



2024 YLA Application Form

Deadline: All applications must be received by Friday, May 17, 2024.

About the YLA

Youth leadership Academy (YLA) is a unique program providing a constructive, mentoring environment for low income students. We offer leadership training sessions about two Saturdays per month during the academic year to student “cadets” (7th – 12th grade) from across four Illinois school districts U-46, D300, D301 and D303. YLA’s leadership training program is focused around character development, college readiness, and community engagement. The motto for YLA is: “I AM on the path to success. I AM college bound.” To learn more about YLA, visit www.ylacademy.org.

Who is eligible to apply? How many students are selected each year?

Due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past few years, enrollment for the 2024-2025 year will be open to current 6 and 7th grade students who reside within the geographical boundaries for IL School Districts U-46, D300, D301 and D303 and are eligible for free or reduced lunch may apply. We require a copy of the family’s 1040 tax forms from calendar year 2023 to be attached to this application. **Important note: This application process is competitive and late applications are strictly not accepted.** On average, over 200 applications are received each year, of which approximately 50 are offered a family interview, and up to 25 student finalists will be selected shortly after to become YLA cadets.

All completed applications must be emailed to admin@ylacademy.org.

For questions regarding YLA or your application, please e-mail admin@ylacademy.org.

NO part of the YLA Application may be faxed. Completed applications must be received by 11:59 pm on Friday, May 17, 2024. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

This list is printed here to help you organize your documents. The most common reason some applicants are not selected is because they have incomplete applications! It is the responsibility of the applicant's family (not YLA, not the teacher, not the principal) to obtain and submit all required documentation in order to complete the application.

(Do not turn in this page.)

Applicants must have all of the items listed below before turning in the application:

- _____ 1. SECTION I – Completed Student Information.
- _____ 2. SECTION II – Student Questions (separate handwritten paper needs to be attached).
- _____ 3. Completed recommendation form from the child's 2023-2024 grade-level teacher.
- _____ 4. Completed form from the 2023-2024 school principal/administrative personnel.
- _____ 5. Completed recommendation form from an adult who knows the applicant. (NOT a parent or relative of the applicant.)
- _____ 6. Copy of school documentation verifying that the applicant receives either free or reduced lunch (this may be obtained from the applicant's school district office or your child's school office).
- _____ 7. Copy of last report card.
- _____ 8. Family's completed 1040 Federal tax form from 2023 (at least the first two pages) that clearly lists the name of the student applicant (and his or her social security number) as a dependent. *If 2023 tax documents are not available, the family may submit documents from 2022; however, the family will be asked to turn in 2023 documents no later than May 31.* If there are extreme circumstances in which tax documents are unavailable, please make an appointment with the Executive Director to proceed. YLA does **not** accept W-2 forms.
- _____ 9. SECTION IV – Completed Applicant and Parent Agreement.

INCOMPLETE AND/OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL **NOT** BE CONSIDERED.

Remember, applications may **NOT** be faxed.