



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

WHAT IS ARIZONA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM?

Arizona Youth Leadership Forum (AZYLf) is an innovative 6 day training program for students and transitioning youth who have disabilities. AZYLf features career exploration and leadership development learning opportunities to assist each individual to maximize their potential. The training is presented in a fun, educational, and motivating format.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN AZYLf?

Youth 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 and staff.

AZYLf is intended to serve High School Students who will be a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior during the 2015-16 school year. However, youth who have recently graduated, or who are in transition are encouraged to apply, and will receive selection consideration.

WHAT SPECIFICALLY HAPPENS AT AZYLf?

AZYLf brings together youth who have disabilities from across Arizona. The program includes structured small and large group activities, field trips, a dance, a formal banquet, and a tour of the State Capitol.

AZYLf provides 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 youth include disability community leaders, advocates, legislators, and numerous other professional role models who have disabilities.

Youth are assisted in developing a Personal Leadership Plan which includes specific action items as they return to their communities.

Youth become a voice for their peers as they serve to inform the Arizona State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

Youth are assigned a mentor for on-going support for one year after completing AZYLf.

WHY HAVE AZYLf?

Youth 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 youth to fully develop as positive, contributing members of our society. However, many need encouragement to develop as leaders in their communities. AZYLf enables youth to learn from each other and from successful adults who have disabilities, who are recognized leaders and role models. AZYLf benefits not only the participants, known as Delegates, but all young people who have disabilities, our communities in general, and the adults who assist in producing the event.

HOW DOES AZYLf HAPPEN?

Approximately 25 youth from across Arizona are selected to attend through a competitive process. The event successfully integrates youth who represent the diversity of both disability and culture of our state. AZYLf will be held at ASU Downtown Campus in Phoenix Arizona, June 21-26, 2015.

HOW MUCH DOES THE FORUM COST?

Youth Delegates are not charged to participate. Costs are approximately \$1200 per student, not including thousands of dollars for services and goods provided in-kind by volunteers and supporters.

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Apply online: www.azylf.org