Youth Leadership Institute FAQs - FAQ

1. What is the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)?

YLI is a four day, overnight conference for outstanding Latino high school juniors designed to give students the practical tools necessary to apply to top universities, gain full access to scholarship and financial aid opportunities and set a course for academic and career success.

During YLI, you will stay on a college campus, engage with professionals and college mentors, and further develop your leadership skills.

2. When and where are the YLIs?

June 23 – 26 – University of California, Irvine (CA)
June 30 – July 3 – University of Pennsylvania (PA)
July 28 – 31 – The University of Chicago (IL)

3. Why should I attend?

By participating in the Youth Leadership Institute, you will benefit in the following ways:

- Fine tune the practical tools needed to successfully apply to top universities, effectively access financial aid and scholarship opportunities, and excel in school and beyond.
- Experience what it’s like to live on a college campus and interact with current college students.
- Interact with Hispanic professionals as well as YLI Mentors.
- Participate in professional skills training workshops covering interview skills, resume development and social media presence.
- Create lasting friendships with future leaders from all around the country!

4. Who can apply to participate in YLI?

Eligibility for YLI:

- Must be a high school senior during the 2016-2017 academic year.
- Must have an unweighted cumulative GPA above a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or above an 80 on a 100 point scale.
- Identify as being from Hispanic heritage.
- If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact us through the message center.

5. When is the application for the Youth Leadership Institute due?

- The deadline to submit your completed application is April 29, 2016.

6. Can I apply multiple times to the different Youth Leadership Institute locations?
No, you only apply once to the entire program and select the location(s) that works best with your summer schedule. If selected, you will be given priority for the first selected location but may be assigned to the alternative location depending on availability.

7. Can I be selected to attend more than one conference?

No, you will only be selected to attend one conference.

8. How do I apply?

High school juniors can begin to apply for the Youth Leadership Institute beginning February 1st of each year. Click here to begin your YLI application.

9. What is the application process?
   ○ If you meet the eligibility criteria, complete your application by clicking here.
   ○ Applications must be received by the deadline and contain necessary documents including essays and headshots. (See Application FAQ)
   ○ Once the selection committee has reviewed your application, you will be notified of our decision via email.

10. What happens if I’m selected?
    ○ If selected, you will be asked to confirm your participation and provide corresponding documents, including your transcripts. (See Supporting Documents FAQ)
    ○ Once HSF receives all required documents, you will receive a program itinerary and event logistics.

11. Do I have to attend every day of the program? / What if I cannot attend every day of the program?

    Yes. You must be able to attend the conference in its entirety. This includes all sessions, group activities, and workshops. If you cannot attend every day of the YLI program, you will not be eligible to attend.

12. When does the program officially end?

    You may depart following the Closing Ceremonies, which conclude at 4:30pm on Sunday afternoon. Should they be present, your parents and families are welcome to attend and participate in the program only on Sunday (closing day) beginning at 1:30pm through the Closing Ceremonies.

13. What is the cost to participate in YLI?

    The Youth Leadership Institute sessions, meals, room and board are covered by HSF for the duration of the conference. Which means, attending is FREE! However, unrelated expenses must be covered out of pocket by the participant. Out of pocket
expenses may include, but are not limited to, purchases from the university bookstore, additional snack items, gifts, and more. HSF will do their best to accommodate the travel needs of our selected participants on a case-by-case basis, but it is preferred that participants secure their own travel to and from the conference. If you have additional questions, please contact us through the message center.

14. Will meals be provided?

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided for you during the program.

15. If I attended a College Camp, College 101 or any of HSF’s previous programs, can I apply?

Yes. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you are encouraged to apply!

16. If I am not a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, am I eligible to apply?

If you are a high school junior and have a valid form of identification to travel to the program, then you may apply.

17. If I am a refugee or have established asylum status, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. High school juniors must have a valid form of identification if traveling to the program. If you have additional questions, please contact us through the message center.

18. Do I need to submit essays?

Yes. Each application requires two short essays.

19. If I exit the application, will my information be saved?

Yes. All the information provided will be saved; however, we recommend that you save a copy of all the information submitted including your essays.

20. Can I review my application before submitting the information?

Yes. You will be able to return to any section to edit and review before submitting. Once the application is submitted, you will NOT be able to edit your application.

21. I submitted my application, can I edit my information?

No. Once the application is submitted, you cannot edit the information. If you are selected, we will ask you to confirm your address and any other pertinent information at a later time.

22. What documents do I need to apply?
If you are accepted to the Youth Leadership Institute, you will be notified via email of the necessary documents, including your transcripts.

23. Where do I send my documents?

Upload your documents, per the application instructions. Only documents uploaded into your application’s “Document Bank” will be reviewed.

24. I am concerned about uploading my personal documents into my application. Do you recommend that I encrypt my files in order to protect my information?

No. HSF’s online system is completely secure. Encrypted documents lead to disruptions in the application review process. If you have any concerns regarding the security of your application, please contact us through the message center.

25. Can I fax or mail my required documents?

No. Documents sent by fax or post mail will not be accepted. Only documents uploaded electronically into your Document Bank will be accepted.

26. How do I update my online application if my personal information changes?

Once your application has been submitted, you will not be allowed to make any changes. If your information changes and you are selected, you will be able to update your information at a later time.

27. When will I know if I am selected to attend the program?

If you are selected to participate in the 2016 YLI program, you will be notified of your acceptance approximately 8-10 weeks prior to your scheduled program date.

28. Will I be notified if I do NOT get selected?

You will receive notification of your application status via e-mail. Decisions will be sent to you eight to ten weeks prior to your scheduled program date.

29. My application and supporting documentation have been submitted, what are my next steps?

The HSF Youth Leadership Institute Selection Committee will review all applications. If selected, you will be notified by HSF with the next steps.

30. What happens if I’m selected?

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If selected, you will be asked to confirm your participation and provide corresponding documents, including your transcripts. Once HSF receives all required documents, you will receive a program itinerary and event logistics.

31. What is the confirmation & acceptance?

If you are selected, you will be asked to confirm and accept your participation in the program. You may be asked to submit additional documents and update your contact information. If you are selected to receive transportation assistance, you will be contacted to provide information about your travel needs.

32. Does HSF offer transportation to the YLI?

HSF will offer transportation to the program as needed. If you are selected to receive transportation assistance, you will be contacted to provide information about your travel needs. HSF will work with you to arrange the best form of transportation to the event. HSF will also provide the program itinerary, including the expected arrival times, directions and event information for your convenience.

33. Will HSF provide hotel accommodations?

HSF will provide your room and boarding if you are selected to participate in the YLI.

34. Do I have to attend every day of the program? / What if I cannot attend every day of the program?

Yes. You must be able to attend the conference in its entirety. This includes all sessions, group activities, and workshops. If you cannot attend every day of the YLI program, you will not be eligible to attend.

35. When does the program officially end?

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36. What if I accept and can no longer attend the conference?

You must make every effort to evaluate the opportunity before accepting. If you cannot attend the event or it conflicts with another activity, do not confirm. If you accept and then cancel, you will be responsible for covering 100% of the costs incurred by HSF.

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38. I have additional questions about the conferences; how/who do I ask?

If you have additional questions, please contact us through the message center.