



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

Keith W. Cooley
DIRECTOR

September 2008

TO: **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

FROM: Dan Vivian, Chair
Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns

SUBJECT: **2008 MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Enclosed is an application form for our Michigan Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities. The year 2009 will be the tenth year for this innovative, exciting leadership development program in Michigan. The five-day MYLF includes many exciting, educational activities to help you toward your career goals. The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum will take place June 14 to 18, 2009 at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum is for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who have demonstrated leadership potential in their communities and schools.

Students - we are inviting you to apply, and we are asking your help in recruiting other students to apply for the Forum. The enclosed application form may be duplicated. Deadline for the completed applications is December 12, 2008. Approximately 30 students with disabilities will be selected to attend the MYLF.

The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum is a cooperative project, coordinated by the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, Department of Labor and Economic Growth, with the assistance of a number of individuals, non-profit organizations, and agencies. **There is no charge for you to attend.**

If you have questions about this forum, please contact Bill Milzarski at the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, Department of Labor and Economic Growth, at 517-335-6004 (voice or TTY) or 1-877-499-6232 (toll free)(voice or TTY); e-mail at MCDC@michigan.gov; or fax 517-335-7773. We appreciate your assistance in making certain that all students have an opportunity to apply. Thank you!

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 12, 2008

_ Enclosures



MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

JUNE 14-18, 2009

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING

Sponsored by: *The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns and Partners*

To be eligible to apply for the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, delegates must:

- a) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act).
- b) Be a maximum age of 19 at the time of the forum.
- c) Be a junior or senior in high school by September of 2009. YOU MUST CURRENTLY BE IN AT LEAST 10TH GRADE.
- d) Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community.
- e) Reside in Michigan.

APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR POSTMARK ON MAILED APPLICATION: December 12, 2008.

- ⇒ Alternative Formats available upon request (Bill Milzarski, 877-499-6232, toll free).
- ⇒ Students must complete ALL information on pages 1 through 4 of this application.
- ⇒ Mail the application to the address on page 4.
- ⇒ **Please see Student Selection Criteria.** (Approximately 30 students will be selected.)

1. Name	2. Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Birth Date / Age
4. Home Address (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (Zip Code) (County)		
5. Mailing Address (if different than above)		
6. Phone (Number and Area Code)		
7. e-mail Address	Fax Number	
8. Parent or Guardian Name	Day-time Phone Number	

9. Name of High School

10. School Mailing Address

11. How did you hear about MYLF?

12. Current grade level in high school (YOU MUST CURRENTLY BE IN AT LEAST 10TH GRADE).

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Other (please explain)

13. State Senator

14. State Representative

15. Names of Local Newspapers (please list at least one.)

16. School and Community Involvement

Briefly list your involvement with your school and/or community within the last five years. This may include any leadership positions, club memberships, after-school activities, work experiences, volunteering, church groups, youth groups, etc. (Attach additional sheet, if needed).

School Activities:

Name of Activity and your involvement

Dates (from when to when)

Community Activities:

Name of Activity and your involvement

Dates (from when to when)

17. Letters of Recommendation

Please attach a minimum of **two** letters of recommendation from people who can address your leadership skills. **One letter must be from a high school representative and one must be from a community representative. (Do not submit letters from family members).**

A.	Name (school representative)	Title
	Organization	Phone number
B.	Name (community representative)	Title
	Organization	Phone number

18. Please respond to the following essay questions below. Please type your responses or use an alternate format such as handwritten, audiotaped, or videotaped responses on separate page(s) and attach to your completed application packet.

- (1) Why do you want to come to the MYLF?
- (2) Why do you think you should be selected to attend the MYLF?
- (3) Describe an experience in your life that taught you something about disabilities.
- (4) What do you want to do after high school?

19. What is your disability? (This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities.)

20. Please specify your race/ethnic group (optional):

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| African American | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Multiracial | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: | _____ | | | | |

Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Required items
1. Completed Application Form (4 pages)
 2. Two letters (minimum) of recommendation
 3. Responses to four essay questions (#18 on application)
 4. Student Signature
 5. Parent Signature

Enclosed

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like to be considered for the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum for high school students with disabilities. I acknowledge receipt, understanding, and acceptance of the attached Rules and Guidelines.

Student Signature

Date

To be signed by the student's parent or guardian:

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend, if selected, the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. I also assume responsibility for my son/daughter's conduct while participating in the leadership training activities. I acknowledge receipt, understanding, and acceptance of the attached Rules and Guidelines.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Thank you for completing this application. Please mail it to the address below. If you have any questions, please contact:

Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns
 Department of Labor & Economic Growth
 201 North Washington Square, Suite 150
 Lansing, MI 48913

517-335-6004 (voice/TTY)
 877-499-6232 (toll free, voice/TTY)
 Fax Number: 517-335-7773

E-Mail:

mcdc@michigan.gov
MilzarskiW@Michigan.gov

Web Address:

www.michigan.gov/mcdc-dodhh
www.MYLF.org

Please keep a photocopy of this application for your records.

