

**CALIFORNIA MODEL
YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
(YLF)**

**CRITERIA FOR FORMAL AFFILIATION
AND REPLICATION OF A YLF**

**A project created by the (former) California Governor's Committee for
Employment of Disabled Persons**

BACKGROUND

The YLF was created by the (former) California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons in 1992. Many volunteers worked with the Governor's Committee members and staff to develop the innovative YLF curriculum. It was based both on existing successful youth leadership projects and original concepts that teach young people how to effectively reach their career and personal potential.

The YLF model has proven to be extremely successful as a teaching model for young people with disabilities. The California Governor's Committee and its national partner, the (former) President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, strongly supported replicating it in other states, territories and nations. However, any project must maintain the integrity and tenets of the original project to be allowed formal affiliation and use of the name "California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students With Disabilities (YLF)." We originally developed these criteria in 1992 and subsequently adopted them as a formal requirement. For clarification, the most current criteria statement includes, in this single document, requirements that previously were described in various parts of the YLF curriculum. All listed principles are still required for all existing and new YLF projects.

REQUIRED PRINCIPLES

The following are requisites for any affiliated YLF:

1. Students with every kind of disability (as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act) are invited to apply to participate.
2. Every student participant (delegate) must have a disability and have demonstrated potential to be a community leader.
3. Gender balance is a goal and to the extent possible, delegates should include an equal number of male and female participants.

4. To the greatest extent possible every role model guest presenter (e.g., co-facilitators, panelists, keynote speakers) who meets with the delegates must have a disability. The overall training curriculum should reflect the variety of disabilities.
5. It should be a goal that more than 50% of the onsite staff and volunteers be people with disabilities.
6. Delegates and staff should reflect the ethnic diversity of the state/region in which the forum is held.
7. All volunteer staff must understand and support the concept of “disability culture”.
8. All volunteer staff must understand and support “self determination” in encouraging the student delegates to establish their own personal and vocational goals.
9. Each YLF project site must be accessible, including communication access, physical access and accessibility of all program components.
10. Primary on-site volunteer and paid staff serving during the project must not include relatives of the student delegates of the current project year.
11. The planning and operational administration of a YLF project should be lead by people with disabilities, especially YLF alumni when available.
12. The California Model YLF written curriculum must provide the primary training components of any replicated project. These five topics include: 1. Principles of Leadership; 2. The Experience of Disability; 3. Technology and Resources to Reach My Goals; 4. Living on My Own and Reaching My Career Goals; and 5. Leading in My Community. However, the curriculum components may be modified or abbreviated to accommodate schedule requirements and/or the unique characteristics of a state or community.
13. Student participants cannot be personally charged fees to attend YLF.
14. Any group planning to produce a YLF must request, in writing,

recognition of their affiliation as a YLF to the (national) Association of Youth Leadership Forums (AYLF). Concurrently, they must also send a written copy of their request to the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and Friends of Californians with Disabilities, Inc., to inform them of their plans.

(Approved 12/03/1998 and revised 2002, 2005, 2013, 2014 and 2015)