



YLA Dress Code (last updated on Aug. 2018)

Why do we have a dress code? There are many reasons! Primarily, we want the cadets to have experience with a professional dress code so they are well prepared for their professional futures. In addition, it is a common leadership skill to “dress the part.” Business Casual is a standard dress code for a professional work environment, and it serves as a perfect guide for the YLA leadership culture. One never gets a second chance to make a first impression! Dressing for success is one of YLA’s premier and distinguishing features as a youth leadership development organization in the community!

Business Casual / YLA Dress Code:

- Clothing that works well for the beach, yard work, dance clubs, exercise sessions, and sports contests may not be appropriate for a professional appearance at work.
- Even in a business casual work environment, clothing should be pressed and never wrinkled. Torn, dirty, or frayed clothing is unacceptable. All seams must be finished.
- Any clothing that has words, terms, or pictures that may be offensive to others is unacceptable.
- YLA shirt is always OK! In fact, it is encouraged!
- The dress code is required for all YLA events whether on or off campus unless specified otherwise by the Executive Director or the President of the YLA Board.
- Gang-related dress is not tolerated in any form and disciplinary action will be taken immediately.
- In addition to dressing appropriately, it is expected that all cadets are to maintain good hygiene during any YLA activities.

Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants

Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, and dressy capris. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, any kind of shorts, bib overalls, leggings (unless a dress or skirt is covering them), and any spandex or other formfitting pants such as people wear for biking. Baggy pants of any material are inappropriate.

Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits

Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee when sitting down (even if wearing leggings underneath) are acceptable. Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.

Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets

Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, golf-type shirts, and turtlenecks are acceptable attire. Most suit jackets or sport jackets are also acceptable attire, if they violate none of the listed guidelines. Inappropriate attire for work includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; tops with any bare shoulders; sweatshirts (including hoodies), and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress. Tops must cover the waist and not be low cut.

Shoes and Footwear

Conservative loafers, clogs, boots, flats, dress heels (under two inches), and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Athletic shoes (sneakers), flip-flops, slippers, and any shoe with an open toe are not acceptable.

Hats and Head Covering

Hats are not appropriate. Head Covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed.

The YLA further requires the following:

- Cadets are encouraged not to dye their hair in any bright, non-natural color.
- Cadets cannot show any tattoos
- Cadets may not show body piercings

If there is a question about any dress code detail, a final decision will be made by the Executive Director or a member of the YLA Board.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

- First offense in the school year: verbal warning to the cadet and parents.
- Second offense in the same school year: a letter will be sent home to the parent requesting a meeting to discuss YLA dress code and other policies.
- Any further offenses will result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director, including (but not limited to) being placed on WARNING STATUS, which means the cadet would be at risk of being dropped from the YLA program.