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2020 Youth Leadership Institute Staff FAQ's

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About the YLI

When and where are the YLIs?

For staff, the dates are as follows (includes training day):

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 – Sunday, July 12, 2020 The University of Chicago

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – Sunday, July 26, 2020 University of Southern California

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.

What have past participants said about the YLI?

The YLI is highly rated, as evidenced by our post surveys. 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. HSF covers the cost for all housing and meals while on the college campus.

Does HSF offer transportation to the YLI?

HSF will provide transportation for staff 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 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

I am currently a college student but not an HSF Scholar, can I still apply?

No, you must be an HSF Scholar. Please note that if you participated in the YLI as a high school student, you are considered an HSF Scholar.

I am an HSF Scholar, but have never attended the YLI in any capacity. Can I apply?

Yes, HSF Scholars are eligible to apply as mentors or fellows.

I will be graduating with my undergrad degree this spring/summer 2020. Can I apply to be a mentor?

No, mentors need to be enrolled in college during Fall 2020 in order to support their familia members throughout their high school senior year.

I am a graduate student, am I eligible to be a YLI mentor or fellow?

No, only undergraduate students are eligible to be mentors.

I am currently enrolled in community college, can I apply for the mentor role?

No, we are only accepting students enrolled in four-year institutions.

I am currently a college student, can I apply for the A-team role?

No, A-team is comprised of current high school seniors who attended a 2019 YLI program as a participant.

I am a high school senior with leadership experience, but I did not participate in a YLI program in 2019, am I eligible to be part of the A- Team?

No, A-team members must be 2019 YLI participants.

I participated in YLI 2019 as a high school participant, and I am a current high school senior. Can I apply for the mentor role?

No, mentor roles are only available for currently enrolled undergraduate college students at a four year institution that are HSF Scholars or past YLI participants.

Application

How do I apply?

[Go to HSF.net](https://hsf.net) and create a MyHSF profile (or log into your existing account) to get started on your application.

When is the application for the Youth Leadership Institute due?

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

The application requires that I add my email address, however, that field doesn't allow me to type.

The email field automatically populates with the email linked to your MyHSF profile. If you would like to change that email, please do so within your MyHSF profile.

Why is the application not allowing me to submit?

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

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 cannot edit the information.

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

Once your application has been submitted, you **will not** be allowed to make any changes. If your information changes and you are selected, 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 selected, you will be asked to confirm your participation and provide additional details. An HSF representative will contact you after you submit the confirmation form.

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. Your primary location should be most accessible to where you live at the time of the program.

Can I be selected to attend the YLI at multiple locations?

No, you will only be selected to attend one.

Which location should I indicate as my first/primary choice?

If both dates work for you, your first choice should be the campus most accessible to your location at the time of program.

Housing & Dining

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

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

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.

Staff Responsibilities and Commitments

I am a student at one of the two universities where YLI will take place, can I sleep at my apartment/dorm?

No, all YLI staff are required to remain on YLI-provided college dorm/room(s) throughout the duration of the program and cannot leave at night to go to their apartment or dorm.

I am interested in applying for the mentor position, and was wondering if it would be possible to leave the program early because I have an internship I must get back to.

No, all staff members must be committed to the entirety of the program (Tuesday to Sunday).

My Internship will only allow me to miss one or two days, can I arrive Wednesday, instead of Tuesday?

No, all staff members must arrive Tuesday for training.

I have been a mentor in the past, do I still need to attend the training on Tuesday?

Yes, training is mandatory for all volunteer staff.

I have never been a YLI mentor, can I still be a fellow?

No, fellows must be past YLI mentors.

I am applying for the fellow position, if I am not selected, will I need to reapply to be considered for the mentor position?

No, your application will automatically be considered for the mentor position if you are not selected as a fellow.

Role Descriptions

What is my role as a Mentor?

As a YLI mentor, you will lead a “familia” of 5-6 YLI students throughout the program. Mentors serve as the point-of-contact for their students in the weeks leading up to, during, and following the YLI program. Mentors are responsible for facilitating workshop transitions, leading nightly squad debriefs, and assisting with YLI sessions, as needed. Mentors must be current college undergraduates.

You will be expected to follow up with your familia members throughout their senior year in high school, following HSF’s instructions on reporting the students’ progress back to HSF.

What is my role as a Fellow?

If selected for the fellow position, you will serve as the “student lead” for the YLI. As a fellow, you will work closely with HSF professional staff in overseeing all components of the programming: introducing speakers, leading some sessions, serving as points of contacts for the mentors, and handling any situations that arise along with HSF professional staff. Although you will not have a familia of your own, you will serve as the student face of the program and will interact with participants, mentors, HSF staff, and visitors/speakers.

Fellows must have been YLI mentors in the past.

What is my role as an A-team member?

A-Team members are a critical component for the success of the YLI. This group is always a few steps ahead of everyone else, as they play a crucial role in set up and logistical coordination needed for the YLI program to occur. Although most of the work is behind the scenes, this group is a tight community of past YLI participants that are eager to give back to the program through selfless work and dedication. Most past A-Team members return the following year as mentors, once they are enrolled in college.

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 and staff 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.

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

No, staff members need to be present for the entire duration of the program, as we depend on mentors to ensure all participants are safe and accounted for. Staff members are welcome to work on any personal matters after curfew in their rooms or dorm lounge.

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

Staff members will follow full-day structured agenda and will not be permitted to leave the campus due to safety measures. After the program concludes on Sunday, staff members are free to explore at their own expense. Please note, missed flights will NOT be reimbursed.

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.