



JUNIOR NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE INFORMATION FOR JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOLARS AND THEIR PARENTS

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOUNDATION

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) is an independent, educational organization with members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives on its honorary, bipartisan advisory board. CYLC is not affiliated with any political party or the federal government.

CYLC hosts the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC), the purpose of which is to honor and inspire the most exceptional middle school students in the nation, distinguished by their academic excellence, leadership potential and maturity, and to reinforce the virtues of leadership, citizenship and democracy using Washington, D.C. as their classroom.

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, provides need-based scholarships to high-achieving students who have qualified to attend the programs offered by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. The Foundation's scholarships recognize and reward students for leadership and academic achievement and ensure the diversity of CYLC programs. Students who receive foundation scholarships bring a full range of meaningful and valuable perspectives and viewpoints that contribute greatly to the experience of the program.

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

The curriculum for JrNYLC was developed under the direction of Dr. Marguerite Regan, a former high school teacher and social studies department chairperson with a doctorate in political science from Purdue University. Under Dr. Regan's direction, the curriculum offers a unique approach to leadership development that broadens the way students think and challenges them to become leaders themselves, all in a stimulating non-school environment surrounded by their high-achieving peers.

Leadership Goal:

The key goal of JrNYLC is to introduce Junior National Scholars to the important concepts of leadership: character, communication, goal setting, respect, problem solving and teamwork. Scholars examine leadership in a historical context, focus on applying critical leadership skills in their own lives and explore ways to make a difference when they return home to their schools and communities.

Leadership Objective:

The objective of JrNYLC is to examine the specific leadership traits exhibited by the most prominent and important leaders in United States history. Scholars assess the key leadership concepts from above by working independently and in collaboration to achieve goals; by identifying future leadership development opportunities; by interacting in a cooperative manner with peers from different leadership groups; through researching and evaluating leadership in our nation's history and by examining leadership in United States history through experiential learning.

Leadership Outcome:

Scholars will return from JrNYLC with enhanced skills and abilities, not only to understand the key concepts of leadership, but to apply them in their everyday lives. A transformation will take place enabling JrNYLC scholars to understand that leaders must apply different traits based on different circumstances; to practice their leadership skills of communication, negotiation and persuasion; to use critical thinking skills when analyzing information; to recognize that leaders have a responsibility to make choices that have positive effects on the community; to serve as both leaders and followers in group situations; to relate leadership characteristics to social, cultural and historical contexts and to apply problem solving skills and techniques.

SELECTION AND ENROLLMENT

Requirements for nomination and attendance at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference are strict. Nominees must be personally selected by those who have witnessed their academic and leadership abilities in action: a teacher, educator or other community leader. Only those middle school students who can meet the challenges of our advanced academic curriculum and who have already demonstrated a high level of maturity and responsibility may attend.

Enrollment in JrNYLC is on a space-available basis, and applications will be processed in the order in which they are received. Tuition is due at the time of enrollment. Enroll online at www.cylc.org/TrNYLC, or complete and return the Enrollment Application before the deadline date, as requests for enrollment may exceed the space available.

SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

There is no higher priority than the safety and security of each and every one of our scholars throughout their participation in JrNYLC. Every member of our staff understands that this Conference may well represent the first time many of our students will spend significant time away from their parents and families. The independence, personal growth and confidence that students gain from this experience will serve as one of the foremost benefits of attending.

Scholars will be supervised 24 hours a day by a full-time staff of professional educators. This group of faculty advisors, who have experience working with high-achieving students, will be with the scholars at all times. In addition, JrNYLC staff members are positioned in the airport to help with student arrivals and departures. The student-to-staff ratio is 17-to-1.

STAFFING

We have achieved a stellar, 24-year record of safely and successfully enriching the lives of young students by providing the most superb professional supervision. We ensure our conferences are administered by the highest caliber, professionally trained and educated staff who create, institute and strictly adhere to safety and security policies and procedures that meet the highest standards.

