



Texas Statewide Youth Leadership Forum

Developing leadership and advocacy skills in young adults with disabilities.

Held each summer for one week on a university campus, the Texas Statewide Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) provides training and experiences to youth with disabilities to develop their leadership and advocacy skills.

The Texas YLF selects youth participants from among high school juniors and seniors across the state. Applications are available at <http://txylf.tamu.edu> by clicking on "Apply to Be a Delegate." Participants learn the history of the disability rights movement, engage in career activities and explore assistive technologies. They also gain exposure to legislative activities at the Capitol, such as mock testimonies and a legislative session, and a tour of the facilities and meetings with state legislators. Of course, there's always an element of fun with recreational activities, including a talent show, dance and more! Participants are equipped with:

- Leadership plans to implement upon return to their communities
- Academic and career goals
- A resource development plan in order to attain continued or more complete independence through technology, community support, peer mentoring and civil rights

Co-sponsors are Texas A&M University, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

Financial Support: Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities \$75,000 (54.5%) and non-federal resources \$45,500 (45.5%). Supplemental funding is provided by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

"During YLF, I was able to watch students develop a better understanding of themselves and what they want for the future. Over this next year, I hope to empower them to continue reaching for their hopes and dreams."

— Mentor for the Texas Statewide YLF

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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