ DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

__ Autism
__ Cerebral Palsy
__ Epilepsy
__ Mental Retardation
__ Traumatic Brain Injury
__ Other_____

__ MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY

__ NEURO/MUSCULAR DISABILITY

__ LEARNING DISABILITY

__ OTHER DISABILITY/ describe:_____

_____

12. Please, specify your ethnicity (optional):_____

13. List the school classes you are currently enrolled in:_____

_____

_____

14A. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):_____

14B. Current Reading Grade Level _____ (If necessary, ask a teacher to assist you in getting the information in numbers 14A and 14B.)

15A. **Information on Department of Rehabilitation**

If you are currently a client of the State Department of Rehabilitation, please list:

Department of Rehabilitation Counselor's Name: _____

Telephone: ____(_____)_____
(Area Code) Number

_____
Student's Last Name First Name

15B. **Information on Workability I or the Transition Partnership Project (TPP):**

If you are currently in a Workability or Transition Partnership Program (TPP), please list:

Transition Counselor's Name: _____

Telephone: ____(_____)_____
(Area Code) Number

16. _____ _____
State Senate Representative's Name District Number

17. _____ _____
State Assembly Representative's Name District Number

18. _____
Names of local newspapers (please list at least one)

II. School and Community Involvement

Below, please briefly list your involvement with your school and community. This may include any offices you held, club memberships, after school activities, or even work experiences. List the length of involvement, the grade level you were in at the time of participation, and the name of an adult you worked with.

School Activities:

A. Name of Activity: _____

Level of Participation: _____

Dates of Involvement: From _____To _____

B. Name of Activity: _____

Level of Participation: _____

Dates of Involvement: From _____To _____

C. Name of Activity: _____

Level of Participation: _____

Dates of Involvement: From _____To _____

_____
Student's Last Name First Name

Community Activities:

A. Name of Activity: _____

Level of Participation: _____

Dates of Involvement: From _____To _____

B. Name of Activity: _____

Level of Participation: _____

Dates of Involvement: From _____To _____

C. Name of Activity: _____

Level of Participation: _____

Dates of Involvement: From _____To _____

III. Letters of Recommendation

Please attach two letters of recommendation that describe your demonstrated leadership skills or your leadership potential.

- One letter must be from a high school representative and
- the other must be from a community representative outside of your school who is not a relative.

List below the name, position/title, organization, and telephone number of each person submitting the recommendation.

_____
Name **Title**
_____ **( )** _____
Organization **(Area Code)** **Telephone Number**

_____
Name **Title**
_____ **( )** _____
Organization **(Area Code)** **Telephone Number**

_____
Student's Last Name First Name

IV. Required Essays

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your readiness to participate in this leadership forum. Please type your responses on a separate paper and attach them to your completed application packet. Your total response for all four of these topics should not exceed four typewritten, double-spaced pages, and must be printed in black ink.

(a) QUALIFICATIONS - Explain why you feel qualified to be a delegate to this forum and why you want to attend.

(b) POSITIVE INFLUENCES - In terms of leadership, please tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life and why. (Family members, teachers, counselors, friends, public officials, or celebrities are appropriate examples.)

(c) EXPERIENCES AS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY - Describe an important experience you have had as a young person with a disability. (Please be specific about your example as to how it relates to your disability.)

(d) FUTURE PLANS – What are your goals and aspirations after graduating high school.

V. Final Preparation

- Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Items	Completed
1. Application form (5 pages)	
2. Two letters of recommendation	
3. Essay (response to four topics)	

- Did anyone assist you in completing this application? ☐ YES ☐ NO
  Please specify who: _____

- Please keep a photocopy of this application for your records.

