

Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) Student Application 2019/2020

The program is tuition-free, thanks to generous support from people and organizations who believe in the leadership potential of youth.

* Applicants should apply during their freshman or sophomore years to participate in the program during their sophomore or junior years.

* Applications will be accepted until Noon (CST) on April 22, 2019. Only completed applications, including the required adult referral will be advanced to consideration by the YLI Selection Committee.

* Class selection will be completed and announced by June. Approximately 40 students from public and private high schools from across the Greater Des Moines area will be selected.

* There is a \$35 acceptance fee due at orientation if selected to the program. If this financial commitment is an issue, notify Kelly Royal at kroyal@gdmli.com to request a scholarship. This fee should NOT prohibit any applicants from applying or accepting.

About the Program

What is YLI?

The Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) releases untapped potential in the next generation of community leaders. This untapped potential is released as students learn skills that propel them into their next steps in life and as they embrace their roles as shapers of a community where their dreams can be realized.

High school sophomores and juniors get out of the classroom and into real-life learning experiences throughout Greater Des Moines. Their teachers are local business and community experts. Their subjects are opportunities and challenges in our region. Their lessons teach self, group, professional, and community leadership skills to prepare for their futures. Their graduation showcases students who are ready to confidently lead in their personal lives, schools, workplaces, and community.

YLI experience days will take place during the school day one Friday each month. Please reserve the following Monday evening for a classroom session, important to the successful learning and linkage between the experience and the five exemplary leadership practices. Once selected, we will work with your school to ensure the absence is excused. The student will need to make up classroom assignments.

Who should apply?

We are seeking students with plenty of room to grow! Participants who gain the most from YLI are:

- * Eager to learn about their community and how they can shape its future.
- * Enthusiastic about building professional skills and gaining exposure to possible career paths.
- * Open to exploring their leadership potential, perhaps having had few previous opportunities.
- * Sincere about forming connections with fellow students and mentors from across Greater Des Moines.
- * Applications are to be filled out entirely by the student applying for a position in the YLI program. A non-relative, adult referral must be submitted separately but by the application deadline.

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant's Full Legal Name: _____

Applicant's Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Preferred Pronouns (he/him, she/her, other (please specify)): _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): _____

Applicant's Cell Phone Number: _____

Applicant's Home Phone Number: _____

Applicant's Email Address: _____

Applicant's High School: _____

Grade level for **2019-2020** School Year: _____

Optional

Race/Ethnicity: White, Black/African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino or

Other: _____

Application Questions

Helpful Tips when completing your application.

- *Be thorough and thoughtful in your responses. Help the reviewers get to know you.*
- *Save your information in Word, just in case you experience technical issues and lose your data.*
- *Consider asking someone to proofread your application.*
- *Do not assume the reviewer is reading all your answers consecutively. Answer each question with its own, stand alone answer.*

1. **Describe the most meaningful ways you spend your time. Why is this meaningful to you? How does this add value to or impact your life?**
2. **Think of someone you consider a great leader. What qualities do you appreciate about that person? How has this person inspired you?**
3. **How do you envision yourself growing into leadership roles? What might help you overcome current barriers or challenges?**
4. **How do your values align with the values of the program?**
EMPOWERING youth to connect, participate in change and create their ideal community; ENCOURAGING youth to become active participants in their community; ENGAGING youth in opportunities to invest their futures in Des Moines.
5. **We are seeking students with plenty of room to grow! Participants who gain the most from YLI are:**
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As you read about the ideal candidate (above), tell us why you want to dedicate your time to this program.

6. **What can people your age do to make a positive impact on the community?**
7. **What skills would you like learn by participating in the YLI Program?**

Understanding the Commitment

If you are currently employed or involved in other activities, do you anticipate conflicts with YLI dates, and if so, how will you balance these responsibilities (YLI is a commitment just like school and work)?

Additional Applicant Information

What are your plans after high school? Please select one:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| a) Certificate program | e) Directly to work |
| b) Apprenticeship | f) Military |
| c) 2-year college/university | g) Other – please list |
| d) 4-year college/university | |

What careers interest you? List as many as you like.

How did you hear about YLI? (Please list full name and role/organization if applicable) List all that apply.

Parent/Guardian: _____

Teacher/Counselor/Other School Employee: _____

Print/Email/Internet Advertisement: _____

Past YLI Participant: _____

Other: _____

If you selected Teacher/Counselor/Other School Employee above, please provide name of individual and school. _____

If you selected Past YLI Participant above, please provide name of individual and school.

Adult Referral

A non-relative Adult Referral must be received to finalize the application process. Follow this link for submission: <https://goo.gl/forms/9iZ5aPWzBnXMms9G3>

Name of Adult Referral: _____

☐ I understand that my application will not be considered for the upcoming class until my adult referral is received by the YLI Selection Committee. It is my responsibility to follow-up with the adult I have asked to ensure a referral on my behalf is submitted.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Adult Referral

Each YLI student application must be accompanied by an adult referral. This referral provides another perspective on the student's potential for growth in the YLI program. Your support of this student is appreciated.

*Please note: The adult referral must be received by the application deadline of **April 22, 2019** for the student application to be deemed complete and eligible for program consideration.*

Referral Full Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Student's (Applicant) Name: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

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1. Tell us why you feel the applicant is a good fit for the YLI program based on the type of student we are looking for (see above).

2. What would you like to see the applicant improve upon or gain from the YLI Program?

Nomination: By submitting this complete form, I nominate the youth listed on this application for the Youth Leadership Initiative. I understand that this is an interactive, hands-on experience aimed at youth who are beginning to show leadership potential and an interest in the community. I certify that I am not related to the student whose name appears on the application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____