# 2026 California Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Delegate Informational Guide

**July 13-18, 2026**

**Hosted at California State University, Sacramento**

(Dates are tentative and subject to change)

# What is YLF?

YLF is a six-day leadership program for students with disabilities, which will be held in Sacramento, CA (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 workshops 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. All costs including travel, lodging, meals, and accommodations will be covered by the YLF. 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 2025-2026 school year, ending in June 2026.

Students who have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community will benefit most from the YLF program. 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. All applicants will be notified of their application status in early 2026. Final delegate selections will be made in Spring 2026.

# 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, including details about what reasonable accommodations are needed.

More detailed information about the forum’s schedule and activities will be sent in late spring. Delegates are required to attend and participate during all scheduled in-person days.

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 access the online application and learn more about the YLF including messages from past delegates.

# Have questions? Contact Us

Contact the CCEPD office at (855) 894-3436 (voice) or email us at 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.