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# 2020 Youth Leadership Institute Student FAQ's

<a href="#"><u>About the YLI and HSF</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Cost</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Eligibility</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>Application</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Selection</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Location</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Housing &amp; Dining</u></a>	8
<a href="#"><u>Safety &amp; Supervision</u></a>	9
<a href="#"><u>Agenda</u></a>	10

## About the YLI & HSF

### When and where are the YLIs?

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 – Sunday, July 12, 2020  
Wednesday, July 22, 2020 – Sunday, July 26, 2020

The University of Chicago  
University of Southern California

### What organization is hosting YLI?

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF). HSF was founded in 1975, to empower Latino families with the knowledge and resources to successfully complete a higher education, while providing scholarships and support services to as many exceptional Hispanic American students as possible.

### What is the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)?

YLI is a free, five-day, overnight, college empowerment program for high achieving Latino high school juniors held at two top universities across the US. This highly selective program is designed to give young leaders the practical tools they need to successfully apply to top universities, have full access to scholarship and financial aid opportunities, and set a course for academic and career success. Attendees will enhance their leadership abilities and expand their professional networks by participating in college and career workshops, living on a college campus, and interacting with college students and professionals who serve as their mentors.

### Why should I attend?

By participating in the Youth Leadership Institute, you will benefit in the following ways:

- Fine tune the practical tools needed to successfully apply to top universities, and effectively access financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- Experience what it's like to live on a college campus and interact with current college students
- Interact with Hispanic professionals and university representatives; participate in professional skills training workshops covering interview skills, networking, and team building
- Create lasting friendships and expand your network with future leaders from all around the country!

### How long has this YLI program existed?

The YLI first was launched in 2004. Past host universities include Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, USC, and others.

### What have past participants said about the YLI?

The YLI is highly rated, as evidenced by our programmatic impact reports. Below are a few examples of what past participants have said:

*"I feel both honored and humbled to have been a part of such a great program and truly hope to take what I have learned here and redistribute it to any of my friends who were not able to attend the YLI"* **YLI 2019 Participant**

*"Thank you for allowing me to participate in such a great program that has changed my perspective greatly and has given me the confidence to reach for the stars because I know I am surrounded by empowering people and an organization that strives to give me the resources I need to reach those high goals"* **YLI 2019 Participant**

## Cost

### **Is there a cost to attend the YLI?**

No, it's **FREE** to apply and participate. The Youth Leadership Institute sessions, meals, and housing are covered by HSF for the duration of the conference.

### **Does HSF offer transportation to the YLI?**

HSF will provide transportation for students with financial hardship, on a case by case basis. Please indicate in your application if there is a need for financial assistance as it relates to travel. If you are selected to receive transportation assistance, you will be contacted to provide information about your travel needs.

### **Will HSF help with the cost to and from the airport?**

HSF will cover shuttle transportation to and from the airport to the YLI campus for all students, regardless of financial need. However, HSF will not cover the cost from the student's home to hometown airport.

### **I attend high school in a US territory, or I am currently studying abroad for this semester. Can HSF provide assistance with travel?**

HSF will only be able provide assistance with travel to/from the 50 US states & Puerto Rico.

### **I live within driving distance from the YLI location, would HSF reimburse my parents for mileage?**

No, HSF will not cover the cost for mileage.

### **I will be driving to campus and parking overnight, will HSF cover the cost?**

HSF will not reimburse you for mileage, but will cover the cost for overnight parking at the college campus.

## Eligibility

### **Who can apply to participate in YLI?**

Eligibility for YLI:

- Current high school junior (class of 2021)
- Must have an unweighted cumulative GPA above a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or above an 80 on a 100-point scale
- Identify as being from Hispanic heritage
- You must currently attend high school in the United States or US Territory to apply
- US Citizen, Permanent Legal Resident, DACA or Eligible Non-Citizen (as defined by [FAFSA](#))
- Plan to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university after high school graduation

If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact us through the message center at hsf.net.

### **If I am not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident, am I eligible to apply?**

Eligible students must be US Citizens, Permanent Legal Residents, DACA, or Eligible Non-Citizens (as defined by FAFSA).

### **I currently attend high school in another country, can I apply to attend the YLI?**

No. You must currently attend high school in the United States or US Territory to apply.

### **I'm currently studying abroad but will resume high school in the US in the fall of 2020, can I still apply?**

Yes, as long as you are back in the United States in time for the program, are a high school senior in fall 2020, and will graduate high school in 2021. Your "home" high school, where you will resume school in the fall, must be in the US or within a US territory.

### **Do I need to fall under a specific income bracket to qualify?**

No, the YLI is open to Latino students from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

### **What qualifies as "Latino"?**

At least one of your grandparents must be 100% Latino.

## Application

### **How do I apply?**

[Go to HSF.net](#), create a MyHSF profile, and select “YLI 2020 Student Application” to get started.

### **When is the application for the Youth Leadership Institute due?**

The deadline to submit your completed application is Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM PT.