<p>The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth does not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability, Auxiliary aids are available upon request to people with disabilities.</p>
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2009 MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

JUNE 14-18, 2009

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – EAST LANSING

***AN EXCITING, EDUCATIONAL, FUN,
FIVE-DAY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM***

Who can participate in the MYLF?

Students with disabilities who will be juniors or seniors by September of 2009 and who:

- ◆ Demonstrate leadership potential
- ◆ Demonstrate involvement in extra-curricular activities (such as sports, the arts, or student organizations)
- ◆ Demonstrate community involvement

What will happen at MYLF?

We will . . .

1. bring together students with disabilities who demonstrate leadership qualities;
2. share information with each other such as self-advocacy, employment, disability rights, and history of disabilities;
3. identify existing barriers to personal success;
4. teach consensus building to enable students to select an issue to be debated on Capitol Day; and
5. assist students in developing “Personal Leadership Goals” which will include specific action steps for the students to follow when they return to their communities.

MYLF will include small group discussions with fellow students, large group presentations, activities such as a dance, a formal luncheon with community leaders, and a day at the State Capitol.

Why have MYLF?

Young people with disabilities have more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) offers unprecedented opportunities for young people with disabilities to be contributing members of our society. However, many young people need peer interaction, encouragement, and information about resources to develop as leaders in their communities. The MYLF will provide students the opportunity to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models. The MYLF benefits not only the participants, but all young people with disabilities.

How will MYLF happen?

- WHO: Approximately 30 high school students with disabilities will be selected.
- WHEN: June 14-18, 2009.
- WHERE: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
- COST: Students will not be charged to attend MYLF.

For additional information, please contact the
MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
201 North Washington Square, Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48913
517-335-6004 (voice/TTY) or 877-499-6232 (toll free, voice/TTY)
E-mail: MCDC@michigan.gov
Web address: www.michigan.gov/mcdc-dodhh
Fax: 517-335-7773

STUDENTS WHO ARE SELECTED TO ATTEND THE FORUM WILL BE NOTIFIED IN **February 2009** AND PROVIDED WITH MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS

The Commission was established in 1949, and is now located within the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth. MCDC serves as an advocate and an information and technical assistance resource for employers, state and local government, people with disabilities, families, and the general public.



MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM – 2009 Student Selection Criteria

1. To be eligible to apply for the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, students must:
 - a. Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act).
 - b. Be a maximum age of 19 at the time of the forum.
 - c. Be a junior or senior in high school by September 2009. (YOU MUST BE IN AT LEAST 10TH GRADE).
 - d. Have demonstrated leadership in school and the community.
 - e. Reside in Michigan.
2. Applicants may enlist the assistance of another person in completing the forms so long as the answers are those of the applicant.
3. Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Items

Enclosed

1. Completed Application Form (4 pages)
2. Two letters (minimum) of recommendation
3. Responses to the four essay questions
4. Student Signature
5. Parent/Guardian Signature

4. Applicants must mail the completed application packet to the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns office -- postmarked no later than **December 12, 2008.**
5. All completed application packets will be reviewed based on the following:
Responses to the four essay questions,
Contributions to school,
Contributions to community, and
Two letters of recommendation from high school and community representatives
6. All applicants will be notified, by letter, whether they are selected or not selected to attend the MYLF. Approximately 30 students will be selected.
7. After being selected, students will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information to the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns office.
8. Expenses paid by the MYLF: lodging, food, transportation only during the forum, interpreters, and personal care attendants.



MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM 2009

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT DELEGATES

ALL DELEGATES MUST:

1. Maintain a respectful attitude toward peers and conference staff.
2. Interact with as many students as possible during MYLF.
3. Maintain the condition of residence rooms and all other areas. **Participants will have to pay for property damage they cause and for lost room keys or towels.**
4. Be on time. Respect the scheduled program. Be at designated places and stay with your assigned group at all times. **Attendance at all sessions is mandatory, including ALL meals and social functions.**
5. Coed visitation is never allowed in the residence rooms.
6. Use buddy system, for safety reasons, when not in structured activities. Do not wander off alone.
7. Respond to wake-up call at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast time will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
8. Be in your room each night for lights out at 11 p.m.
9. **Smoking and possession of or use of illegal chemicals or alcohol are strictly prohibited.** Possession and use of prescription or other approved medications are permitted only with written permission/instruction slip on file from parent/guardian or physician. Medications can only be dispensed under supervision by the conference staff, unless written authorization is received from parent or guardian.
10. After arrival on campus, no student delegates are allowed to drive or ride in personal vehicles belonging to student delegates (until departure, with parental permission).

11. MP 3 players, radios, and electronic games should not be brought to MYLF. Cell phones and computers are your own responsibility. MYLF is not responsible for any losses. Cell phones will not be used during small and large group sessions.
12. Other than West Holmes Hall, visitation at all other MSU residence halls and facilities is restricted.

If you have any problems or questions, please contact your group mentors or other MYLF staff.

Please note: any violations of these rules could result in students being sent home immediately at parents/guardians' expense.

Remember that you have been selected to attend MYLF because of your leadership potential.

Enjoy yourself and recognize the responsibility you have with this honor.