

**The North Carolina Youth Leadership Network
announces its inaugural
Statewide Youth Leadership
Forum**

at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke
July 12-15, 2008

100% for youth, by youth!

Deadline to Apply: April 24, 2008

- Up to 40 youth and young adult delegates (ages 16-28) with disabilities will be selected to attend.
- No charge to delegates (lodging, meals & accommodations provided)
- Exciting, fun, educational three-day intensive leadership training program.

Session topics include:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ○ Community Organizing | ○ Sexuality |
| ○ Leadership | ○ Life Transitions |
| ○ Disability Rights | ○ Developing Your Voice |
| ○ Culture & History | ○ Disability Activism |
| ○ Policy-making | ○ Where do we go from here? |

Throughout the Forum, delegates will meet in small teams based on regional location. Each group will develop a local project to work on when they return to their local communities.

Sponsors include:

North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council
Alliance of Disability Advocates Center for Independent Living
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
The UNC Pembroke Disabled Student Organization

Tentative Schedule for the Youth Leadership Forum:

Saturday, July 12th

1:00-3:00	YLF Registration
3:00-4:00	Welcome Plenary
4:10-5:50	Regional Team Meeting
6:00-7:00	Dinner in Cafeteria
7:00- 10:30	Free time (Arcade, Pool, and Bowling)

Sunday, July 13th

9:00-9:50	Breakfast
10:00-12:00	Morning Plenary
12:00-1:30	Regional Team Meeting and Bag Lunch
1:40-2:40	Workshops
2:50-3:50	Workshops
4:00-5:30	Regional Team Meeting/Dinner
5:30-7:00	Free Time
7:00-10:00	18th Anniversary of the ADA Community Celebration

Monday, July 14th

9:00-9:50	Breakfast
10:00-11:00	Morning Plenary
11:10-12:00	Regional Team Meeting
12:00-1:20	Lunch
1:30-2:30	Workshops
2:40-3:20	Ice Cream Social
3:30-5:30	Project Planning/Regional Team Meeting
6:00-8:00	Dinner/Free Time
8:00-9:00	Optional Session
9:00-11:00	Movie Night

Tuesday, July 15th

9:00-9:50	Breakfast
10:00-11:00	Regional Team Meeting
11:00-12:30	Project Presentation/Closing Plenary
12:30-1:00	Packing/Goodbyes
1:00	Departure

A Few of Our Guests and Featured Speakers:

Michael Agyin is a native of Los Angeles, California and specializes in outreach to Latino and African-American young people with disabilities. He is the founder of Project L.I.F.T (Learn, Inspire, Focus, Teach) One, an outreach program that inspires minority Deaf youth to become active in leadership and community service. Mike is an event planner for the Citywide Deaf Festival, an event that averages over 3000 participants. Mike has served in the national Americorps program, on the Governing Board of the National Youth Leadership Network, as a Congressional intern on Capitol Hill, and as a volunteer in a political campaign. Mike is also involved with his state Youth Leadership Forum. Mike is a graduate of California State University-Northridge, with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

Zach Coble is a graduate of the University of Kansas and currently is a law student at Washburn University. He holds undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Applied Behavioral Science. He is a founder and past president of a disability campus group called AbleHawks. He also serves as a Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy which runs the Youth Leadership Forum and other projects for disabled youth in the state.

Naomi Ortiz is the Project Director for the Kids As Self Advocates national project. She is dedicated to helping young people learn how to have a voice in all that affects them. She has many years of experience facilitating presentations and workshops and has worked with diverse communities including youth, adults in prison, university students, and youth-run organizations. She offers assistance and training for organizations on youth leadership development, disability etiquette, disability culture and on how to involve youth in organizational leadership roles in meaningful ways. She is proud to be a person with a disability as well as a passionate poet, singer, and artist.

Hillary Jorgensen received her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado in 2005. As an undergraduate, Hillary was an extremely involved disability activist. She founded the first student group on campus for people with disabilities as well as creating a curriculum for ally training used throughout the campus. While at CU she was also instrumental in the creation of the Student Outreach and Retention Center for Equity, which seeks to recruit and provide support for marginalized students on campus. Hillary will be receiving her law degree from Seattle University in May of 2008. While in law school she has continued to pursue her passion for social justice. She has worked with various legal aid agencies and hopes to use her law degree to create effective change for marginalized communities.

