2020 Young Leaders Summit (YLS)
Student FAQ’s

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About the Young Leaders Summit (YLS)

When and where is the YLS?

Wednesday, August 5, 2020 – Sunday, August 9, 2020 at the University of Southern California (USC).

What is the Young Leaders Summit?

The Young Leaders Summit (YLS), presented by the Youth Leadership Consortium (YLC), is a free, five-day, overnight, college empowerment conference for a diverse cohort of 200 low-income high school juniors, selected through a competitive application process. It is designed to give these 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.

What organization is hosting the YLS?

The Youth Leadership Consortium (YLC), is a partnership, led by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, of organizations such as the American Indian College Fund, APIA Scholars, College Board, College Greenlight, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Jack and Jill Foundation, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, The Steve Fund, and HSF, brought together by the mission to provide students and families of all backgrounds and ethnicities with the knowledge and resources to successfully complete a higher education. The consortium works to ensure that the families we collectively serve are representative of the diversity of the United States.

Why should I attend?

By participating in the Young Leaders Summit, you will benefit in the following ways:

- Meet high-achieving students of diverse backgrounds from across the nation
- 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 accomplished 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 YLS program existed for?

The first YLS was hosted in 2018 at the University of Chicago, for the class of 2019.

What have past participants said about the YLS?

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

- “YLS was an opportunity like no other. It was a place where I met new people that I will never forget and continue to network with in the future. The knowledge gained and the experiences created were amazing and will always be thankful.” YLS Participant, 2018
- “Wow. You all work so hard and care so much for giving each student in this program the best experience they(y) can achieve. You made this program better than any program I've been to just by your dedication alone. Thank you!” YLS Participant, 2019
Cost

Is there a cost to attend the YLS?

No, it’s **FREE** to apply and participate. The Young Leaders Summit sessions, meals, and housing are covered by the consortium for the duration of the conference.

Will the cost of transportation be covered?

Roundtrip transportation to Los Angeles will be provided for students with a financial hardship. 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 the cost to and from the airport be covered?

The cost will be covered for shuttle transportation to and from the airport to USC for all students. However, the cost from the student’s home to hometown airport will not be covered.

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

Travel assistance will only be provided to/from the 50 US states & Puerto Rico.

I live within driving distance from USC, would my parents get reimbursed for mileage?

The cost of mileage will not be reimbursed.

I will be driving to campus and parking overnight, will the cost for parking be covered?

Mileage will not be reimbursed, but overnight parking at the college campus will be covered for YLS participants.
Eligibility

Who can apply to participate in YLS?

Here are the eligibility requirements:

- Students of all ethnic backgrounds are welcomed to apply
- 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
- Low income, as defined by Pell eligibility
- Currently attends high school in the United States or a U.S. territory
- Must be a 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

How do I know if I am low-income?

YLS participants must come from a low income background, as defined by Pell eligibility.

Given that you are a high school junior and have not filled out the FAFSA yet, please complete this FAFSA4caster to estimate your Pell eligibility.

I completed the form, where does it say if I am eligible? See below for a picture example.
Do I need to fall under a specific income bracket to qualify?

Yes, YLS participants must come from low-income background, as defined by Pell eligibility.

Do I have to be a minority student in order to apply?

No, students from all ethnic backgrounds are eligible to apply, as long as they are Pell-eligible.

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

In order to apply, you must be a US Citizen, Permanent Legal Resident, DACA or Eligible Non-Citizen (as defined by FAFSA).

I currently attend high school in another country, can I apply to attend the YLS?

No. You must currently attend high school in the United States or a 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 2020, must be in the US or within a US territory.
Application

How do I apply?

Go to our website and create a profile. After you create it, select “YLS 2020 Student Application.”

When is the application for the Young Leaders Summit due?

Application deadline is Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 5:00 PM PT.

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.

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. However, 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 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, when will I receive an update regarding my application?

The Selection Committee will review all applications. You will be notified of admission decisions in mid-May.

When will I receive an update regarding my application?

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

What happens if I’m selected?

If selected, you will be asked to confirm your participation and provide additional details. A program representative will contact you after you submit the confirmation form to answer any questions you may have.

Will you contact my parents directly?

If admitted, a YLS 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 YLS?

200 students will be selected to participate.

Will I be notified if I do NOT get selected?

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

Is there a waitlist if I do not get accepted?

Yes, there will be a limited waitlist. You will be notified in mid-May if you have been placed on the waitlist.
Housing & Dining

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

Students will be staying at USC’s 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 program staff 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 their travel and stay be accommodated?

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, YLS 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 program 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, a strict curfew for students is enforced, and staff members will monitor halls to ensure students are in their rooms before curfew. Last but not least, all program staff and mentors go through a rigorous background check prior to being hired.
Agenda

What topics will the YLS cover?

The YLS will cover a variety of topics to prepare students for the road to college and leadership development workshops. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, financial aid, admissions panel, networking, meeting successful professionals, 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, you will be provided 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.

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 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoon (August 9, 2020).

I have additional questions about the YLS; how/who do I ask?

If you have additional questions, please contact us.