HOUSING AND TRAVEL

In order to maintain the unique learning environment of JrNYLC, parents are not allowed to accompany students during the Conference. All scholars attending the Conference will stay at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. Most students will have two to three roommates, and each student will have his or her own bed. Room checks will be conducted each night to ensure the highest level of security. During the day a licensed nurse will be available on site. Private executive motor coaches provide all transportation between the conference site and program activities. No public transportation will be used while the students are with JrNYLC. Transportation to and from Washington, D.C. is **not** included in the conference tuition.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scholars must stay with the Conference at all times. Visits with relatives or friends in the area will only be permitted if a written request from the scholar's parent or legal guardian is provided at registration on the first day of the conference session. Requests must be signed by the scholar's parent or legal guardian.

TUITION, SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT FUNDRAISING

Tuition for the six-day Conference is \$1,890 and includes all housing, program materials, breakfasts, lunches (with the exception of arrival and departure days), dinners and private motor coach transportation to all locations during the Conference. Scholars will need money only for lunches on arrival and departure days, souvenirs and other incidentals (phone calls, snacks, etc.).

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council Foundation has established a scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to qualified nominees. The Council and the Foundation award a limited number of partial and full scholarships based on financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievements and other factors.

For nominees who are interested in fundraising to help offset the cost of tuition, CYLC has prepared a student fundraising guide featuring helpful, step-by-step suggestions and activities that will enable nominees to raise funds, as well as actual fundraising success stories submitted by past CYLC scholars.

To access a copy of our student fundraising guide and/or a scholarship application, visit our web site at www.cylc.org/jrnylc-tuition. Both the scholarship application process and fundraising will take time, so it is strongly advised that nominees pursuing either of these methods start as early as possible.

Many members of Congress give their time and energy to support CYLC and the Junior National Young Leaders Conference. Congressional offices, however, do not have funds to provide financial assistance to individual scholars. Please refrain from soliciting tuition from your U.S. senator or representative.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

CYLC encourages participation by students with special needs, including students with disabilities. We may be able to provide appropriate auxiliary aides and services to assist students with special needs. Scholars and their parents are encouraged to call our Office of Admissions for more information and to discuss particular needs prior to enrolling in the Conference.

WAIT LIST AND CANCELLATIONS

In the event that there is no space available when we receive your scholar's enrollment, your scholar will be placed on a wait list and notified when space becomes available. If your scholar is not enrolled from the wait list, age-eligible students will be given first priority to transfer their enrollment to a future JrNYLC session.

Once CYLC has received a scholar's Enrollment Application, notification of the intent to withdraw from the Junior National Young Leaders Conference must be submitted in writing by a parent or legal guardian. There is a \$350 non-refundable cancellation fee for withdrawal 31 days or more prior to the start of the scheduled conference session. No refund will be issued for cancellations that are received fewer than 31 days prior to the scheduled conference session. Students who are dismissed from the Conference for disciplinary reasons or leave the Conference early for any reason are not eligible for a refund. All cancellation requests must be received in writing from a parent or legal guardian.

Should a student elect to transfer to another session or program, a \$50 non-refundable administrative fee will apply.

TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The cost of transportation to and from the Conference is not included in the conference tuition. Due to the steep penalties for ticket cancellations, **you should not make transportation arrangements until you have been officially notified of your scholar's enrollment by CYLC.**

Through strictly followed procedures and guidelines for unaccompanied minors, airlines ensure the safety and supervision of minors traveling alone. Information for minors traveling alone is available on the *Safety & Supervision* page of our web site at www.cylc.org/jrnylc. You may also contact the airlines directly.

Free airport shuttle service between the conference site and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) is available on the first and last days of the Conference. Conference staff will be stationed in the airport to assist arriving and departing scholars. Details about the airport shuttle service will be sent along with your notification of enrollment in JrNYLC.

DRESS CODE

Scholars should plan to wear relaxed professional clothing throughout the day. Ladies must wear dresses, skirts or khakis (no mini-skirts) with blouses or sweaters. Gentlemen must wear button-down, polo or collared shirts and slacks (no denim or cargo pants). There will be an opportunity most evenings to wear casual attire, including jeans. Comfortable dress shoes are essential, since scholars will be walking a great deal throughout the Conference.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Junior National Scholars are representatives of their schools, their states and CYLC. They have been selected in part because of their level of maturity and responsibility. All scholars are expected to abide by and uphold CYLC rules and conduct themselves in a manner that will continue to make their families and communities proud.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions, please call the Office of Admissions between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or write to the address below. If you write to the Office of Admissions, please include your address and a phone number where we can reach you.

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