



To: Arizona High School Students Who Have Disabilities
From: Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council
Subject: **INVITATION TO APPLY TO ATTEND OUR
YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS
WHO HAVE DISABILITIES (FOR SUMMER 2014)**

Enclosed is an application form for the **Arizona Youth Leadership Forum for Students Who Have Disabilities (AZYLF)**. 2014 marks the first year we have produced this **innovative and exciting program** and we hope you will join us. The five-day forum includes many exciting, informative activities to help you toward your transition from high school to the world of work or further education. The forum is scheduled to take place from **June 23rd to 27th at the Arizona State University Downtown Campus in Phoenix, Arizona.**

Students - we are inviting you to apply, and we are asking your help in recruiting other students to apply for the forum. The enclosed application form may be duplicated and distributed as necessary. Completed application packets must be postmarked by **Saturday, May 10, 2014**. Approximately 20 students who have disabilities will be selected to attend.

The forum is for high school students who have disabilities that will be in grades 10, 11, or 12 this fall, and who have demonstrated leadership capabilities in their communities and schools.

The Youth Leadership Forum is a collaborative effort between the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council, Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration, and other partner organizations. There is no cost for you to attend.

If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to call our office at (602) 262-2900. We sincerely appreciate your assistance in making certain that all deserving students have an opportunity to apply to attend. Thank you!

DEADLINE TO APPLY: May 10, 2014!

Last Name First Name

9. _____
School Mailing Address City State ZIP

10. _____ 11. (_____) _____
Name of High School Counselor (Area Code) School Telephone Number

12. Birthdate: _____ and Date Graduation Expected: _____

13. Please describe your disability. This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities.

What is your disability? _____

How does your disability affect your daily activities (such as reading, eating, walking, speaking?) _____

14. Please specify your ethnicity (optional): _____

15. Please list the school classes you are currently enrolled in: _____

16. **Current Reading Grade Level** _____ (If necessary, ask a teacher to assist you in getting the information in numbers 16 A & B).

17. _____ _____
Name of Arizona Senate Representative in your District District Number

18. _____ _____
Name of Arizona House Representative in your District District Number

19. _____
Names of Local Newspapers (Please list at least one).

Last Name First Name

20. **School and Community Involvement**

Below, please briefly list your involvement with your school and community. This may include any offices you held, club memberships, after school activities or work experiences. List the length of involvement, the grade level you were in at the time of participation, and the name of an adult you worked with.

School Activities:

<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Adult Contact</u>	<u>Dates (From When to When)</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
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Community Activities:

<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Adult Contact</u>	<u>Dates (From When to When)</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
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22. **Letters of Recommendation:**

Please attach two letters of recommendation which describe your demonstrated leadership skills or your leadership potential. It is preferred that one letter be from a high school representative and one letter be from a community representative outside of your school.

List name, position/title, organization and telephone number of the two people who write these letters.

Name	Title	()	
Organization		(Area Code)	Telephone Number

Name	Title	()	
Organization		(Area Code)	Telephone Number

Last Name First Name

23. **Required Essay**

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your readiness to participate in this leadership forum. Please write your responses on separate paper and attach to your completed application packet. Your total response for all four of these topics should not exceed four (4) typewritten, double-spaced pages. **(Responses must be double spaced and either typewritten or printed in black ink.)**

- (a) **QUALIFICATIONS** - Explain why you feel you are qualified to be a delegate to this forum and please tell us why you want to attend.
- (b) **POSITIVE INFLUENCES** - In terms of leadership, please tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life, and how they did so? (Family members, teachers, counselors, friends, public officials or celebrities are appropriate examples.)
- (c) **EXPERIENCES AS A PERSON WHO HAS A DISABILITY** - Describe two important experiences you have had as a young person who has a disability. (Please be specific about your examples as they relate to your disability.)
- (d) **FUTURE PLANS** - Describe any of your plans for after high school graduation.

24. County you Live In: _____

25. Did anyone assist you in completing this application? YES NO
Please specify who: _____

Please keep a photocopy of this application for your records. Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Items	Completed
1. Application form (4 pages)	
2. Two letters of recommendation	
3. Essay (response to four topics)	

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of parent/guardian

Date

Thank you for completing this application. Please mail, fax or email it to the address below. If you have any questions, please contact:

Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (602) 262-2900
5025 E Washington #214 (602) 271-4100 FAX
Phoenix, Arizona 85034 melissa@azsilc.org

(KEEP THIS PAGE. DO NOT MAIL WITH APPLICATION.)

