

September 1, 2013



**To: High School Students with Disabilities in Indiana**

**From: The Indiana Youth Leadership Forum (IN-YLF) staff**

**Subject: Invitation to apply to attend the youth leadership forum for students with disabilities**

2014 marks the first annual Indiana Youth Leadership Forum (IN-YLF). The YLF is a unique opportunity for 25 high school juniors and seniors ages 16-21 with a variety of disabilities from around Indiana to learn about self-determination, leadership, community, and advocacy. The IN-YLF will be held on the IUPUI campus beginning on July 21<sup>st</sup> and ending on July 25<sup>th</sup> **at no cost to those accepted**. Enclosed is an application form for our YLF and after the application form you will find details on the next steps. **We are inviting you to apply, and we are asking your help in recruiting other students to apply for the forum.**

**You must be a junior or senior between 16-21 years old, and an Indiana resident to apply. You must also have exhibited leadership in school or in your community, and have a strong interest in learning more about self-determination, leadership, and disability awareness. Students - we are inviting you to apply, and we are asking your help in recruiting other students to apply for the forum.**

Please read the application in its entirety, and direct all concerns or questions to Erin McAloon at [erin@inautism.org](mailto:erin@inautism.org) or 1-800-6090-8449 x67. For more information, visit [www.INYLF.org](http://www.INYLF.org).

**Deadline to apply: December 15<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

Sincerely,

Erin McAloon  
Indiana Youth Leadership Forum Administrator

**"Like" us on Facebook! ([facebook.com/inylf](https://www.facebook.com/inylf))  
Tweet us @inylf ([twitter.com/inylf](https://twitter.com/inylf))**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Indiana Youth Leadership Forum

## Application – 2014 Forum

- ✓ **Deadline for postmark on application is December 15, 2013**
- ✓ Students must complete ALL information on this application
- ✓ Please type your responses or write legibly in **black or blue ink**
- ✓ Applications are available to be printed, filled out and mailed to the address on the last page of the application

### I Information

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

2.  Male  Female Birth Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City County Zip

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different than above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City County Zip

5. \_\_\_\_\_

(Area Code) Home Telephone Number E-mail Address

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School

7. \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address City County Zip

8. Grade Level as of August 2013: \_\_\_\_\_ Date you plan to graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

9. List the school classes you are currently enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

10. High School GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you worked with a transition coordinator?

- As a part of your Case Conference Committee / Individualized Education Plan
- Outside of school
- I have not worked with a transition coordinator

Transition Coordinator Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is your disability? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you diagnosed with a disability? : \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use any assistance in your daily activities (such as reading, eating, walking or speaking)? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check **all** that apply:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Neuro/ Muscular disability          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard of Hearing          | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning disability                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blind/Low Vision         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other disability (Describe):        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Disability      | <input type="checkbox"/> I use sign Language                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> I use real time captioning          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism                   | <input type="checkbox"/> I use lip reading                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebral Palsy           | <input type="checkbox"/> I read with Braille                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy                 | <input type="checkbox"/> I read with large print             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual             | <input type="checkbox"/> I use a wheelchair                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a service Animal             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> I use an assistive listening device |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                              |

13. Have you worked with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) also known as the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services (BRS) to help with employment, transition from high school to post secondary education, or other?

Yes  No Please list other: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list:

Department of Rehabilitation Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## II School and Community Involvement

On a separate piece of paper, please list up to 5 school or community activities you were or currently are involved in. This may include club memberships, after school activities, or work experience. List:

1. Name of activity
2. Years to and from of involvement
3. Grade level(s) at the time of participation
4. The name of an adult contact person you worked with.

## III Letters of Recommendation

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

1. One letter must be from a high school teacher, counselor or administrator, recommended typed on electronic school letterhead.
2. The other must be from a community representative outside of your school, who is not a relative, recommended typed on electronic letterhead.

## IV Required Essay

Your answers to the following questions will be reviewed during the selection process. Please respond to the following questions and include with your application. Type your responses on a separate paper. **Length must not exceed one-page, double-spaced, 12-point font.**

- A. **Qualifications:** Explain why you feel qualified to be a delegate to this forum and why you want to attend.
- B. **Positive Role Models:** 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 some examples)
- C. **Experiences as a person with a Disability:** Describe how you feel as a person with a disability and an important experience you had (Please be specific in your example).
- D. **Future Plans:** What are your personal, employment and school goals after graduating from high school?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## V. Final preparation

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

<b>Required Items:</b>	<b>Completed</b>
1. Application form (5 pages)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Community Involvement list	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Two letters of recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Essay (Response to four topics)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did anyone assist you in completing this form?  Yes  No

Please specify relationship:

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**By signing this document, I attest that the answers to the questions are my own.**

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Signature of Student

Date:

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Signature of Parent or Guardian (If student is under 18)

Date:

**Thank you for completing this application. Please send your completed application and all attachments to the address below.**

**Autism Society of Indiana**

ATTN: IN-YLF

Erin McAloon IN-YLF Administrator

3951 N. Meridian Street, Suite 220

Indianapolis, IN 46208

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Erin McAloon at 800-609-8449x67

**Please keep a copy of this application for your records.**

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

**HOW STUDENT DELEGATES WILL BE SELECTED AND  
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

1. **To be eligible** for the Youth Leadership Forum, students must:
  - (a) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act);
  - (b) Be in the 11th or 12th grade on January 1 of the year you attend.
  - (c) Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community; and,
  - (d) Reside in Indiana.
2. Student applicants must mail the completed application packet to the address on the last page of the application postmarked no later than **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.
3. Semi-finalists will be selected and contacted by telephone or email to arrange a personal interview. A panel coordinated by IN-YLF staff will conduct the interview. Interviews will take place by the end of February.
4. All applicants will be notified by mail whether they are selected to attend the forum. (Letters will be mailed by the end of March.) Approximately 25 students will be selected to attend.
5. After being selected, students will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information to the IN-YLF staff office.
6. All appropriate expenses will be included as part of the forum. This includes expenses such as lodging, food, and interpreters for deaf students and personal care attendants for physically disabled students.

**(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, 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. **Therefore, students are expected to demonstrate their leadership ability, and must:**

1. Be punctual, beginning with arriving at the forum at the appropriate time.
2. Respect the scheduled program. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. You must stay with your assigned group at all times.
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.
5. When not in assigned groups, males and females are restricted to their own assigned rooms or any other assigned meeting room at all times. No co-ed visitation is allowed in the dorm rooms.
6. Smoking or the possession or use of illegal drugs 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. Cell phone usage is limited to break times and cell phones must be off during forum activities.

**Any violations of these rules may 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!**