



YLI Fact Sheet

What is YLI?

Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) introduces, develops and nurtures leadership skills among high school sophomores and juniors in the greater Des Moines area by providing experiential mentoring and leadership experiences that enhance self-esteem and encourage involvement in all levels of community life.

YLI focuses on untapped potential. YLI seeks students who have not had the opportunity to demonstrate their full leadership potential. Candidates for the program should:

- 1) be entering their sophomore or junior years of high school
- 2) have an interest in developing their leadership skills
- 3) desire to learn more about the Greater Des Moines community



YLI believes local youth must see a community that is welcoming, nurturing, and vital and that provides ample opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community change, to network, and to grow as individuals. The YLI leadership development program is aimed at: helping youth learn the skills necessary to help create a community where they want to invest their futures; and developing committed leaders by encouraging community participation.

The goals of the YLI Program are:

- **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 the Greater Des Moines area

How do I apply?

Current high school freshmen and sophomores should apply prior to their respective sophomore and junior years. Applications are online at the Youth Leadership Initiative's website (www.youthleadershipdm.org), at the United Way of Central Iowa, or through area high schools and youth organizations. Class selection will be completed and announced by June 1st. Previous classes have included over thirty students from fourteen Des Moines area public and private high schools. Please note that due to a generous funding partnership with the United Way of Central Iowa and other donations, participation in the YLI Program is offered **TUITION FREE**.

Sample Program Schedule (subject to change)

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|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| May 20 | 7-8 PM | Orientation - parents & students | February 18 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Greater Des Moines Lship |
| August 20-21 | 4 PM | Opening Overnight Retreat | February 21 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session |
| September 17 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Community Engagement | March 4 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Entrepreneurship |
| September 20 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session | March 7 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session |
| October 15 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Leadership Style & Vision | April 22 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Service Project Day |
| October 18 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session | April 25 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session |
| November 12 | 7:30 - 2:30 | The Arts | May 13 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Creative Problem Solving |
| November 15 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session | May 16 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session |
| December 10 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Law & Order | June | | Student planned GRADUATION ceremony |
| January 17 | 7:30 - 2:30 | Diversity | | | |
| January 24 | 5:30-7:45 PM | PROCESSING session | | | |

Students who complete the YLI Program are also encouraged to participate in the Alumni Program. The Alumni Program offers additional opportunities for YLI graduates to continue connecting to the community and to each other. Past involvement has included serving the community through volunteer efforts as they determine, coordinate, and participate in service projects of their choosing. Alumni will also have the opportunity to serve on the YLI Selection Committee to assist in future student selection, and the Program Committee which oversees program planning.

For more information please see the YLI webpage (www.youthleadershipdm.org), search for us on Facebook, or contact:

- Tim Rittgers, YLI Program Director by phone at 262-5695 or by e-mail at director@youthleadershipdm.org
- Charise Mudge, Executive Committee Chair at MudgeC@wellmark.com