HOW STUDENT DELEGATES WILL BE SELECTED AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. **To be eligible** for the Youth Leadership Forum, students must:
 - (a) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act – (ADA));
 - (b) Be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade in the fall of the year you attend.
 - (c) Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community; and,
 - (d) Reside in Arizona.
2. Student applicants must mail, fax, or scan the completed application packet to Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council to reach us by May 10, 2014.
3. Selected applicants will be contacted by telephone to arrange a personal interview. The interview will be conducted by a panel coordinated by the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council. Interviews will take place by May 30, 2014.
4. All applicants will be notified by June 1, 2014, whether they are selected to attend the forum. Approximately 20 students will be selected to attend.
5. After being selected, students will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information to the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council.
6. All appropriate expenses will be paid by the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum, including such expenses as travel (for those traveling more than 100 miles round trip), lodging, food, interpreters, materials in alternative formats, and personal care assistance services.

AZYLf: A to Z...It's Your Life!

(KEEP THIS PAGE. DO NOT MAIL WITH APPLICATION)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS:

Rules and Guidelines for Student Delegates of the Youth Leadership Forum

In order to provide a fun, safe learning experience at the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum, all student delegates will be expected to follow the rules listed below.

Students are selected to attend this forum because of their leadership skills and potential. **Consequently, students are expected to demonstrate their leadership ability, and must:**

1. Be punctual
2. Respect the scheduled program. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. You must stay with your assigned group at all times. Wake up and "lights out" times are set for all participants.
3. Maintain a respectful attitude toward peers, counselors and conference staff.
4. Respect the facilities (maintaining the condition of dormitory rooms and all other areas). Participants will have to pay for property damage they cause and for lost room keys or towels.
5. When not in assigned groups, males and females are restricted to their own assigned rooms at all times. No co-ed visitation is allowed.
6. Smoking and possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances is strictly prohibited. (Prescription or other approved medications require verification and self-administration is required. Medication reminders will be provided.)
7. All other campus residence halls and facilities are off limits.
8. Headsets, radios and electronic games are not permitted at the forum. Use of cellular phones will only be permitted during designated breaks. Parents will have access to an emergency telephone number.

Any violations of these rules will result in students being sent home immediately at the expense of their parent/guardian. Your application to the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum indicates your acceptance of these rules and guidelines.

And more importantly, we emphasize that delegates are chosen to attend the forum because of their leadership potential. Remember the responsibility that goes with the honor of being selected . . . and plan to have a great time!

AZYL: A to Z...It's Your Life!

FACT SHEET

THE ARIZONA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES (AZYLF) A Unique Program for Future Community Leaders

WHAT IS THE AZYLF?

The AZYLF is an innovative, intensive five-day training program for rising high school juniors and seniors. It includes career awareness and leadership development information to assist young people who have disabilities to reach their potential. The training is presented in a fun, entertaining, and educational format.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ARIZONA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM?

Young people who have disabilities and who demonstrate leadership potential, academic success, involvement in extra-curricular activities (such as sports, the arts, or service), community involvement and the ability to interact effectively with other students.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY HAPPENS AT THE FORUM?

- ◆ We bring together young people who have disabilities who demonstrate potential leadership qualities for the purpose of skill development in regard to independence, leadership, responsibility, and positive outcomes. The program includes structured small and large group activities, field trips, a dance, a formal banquet, and a tour of the State Capitol.
- ◆ We provide educational programs on topics such as: positive self-concept, options after high school, the history of disability as a culture, and leadership responsibilities. Presenters who engage with the students include disability community leaders, legislators, and numerous other professional role models who have disabilities.
- ◆ Students are assisted in developing a “Personal Leadership Plan” which includes specific action items for the students when they return to their communities.
- ◆ The students serve as a youth voice to inform the Arizona State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).
- ◆ Students are assigned a mentor for on-going support for one year after completing the Forum.

WHY HAVE THIS FORUM?

Young people who have disabilities have both more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our history. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has created unprecedented opportunities for young people to fully develop as positive, contributing members of our society. However, many need encouragement to develop as leaders in their communities. Our Forum enables them to learn from each other and from successful adults who have disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models. The Forum benefits not only the participants, but all young people who have disabilities, our communities in general, and the adults who assist in producing the forum.

HOW DOES THE FORUM HAPPEN?

Approximately 20 high school students are selected to attend through a competitive process. The event successfully integrates students who represent the disability and ethnic diversity of our state.

The Forum is held in June 2014, in Phoenix, Arizona.

WILL THERE BE MORE FORUMS IN THE FUTURE?

The Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) has approved the Forum for 2014, 2015 and 2016. It is our hope to create a sustainable program beyond 2016. The first Youth Leadership Forum was held in 1992, in California. To date, more than 27 states have followed the California model in establishing successful Youth Leadership Forums.

HOW MUCH DOES THE FORUM COST?

Student delegates are not charged to attend the Forum. Costs are approximately \$1500 per student, not including thousands of dollars for services and goods provided in-kind by volunteer supporters.