

OHIO youthleadershipforum

Advocacy Transition Technology



Mission Statement

The Ohio Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for students with disabilities will provide career leadership training for high school juniors and seniors.

Young students with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship, advocacy, social skills and a sense of independence that will enhance their opportunity to become effective leaders for tomorrow.

By providing a framework of history, awareness, peer support, and an atmosphere of encouragement, the students will gain vital knowledge of assistive technology, community support and civil rights.



Vision Statement

The vision of the Ohio Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities is to enable students with disabilities to serve as role models in their community and the State of Ohio. It is through the Youth Leadership Forum that students will realize their ability, right and obligation to pursue meaningful employment and contribute to society.

What is YLF?

A four day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities. Many young people with disabilities now have more options and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. This forum is geared to prepare them to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities and to fully develop as constructive, contributing members of our society.

Who Participates in YLF?

Young people who have disabilities and who:

- demonstrate leadership potential,
- demonstrate involvement in the community or extra-curricular activities,
- demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with other students, and
- are representative of Ohio in terms of geographic region, gender, and ethnicity.

Outcomes

Student delegates will:

- learn about choosing a career, the history of disability as a culture, and resources;
- identify existing barriers to personal and professional success;
- be introduced to professionals with disabilities; and
- develop a "Personal Leadership Plan," to reach goals in education, employment and the community.

For Students with Disabilities

Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities



"We wouldn't be able to do this without each other. All of the delegates have touched me in a way that I can never describe."

— **Nathan**



"Nice to be around people like you, to be equal with everybody."
— **Tierney**

"I have never been so happy in my life! You guys put a smile on my face everyday."

— **Kyle**

"Amazing people, amazing experience."

— **Jenna**



"I love you guys so much, you all taught me so much. You taught me to accept myself for who I am, just to go to college and not be ashamed."
— **Amber**

"People like me who have learning disabilities, we look normal. You never know who we are so you always go along thinking you're all alone 'cause no one else will tell you they have ADHD like I do. It's only times like this that you actually see people come up and say they have ADHD. It shows you're not alone."
— **Derek**



"This was the best week of my life. It taught me to be myself, not just a person with a disability."
— **Megan**

For more information, contact:
Donna Foster, Ability Advocate/
YLF Coordinator

Ohio Governor's Council on
People with Disabilities
150 E. Campus View Blvd., Ste. 300

Mailing address:

400 E. Campus View Blvd. - 3GC
Columbus, OH 43235

Telephone: 614. 438. 1394 voice
614. 515. 6024 VP
614. 985. 9052 fax

E-mail: Donna.Foster@ood.ohio.gov

Web: www.gcpd.ohio.gov

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