

CALIFORNIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (YLF)





First established in 1992 by the Governor's Committee on Employment of Disabled Persons, which is known known as the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD)

Since 1992 YLF has over 1500 Alumni who have successfully moved forward into higher education, gained employment, developed as local, state and national leaders and are living independently in their communities.

YLF BACKGROUND



WHAT IS YLF?

Weeklong residential self-advocacy and leadership conference for high school students with disabilities who are currently sophomores, juniors, or seniors

During the week, YLF delegates will -

- Build Advocacy and Leadership Skills in a Peer Setting
- Meet State Policy Makers and Other Professionals with Disabilities
- Design a personal leadership plan
- Make lifelong friendships and create a community of support they can rely on for years to come

OUR GOALS



APPRECIATE

Delegates will develop an appreciation for our Disabled Ancestors by learning about disability history including landmark legislation and experiences of people with disabilities



UNDERSTAND

Delegates will develop an understanding of the present by exploring basic principles of leadership development and begin by building tools for self-advocacy and independence



BELIEVE

Delegates will develop a belief in their individual future's success by learning about services and programs to make their goals attainable, and creating a leadership plan to achieve them



IMPACT

Delegates will develop a community of support and mentors to not only support their personal goals, but to set goals that will impact the larger disability community and future lives of people with disabilities.

WHO IS YLF FOR?

YLF is a cross-disability program. We strive to have diverse representation from all types of disability, counties, communities, backgrounds, and lived experiences.

The only requirements to apply are California residency, in high school, at least a sophomore, and identify as a student with a disability.

YLF encourages students who have leadership experience, potentially through involvement in community or extra-curricular activities.



WHAT HAPPENS AT YLF?

During the week YLF Delegates will participate in various workshops and panels on topics related to employment, education, and independent living.

Breakout sessions are where delegates will get the opportunity to further explore these topics through activities and discussions as well as create their own goals and leadership plan for independence.





WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YLF?

YLF continues leadership development by hosting workshops, regional events, and community opportunities with our alumni network.

We encourage alumni to return to YLF and serve as mentoring staff for future YLF delegates. This is a great opportunity to build work experience and boost resumes.

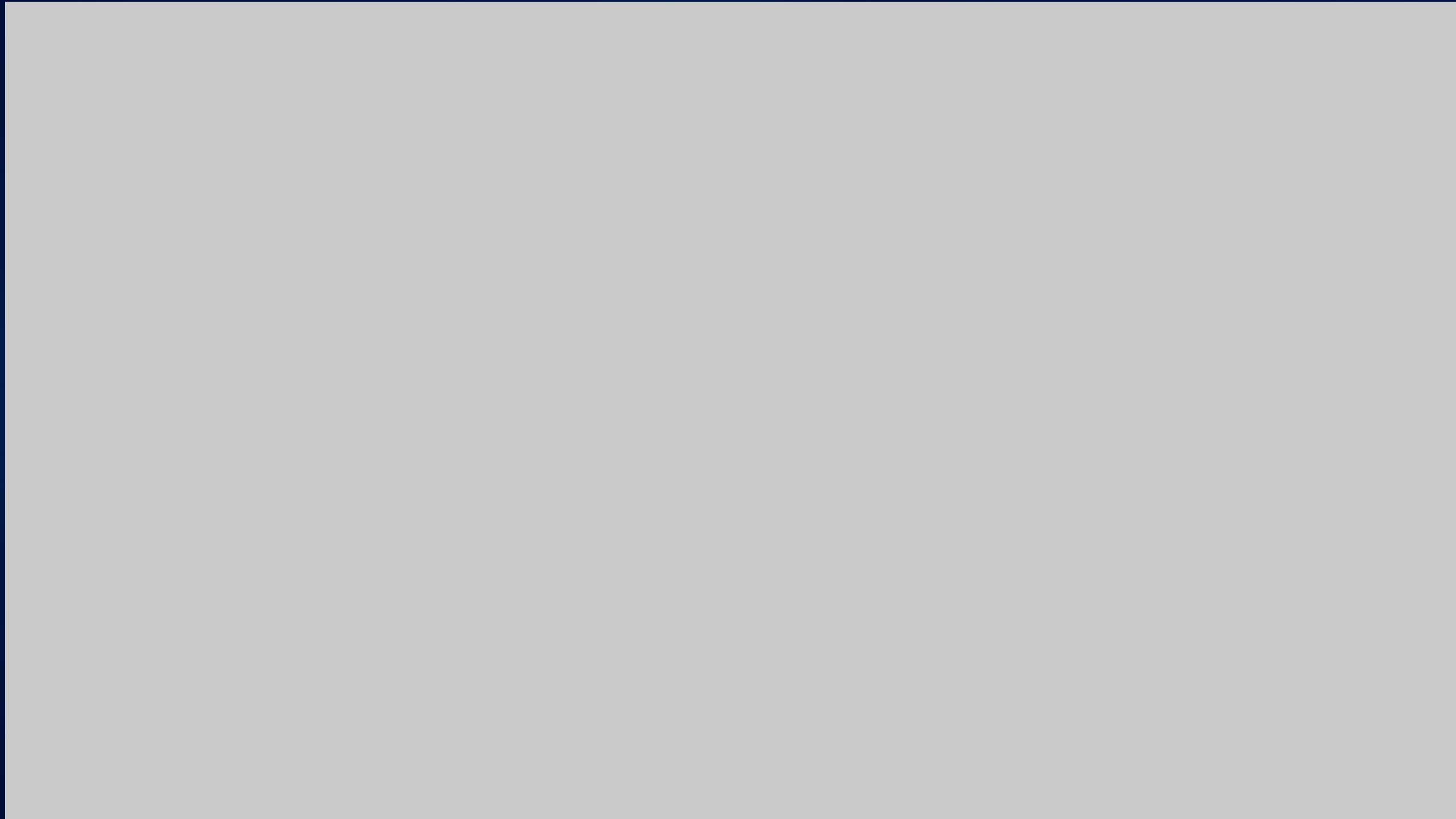
There is also a national network of YLFs that host events bringing together alumni from across the country.



HEAR FROM A PARENT

"14 years of public school never helped the social skills aspect of life the way YLF did in (four) days. I arrived Friday to get (my son). The group was at the State Capitol and walking back to the Grand ballroom. Looking at (my son) through the window panels of the Grand, I saw a young adult I had never seen before. He was helping to lead the group across a lighted intersection in midtown with confidence. It was quite a moment for me as a parent. YLF moved us into a new realm."

HEAR FROM OUR YLF ALUMNI



CONNECT WITH YLF

Stay connected and up to date with YLF
Activities and Alumni by following us on

Facebook - www.facebook.com/official.ca.ylf

Instagram - @calyIf

YouTube - @CaLYLF

Or visit our website
www.dor.ca.gov/home/yIf

Email Us - yIf@dor.ca.gov

Call Us - (855) 894-3436