Andrew J. Imparato is the first full-time President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), a national non-profit membership organization for the political and economic empowerment of all people with disabilities. Prior to joining AAPD, Imparato was general counsel and director of policy for the National Council on Disability, an attorney advisor with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, and a staff attorney/Skadden Fellow with the Disability Law Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Imparato, whose perspective is informed by his own experience with bipolar disorder, is frequently called upon to write, speak or provide testimony about disability issues. He is an advisor on corporate social responsibility, consumer, disability market and accessibility issues for Verizon, Time Warner, AT&T, Microsoft, IBM, SAP, and other leading businesses. Imparato graduated with distinction from Stanford Law School and is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Yale College. He lives in Baltimore with his wife and two sons, ages 14 and 9.

North Carolina Youth Leadership Network
Statewide Youth Leadership Forum Application
July 12-15 2008

Section I: Biographical Information

Name: _____

Gender: Female Male Transgender Other _____

Age : _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

** The following information will remain confidential and will only be used to ensure that our participants represent diverse backgrounds and disabilities.*

What is the name of your disability? _____

How would you describe your primary disability?

Mobility Hearing Visual Learning

Cognitive Health Emotional/Behavioral

Other _____

To which race/ethnicity do you belong? (Check all that apply)

African American Hispanic Caucasian

Asian Native American/AK Native Pacific Islander

Other [please describe] _____

How would you describe the population of the town in which you live?

- Small town or rural area Mid-sized town City or suburb

Are you currently a student? Yes No

- High School College / Technical Institute

Career Interest/Major: _____

Are you currently employed? Yes No

Job Title: _____

How would you prefer to receive information?

- E-mail Telephone Other _____

Please check all accommodations you will need to participate:

- Sign Language Interpretation Assistive Listening Device
 Single Room (please explain why) _____
 Wheelchair accessible Room Attendant Services
 Electronic Format Braille Large Print
 Other: _____

Special Dietary Requests: _____

Section II: Essay

Please answer 2 out of the 3 essay topics below.

1. Please describe in detail a situation where you took on a leadership role.
Describe the outcome of the situation.
2. What do you hope to gain from your experience at the Youth Leadership Forum? How do you expect to use your experience at the YLF to improve your local community after the forum?
3. Describe 2-3 communities that you are a part of. Explain why your membership and involvement in each community is important to you.

Essay questions can be answered through a variety of formats. We urge you to choose the format that works best for you. If you have questions or need assistance in choosing the best format please contact the YLF Planning Committee by phone at (919) 833-1117 (ask for Ryan), by email at ncyouthforum@gmail.com or through AIM instant messenger screen name solidarity2007.

Please select the format you chose to answer the essay questions.



Written essay format (Please include your responses on a separate sheet of paper and submit it with your application. Limit your answers to 200 words or less per essay topic)



Telephone (please contact the YLF Planning Committee to schedule a telephone session)



Video (please contact the YLF Planning Committee to coordinate sending a video and/or to receive assistance in creating a video of your responses)



Instant Messenger (please contact the YLF Planning Committee to schedule an IM session)



Other (Be creative, as long as you provide responses to the questions, we are open to almost anything. ** If you choose "other" you must first contact The YLF Planning Committee to discuss your idea before sending it in so we can decide if it will be the best way for us to receive your responses.)

Section III: Résumé.

Please attach a résumé.

(if you need assistance to complete a résumé please contact The YLF Planning Committee to receive résumé tips over email or by telephone)

If you feel that your resume does not fully illustrate your complete leadership potential, please feel free to attach additional information. (such as letters of recommendations, newspaper articles, pictures, etc.)

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET by mail, fax, or email (instructions below). We must receive your application no later than APRIL 24, 2008 by midnight.

By Mail



NCYLN
Re: YLF Application
PO Box 12988
Raleigh, NC 27605

By Fax

(919) 833-1171 (Re: YLF)

By E-Mail



Address:
ncyouthforum@gmail.com

**In the subject line of your e-mail,
please type: "Youth Leadership
Forum"**