

MISSOURI **YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

July 16-20, 2024

University of Missouri
in Columbia, MO



What topics are covered?

- ✓ SELF- ADVOCACY
- ✓ DISABILITY PRIDE
- ✓ ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- ✓ INDEPENDENT LIVING
- ✓ EMPLOYMENT SKILLS
- ✓ HIGHER EDUCATION
- ✓ LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
- ✓ MENTORSHIP
- ✓ COMMUNITY SERVICE
- ✓ AND MORE!

The Youth Leadership Forum is designed for young adults with disabilities to learn from successful leaders and role models. Participants gain knowledge about their own and others' disabilities, develop self-determination skills, and learn about leadership styles, disability laws, and the legislative process. The forum equips students with the tools to achieve their post-secondary goals in education, employment, and independent living; All while having fun and making lifelong friends!

TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY, VISIT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2024YLF](https://tinyurl.com/2024YLF)

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS
MARCH 31, 2024

APPLY NOW

Questions?



573-751-2600



gcd@oa.mo.gov

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) is a five-day, overnight leadership program for high school students with disabilities. If you are in high school (or graduating this year) and have a disability, you don't want to miss out on an opportunity to learn about and build leadership skills to become better prepared for future employment, higher education, and independent living after you graduate from high school.

During this transformational week, you will not only learn about a wide range of topics including disability history and rights, assistive technology, community resources, legislative processes, and self-advocacy skills, you will make friends from all over Missouri!

To be eligible for the Missouri YLF, a student must:

1. Be between the ages of 16-21 years old
2. Enrolled in a high school education program (public, private, virtual, GED, homeschool)
 - a. **OR** plan to graduate in December 2023 or May 2024
3. Demonstrated leadership potential through participation in their school, extracurricular activities, and/or community involvement;
4. Live in Missouri
5. Have a disability, all types are welcome

What are the key objectives and focus areas of the Forum?

1. Enable young adults with disabilities to learn from successful adults with disabilities, fostering leadership development and role modeling.
2. Encourage self-determination in students by helping them understand their disabilities, analyze strengths and weaknesses, and develop skills for personal growth.
3. Provide education on different leadership styles, the legislative process, disability laws, and other relevant topics.
4. Empower students to achieve their post-secondary goals in education, employment, and independent living through the acquired skills and knowledge.
5. Teach delegates how laws are made and train them to advocate for new laws, including visits to the state Capitol and participation in mock legislative sessions.
6. Assist delegates in developing personal leadership plans to enhance their abilities and become advocates for themselves and others.
7. Cultivate self-advocacy skills and disability pride within delegates, while promoting disability awareness and facilitating access to community resources for independence.
8. Offer opportunities for delegates to explore various career options and acquire pre-employment transition skills.
9. Create a supportive and enjoyable environment through group activities that encourage networking and the development of friendships among students with diverse abilities.

What does it cost to attend the Forum?

There is no cost for students who are selected to attend. All costs including lodging, meals, and accommodations are covered by the program. The Forum is funded through state agencies, sponsorships, and donations. Students and their families are responsible for their transportation to and from Columbia.

Where is the Forum held?

The Forum is held at the University of Missouri—Columbia campus

How do I apply for the Forum?

Complete an application. This application includes an application form, short answer questions, and two references. Visit <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm> for more information and to complete the application. Applicants selected to attend or placed on the waitlist will be required to complete additional forms before participation.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is hosted by the Governor's Council on Disability in partnership with MOCIL, MU Pre-ETS, Paraquad, and Vocational Rehabilitation.