



# Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum



## 2014 Application

### What is YLF?

The Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is an overnight conference for youth & young adults with disabilities who have demonstrated leadership potential, and concern for their communities. YLF participants sleep in dorms at Bridgewater State University and have the opportunity to learn about Assistive Technology, Independent Living, Employment and Training, Higher Education, Advocacy, the Disability Rights Movement, and community participation. YLF participants represent communities across the Commonwealth.

### Who should apply to be part of YLF?

YLF is for youth with any type of disability who are preparing to finish high school. Young people with disabilities can apply to be a YLF delegate or peer leader.

**YLF delegate** : Youth with a disability attending their last two years of high school. These are youth who are typically 16-22 years old, with any type of disability, who want to develop self-advocacy and leadership skills, begin to plan career goals, and build a network of supports & friends. Students in the graduating class of 2014 & 2015 should apply to be a delegate

**YLF peer leader** : Peer Leaders are young adults between the ages of 18-25 who are currently out of high school and are working, and/or taking college classes. Peer leaders are responsible to help plan the YLF activities, and mentor delegates. If selected they must commit to a full day of training at Bridgewater State University on July 14, 2014. Peer Leaders will stay overnight on July 14<sup>th</sup> and stay at Bridgewater State University for the remainder of the three day Forum event. Peer Leaders receive a small stipend for their work.

### How are YLF participants selected?

Youth are selected through a statewide competitive process that seeks youth with disabilities who demonstrate leadership potential and a concern for their community. Those interested must submit an application, along with included recommendation form and participate in an interview in order to be considered. YLF participants will be selected to represent the diversity across Massachusetts in terms of geography, gender, economic status, ethnicity and disability. **Youth can only participate within each role as a delegate and peer leader twice.**

### When is the YLF?

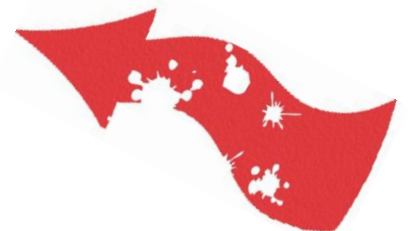
- July 14, 2014 is the full day training for peer leaders
- July 15-17 2014 is the YLF for high school students

### Where is the YLF?

Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA

### How can I be a part of YLF?

- Submit an application by **May 16, 2014**.
- Participate in an interview





# 2014 Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a person with a disability? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Please briefly describe your disability \_\_\_\_\_

Are you applying to the YLF as a Delegate or Peer Leader?

- Delegates are youth with disabilities in their last two years of high school. If you are in the class of 2014 or 2015 you should apply to be a delegate.
- Peer Leaders are young adults with disabilities (under age 25) who have been out of high school for at least 1 year, and currently working and/or in college. Peer Leaders help plan activities and support delegates.

## **I am applying to be a:**

\_\_\_\_\_ YLF Delegate

- School currently attending \_\_\_\_\_
- Planned graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YLF Peer Leaders

- Workplace \_\_\_\_\_
- College attending \_\_\_\_\_

## **Do you have a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) counselor?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES , I met with them at

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I have never been involved with MRC

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not sure

## How did you learn about YLF?

Teacher\_\_\_\_\_Therapist\_\_\_\_\_Parent\_\_\_\_\_Friend\_\_\_\_\_ Internet/Facebook/Social media \_\_\_\_\_Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please share details about how you learned about YLF.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Please describe your current involvement with your school and your community

**School Activities:** e.g. clubs, sports teams, or other extra-curricular activities

Activity	Grade Level	Adult Contact	Dates Involved	Type of Involvement

**Community Activities:** e.g. local groups, church activities, volunteer activities, organizations

Activity	Adult Contact	Dates Involved

**Work Experience (Paid or Non-paid):**

Jobs	Were You Paid?	Adult Contact	Dates

**Interests:** Briefly describe your interests and hobbies that you pursue in your free time.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** Please share any other information you would like YLF staff to consider when reviewing your application.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Please explain your desire to participate in the YLF:

**(please submit on separate page or use the form fill gray boxes)**

- Why do you want to participate in the 2014 Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Explain why you feel you should be a YLF delegate or peer leader?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What are your life goals? (Please share your career goals, independent living goals, how you see yourself contributing to your community, or how will you make the world a better place?)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What are your gifts, talents and strengths? What are you good at?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What do you need to do and/or learn in order to meet your future goals?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Describe an important experience you have had as a young person with a disability and what you learned from this experience. (Please be specific about your example as it relates to your disability).  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check your T-shirt size (one size only)**

Small\_\_\_\_\_ Medium\_\_\_\_\_ Large\_\_\_\_\_ X-Large\_\_\_\_\_ XX-Large\_\_\_\_\_ XXX-Large\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Submission**

**You MUST submit your application by May 16, 2014 to be considered to participate in the YLF:**  
[dforte@eastersealsma.org](mailto:dforte@eastersealsma.org) or mail to

Desiree Forte  
Easter Seals  
89 South St.  
Boston MA 02111

Any questions about YLF or the application process, you can email or call Desiree at 617-226-2855

**Permission Statements**

*All Applicants must sign, and a Parent or Guardian must also sign:*

- I certify that all of the information I provided on this application is true.
- I give Easter Seals Massachusetts permission to share information on my application with staff, and collaborating agencies, working on the YLF.
- I give my permission for the applicant, if selected, to participate in the 2014 YLF.

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Signature of YLF Applicant

Date

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Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date



## Recommendation Form

YLF applicants must have this form completed by an adult who can comment on your potential to be a leader. This could be completed by a teacher, employer, or other community leader. It can NOT be completed by a family member or a personal friend.

**All recommendations must be received by May 16, 2014 and must be submitted at the same time as your application**

**Applicant's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ has applied to the Massachusetts 2014 Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for youth with disabilities.

YLF is an overnight conference for youth with various disabilities who have demonstrated leadership potential, and concern for their communities. YLF participants sleep in dorms at Bridgewater State University and have the opportunity to learn about Assistive Technology, Independent Living, Employment and Training, Higher Education, Advocacy, the Disability Rights Movement, and community participation.

How long have you known the applicant?

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Please provide examples of why you are recommending the applicant for the 2014 Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum.

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Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send, or email, completed recommendation with your application no later than May 16, 2014 to**

Desiree Forte  
Easter Seals  
89 South St.  
Boston MA 02111

Any questions about YLF or the application process e-mail or call Desiree at 617-226-2855, [dforte@eastersealsma.org](mailto:dforte@eastersealsma.org)