### **I am asked to indicate my class level, however, the only option provided is “high school senior.” The email invitation indicated that high school juniors were eligible to apply. Am I eligible to apply?**

You may be filling out the wrong application. Ensure you are filling out the “[YLI Student Application](#)”, not the 2020 – 2021 HSF Scholarship application. Scroll down on your dashboard to view the [YLI Student Application](#).

### **Why is the application not allowing me to submit?**

If you cannot submit your application, go back and ensure you answered each required question.

### **The major and industry questions do not include a field or industry I am interested in, what should I choose?**

Choose the option closest to your interest.

### **I uploaded my transcript and headshot but the application is not allowing me to submit.**

Contact us through the message center at hsf.net.

### **Do I need to submit essays?**

Yes. Each application requires one short essay.

### **If I exit the application, will my information be saved?**

Yes. All the information provided will be saved.

### **Can I review my application before submitting the information?**

Yes. You will be able to return to any section to edit and review before submitting. Once the application is submitted, you will NOT be able to edit your application.

### **I submitted my application, can I edit my information?**

No. Once the application is submitted, you will not be able to edit your information.

### **How do I update my online application if my personal information changes?**

Once your application has been submitted, you **will not** be able to make any changes. If your information changes and you are admitted to the program, you will be able to update your information at a later time.

## Selection

### **My application and supporting documentation have been submitted, what are my next steps?**

The HSF Youth Leadership Institute Selection Committee will review all applications. You will be notified of admission decisions in mid-April.

### **When will I receive an update regarding my application?**

You will be notified of admission decisions in mid-April.

### **What happens if I'm selected?**

If admitted, you will be asked to confirm your participation and provide additional details. An HSF representative will contact your parents after you submit the confirmation form.

### **Will you contact my parents directly?**

If admitted, an HSF representative will call your parent to receive consent of your attendance, answer questions, and confirm the information you provided.

### **How many students are selected to participate in the YLI?**

200 students per location will be selected to participate (total of 400).

### **Will I be notified if I do NOT get selected?**

You will receive notification of your application status via e-mail in mid-April.

### **Is there a waitlist if I do not get accepted?**

Yes, there will be a limited waitlist for each location. You will be notified in mid-April if you have been placed on the waitlist.

## Location

### **Can I apply multiple times to the different Youth Leadership Institute locations?**

No, you only apply once to the entire program and select the primary and secondary locations that work best with your summer schedule. If selected, you will be given priority for the primary selected location but may be assigned to the secondary location depending on availability.

## Housing & Dining

### **Where will I be staying for the duration of the program?**

Students will be staying in residence halls on single gender floors. Residence halls provide mostly double rooms shared by two students.

### **Will meals be provided?**

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided for you during the program.

### **I have dietary restrictions, will they be accommodated?**

Students and Staff will dine in the college dining hall. There will be multiple food options, and HSF will attempt to accommodate for all dietary needs.

## **Safety & Supervision**

**Since I am a minor, my parents want to come with me. Can they attend? Can HSF accommodate their travel and stay?**

Parents are welcome to drop off and pick up their students. However, all sessions, conference activities, and dorm access is strictly limited to program participants. Additionally, HSF does not accommodate or pay for any parent travel and stay.

**In case of an emergency, will there be staff members readily available?**

Students will be under the strict supervision of HSF Staff and mentors throughout the program.

**What safety measures does the staff take in ensuring my safety?**

At the beginning of the program, we will have a campus safety representative who will address campus safety measures, protocols, and contacts. All dorms are accessible with ID card only, and campus representatives control access to the building. Additionally, HSF enforces a strict curfew for students, and staff members will monitor halls to ensure students are in their rooms before curfew. Last but not least, all HSF staff and mentors go through a rigorous background check prior to being hired.

## Agenda

### **What topics will the YLI cover?**

The YLI will cover a variety of topics to prepare students for the road to college and the competitive application process. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, financial aid, FAFSA, admissions panel, tips on writing personal statements, meeting Hispanic professionals, college application timeline, etc.

### **What does the schedule look like?**

Students will follow a full-day, structured agenda with workshops and activities. All workshops are spread across campus and will require a lot of walking. Note: Upon acceptance, HSF will provide you with a detailed agenda.

### **Do I have to attend every day of the program? / What if I cannot attend every day of the program?**

You must be able to attend the conference in its entirety. This includes all sessions, group activities, and workshops. Apply for dates you'd be available to attend fully.

### **I will need to excuse myself for a few hours to complete an assignment, will I be able to attend?**

No, students need to be present for the entire duration of the program, as the agenda has been carefully tailored to ensure all participants receive all the information they need.

### **Will I have time to leave campus and visit the city or visit relatives in the area?**

Participants will follow a full-day structured agenda and will not be permitted to leave the campus due to safety measures.

### **When does the program officially end?**

You may depart following the Closing Ceremonies, which conclude at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon.

### **I have additional questions about the YLI; how/who do I ask?**

If you have additional questions, please contact us through the message center at [hsf.net](mailto:hsf.net).