



Section III: RECOMMENDATIONS

Three recommendations are required in order for the student application to be complete:

1. One recommendation **must** come from the student's **2023-2024** grade-level classroom teacher (6th or 7th grade).
2. One recommendation **must** come from the student's **2023-2024** school principal, school administrator, counselor, or dean.
3. One recommendation **must** come from another adult member of the community who knows the student outside of school, such as a coach, church member, former teacher, neighbor, etc. (*recommendations from family members or relatives are not accepted*).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Each adult recommending the student **must** use the YLA Recommendation Form included in this application. A separate letter of recommendation may be attached, but it cannot replace the YLA Recommendation Form.
- It is the **student's responsibility** to share the YLA Recommendation Form with the adults who will fill them out in a timely manner (in other words, the day before the deadline is not considerate).

***** Please make sure to give the right recommendation form to the right person! For example, the school principal should not be using the teacher recommendation form.**

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Youth Leadership Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs and activities accorded to students at the Academy. It does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Please submit this YLA Recommendation Form to us no later than May 17, 2024

- Send via email to Admin@ylacademy.org no later than 11:59 pm on May 17th
- This recommendation form may **NOT** be faxed.



2023-2024 Teacher Recommendation Form (6th or 7th Grade)

Introduction for Recommender:

Congratulations! One of your students is applying to become a cadet in the Youth Leadership Academy, an organization working with low-income youth in Illinois School Districts U-46, D300, D301 and D303 on their journey towards college. To learn more about YLA, visit www.ylacademy.org. Your recommendation is helpful to the YLA Selection Committee, which will do its best to select applicants who could benefit most from what the YLA has to offer.

Selection into YLA each year is a competitive process. Some applicants will be invited to interview with the YLA Selection Committee along with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Then, approximately 25 finalists will be asked to make a multi-year commitment to be active in the YLA program. If you have any questions about this application, please contact us at admin@ylacademy.org. Thank you!

Please Print or Write Neatly:

Name of the Student: _____

Recommender's Name: _____

Recommender's Title: _____ School / Organization: _____

Telephone (where we can best reach you daytime or evening): (____) _____

Email: _____

Are you a family member or relative of the student applicant? ____ yes ____ no

**Please answer the following questions on this sheet of paper to the best of your ability.
Please print or write neatly.**

1. Please describe this student's strongest quality.

2. Please describe this student's strongest need or area for improvement.

(continued)



3. What do you know about this student's life outside of school that would make the student a prime candidate for an organization like YLA?

4. Please describe the student's leadership potential, including overall levels of effort and motivation.

5. What else would you like to share about this student that would convince the YLA to select the student to be a YLA cadet?

6. **Lastly, and most importantly, please mark ONE of the following:**

- _____ I highly recommend this student with enthusiasm.
- _____ I recommend this student.
- _____ I recommend this student with some reservations. Please explain:
- _____ I do not recommend this student. Please explain:

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this YLA Recommendation Form to us **no later than May 17, 2024:**

- Send via email to Admin@ylacademy.org no later than 11:59 pm on May 17th.
- This recommendation form may **NOT** be faxed.



2023-2024 School Principal/Administrator Recommendation Form

Introduction for Recommender:

Congratulations! One of your students is applying to become a cadet in the Youth Leadership Academy, an organization working with low-income youth in Illinois School Districts U-46, D300, D301 and D303 on their journey toward college. To learn more about YLA, visit www.ylacademy.org. Your recommendation is helpful to the YLA Selection Committee, which will do its best to select applicants who could benefit most from what the YLA has to offer.

Selection into YLA each year is a competitive process. Some applicants will be invited to interview with the YLA Selection Committee along with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Then, approximately 25 finalists will be asked to make a multi-year commitment to be active in the YLA program. If you have any questions about this application, please feel free to contact us at admin@ylacademy.org. Thank you!

Please Print or Write Neatly:

Name of the Student: _____

Recommender's Name: _____

Recommender's Title: _____ School / Organization: _____

Telephone (where we can best reach you daytime or evening): (____) _____

Email: _____

Are you a family member or relative of the student applicant? ____ yes ____ no

Please answer the following questions on this sheet of paper to the best of your ability. Please print or write neatly.

1. Do you know this student well?

Yes

No

2. How has this student progressed academically over the last several years?

A or above student

A - B student

Solid B student

B - C student

Solid C student



Below C student

3. This student qualifies for the following:

_____ Free lunch _____ Reduced lunch _____ Neither free nor reduced lunch

4. Has this student ever been referred to the office for discipline issues?

No

Yes (*please explain*) _____

5. What kind of support do you believe this student will require in junior high in order to stay in good academic and behavioral standing?

6. What else would you like to share about this student that would convince the YLA to select the student to be a YLA cadet?

Lastly, and most importantly, please mark ONE of the following:

_____ I highly recommend this student with enthusiasm.

_____ I recommend this student.

_____ I recommend this student with some reservations. Please explain:

_____ I do not recommend this student. Please explain:

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this YLA Recommendation Form to us **no later than May 17, 2024:**

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- This recommendation form may **NOT** be faxed.



Adult Member of the Community Recommendation Form

Introduction for Recommender:

Congratulations! The student who invited you to fill out this form is applying to become a cadet in the Youth Leadership Academy, an organization working with low-income youth in Illinois School Districts U-46, D300, D301 and D303 on their journey towards college. To learn more about YLA, visit www.ylacademy.org. Your recommendation is helpful to the YLA Selection Committee, which will do its best to select applicants who could benefit most from what the YLA has to offer.

Selection into YLA each year is a competitive process. Some applicants will be invited to interview with the YLA Selection Committee along with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Then, approximately 25 finalists will be asked to make a multi-year commitment to be active in the YLA program. If you have any questions about this application, please feel free to contact us at admin@ylacademy.org. Thank you!

Please Print Neatly:

Name of the Student: _____

Recommender's Name: _____

Recommender's Title: _____ Organization: _____

Telephone (where we can best reach you daytime or evening): (_____) _____

Email: _____

Are you a family member or relative of the student applicant? ____ yes ____ no

Please answer the following questions on this sheet of paper to the best of your ability. Please print or write neatly.

1. How long have you known this student and in what capacity?

2. Please tell us about this student's leadership potential. Give details.

(continued)



3. What are this student's best qualities? Please describe.

4. What do you know about this student's life that would make the student a prime candidate for an organization like the YLA?

5. What kind of support do you believe this student will require in the future in order to be a positive and contributing member of our community?

6. What else would you like to share about this student that would convince the YLA to select the student to be a YLA cadet?

Lastly, and most importantly, please mark ONE of the following:

- I highly recommend this student with enthusiasm.
- I recommend this student.
- I recommend this student with some reservations. Please explain:
- I do not recommend this student. Please explain:

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this YLA Recommendation Form to us **no later than May 17, 2024:**

- Send via email to Admin@ylacademy.org no later than 11:59 pm on May 17th.
- This recommendation form may **NOT** be faxed.