_____ _____
Signature of Student Today's Date

Thank you for completing this application. Please mail it to the address below. If you have any questions, please contact:

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P.O. Box 826880, MIC 41
Sacramento, California 94280-0001

Voice (800) 695-0350
Voice (916) 654-8055
TTY (916) 654-9820
FAX (916) 654-9821

(KEEP THIS PAGE. DO NOT MAIL WITH APPLICATION.)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS:

Rules and Guidelines for Student Delegates of the Youth Leadership Forum

In order to provide a fun and safe learning experience at the leadership forum, all student delegates will be expected to follow the rules listed below.

Students are selected to attend this forum because of their leadership skills and potential. **Consequently, students are expected to demonstrate their leadership ability and must:**

1. Be punctual, beginning with your transportation pick-up point in your community. (Delegates who miss their scheduled transportation will have to provide their own.)
2. Respect the scheduled program. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. You must stay with your assigned group at all times. Wake up and "lights out" times are set for all participants.
3. Maintain a respectful attitude toward peers, counselors, and conference staff.
4. Respect the facilities (maintaining the condition of dormitory rooms and all other areas). Participants will have to pay for property damage they cause and for lost room keys or towels.
5. When not in assigned groups, males and females are restricted to their own assigned rooms at all times. No co-ed visitation is allowed.
6. Smoking and possession or use of illegal chemicals or alcohol is strictly prohibited. (Prescription or other approved medications require verification and can only be dispensed under supervision by the medical staff.)
7. All other campus residence halls and facilities are off limits.
8. It is recommended that headsets, radios, and electronic games not be brought to the forum. Cellular phones, pagers, two-way radios, etc., must be turned off during all program times of the forum.

Any violations of these rules will result in students being sent home immediately at parents'/guardians' expense. Your application to the Youth Leadership Forum indicates your acceptance of these rules and guidelines.

And more importantly, we emphasize that delegates are chosen to attend the forum because of their leadership potential. Remember the responsibility that goes with the honor of being selected . . . and **plan to have a great time!**

FACT SHEET

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (YLF) FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A Unique Program for Future Community Leaders

WHAT IS THE YLF?

The YLF is an innovative, intensive five-day training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. The training is presented in a fun, entertaining, and educational format in Sacramento, California.

WHAT KIND OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM?

Young people with disabilities who demonstrate leadership potential, academic success, involvement in extra-curricular activities, community involvement and the ability to interact effectively with other students.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY HAPPENS AT THE FORUM?

- The program includes small and large group discussions, a talent/variety show, a dance, a formal luncheon with community leaders, and a meeting in the Governor's Office.
- Topics include "Choosing a Career," "Understanding the History of Disability as a Culture," and "Assistive Technology for Independence." Presenters include disability community leaders, legislators, celebrities, and other adult role models who have disabilities.
- The students identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers.
- The students learn to manage their independence.
- The students develop public policy recommendations which are formally presented by the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to the Governor and State Legislature.
- Students develop "Personal Leadership Plans" which include specific action items for the students when they return to their communities.

WHY HAVE THIS FORUM?

Young people with disabilities have both more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has created unprecedented opportunities for these young people to fully develop as positive, contributing members of our society. Our YLF enables them to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities. Hundreds of our YLF alumni lead independent lives and many have graduated from such prestigious universities as UCLA and Stanford and have successful careers in everything from accounting to acting.

HOW DOES THE FORUM HAPPEN?

Approximately 60 high school students are selected to attend through a competitive process. The event successfully integrates students who represent the disability and ethnic diversity of our State.

The Forum is held annually, the end of July, in the State Capitol, Sacramento, and at California State University, Sacramento.

WILL THERE BE MORE FORUMS IN THE FUTURE?

The first-ever YLF was held in Sacramento in 1992 and successful forums have been held every summer since then. Plans are to produce the event annually in California. Additionally, more than 30 other states use our YLF as a model.

HOW MUCH DOES THE FORUM COST?

There is no charge for the student delegates to attend the Forum. The cost is approximately $1500 per student, not including thousands of dollars for services and goods provided in-kind by volunteer supporters. The majority of costs are covered by private and corporate donations. Major State partners include the Employment Development Department, Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Education, and the California Workforce Investment Board.