



The YLI Leader

September 2009

YLI Class of 2009-2010

The YLI class of 2009-2010 has been announced. Participating in this year's YLI class are:

Jorin Augustine, Jamie Baer, Hope Banker, Maci Barker, Noah Belkhous, Brian Berglund, Erica Bonds, Sam Bunz, Rachel Burns, Ngoc Cao, Libby Caris, Catherine Chiodo, Rachel Christie, Kaleb Colbert, Nick Coleman, Jeff Critchlow, Brooke Ellsbury, Traci Francis, Carissa Giles, Anna Grimm, Diane Hubbell, Diana Inthaboune, Lauren Iversen, Alex Jones, Kelsey Jordan, Tyler Lewis, Maggie Long, Cory Mongar, Mandy Mullins, Natalie Pratt, Kayla Siembieda, Darrell Smith, Zachary Stephenson, Sarah Trunnel, Hannah Wheeler, Kayosha White, and Luke Williams.



YLI Class of 2009-2010 at the retreat

2009-2010 YLI Retreat at Camp Hantesa

This year's class of thirty-seven students, representing thirteen Des Moines metro area high schools, participated in the annual YLI weekend retreat at Camp Hantesa near Ledges State Park in Boone on August 21 and 22. Among the highlights from the retreat were team building games led by student and adult mentors, a camp fire and smores, late-night bonding, a climbing wall, and team-building obstacle courses that tested the courage, initiative, teamwork, and leadership skills of the students. One student commented that, due to the experiences of the weekend, "I plan to meet new people more often and challenge myself more." Another student commented that "we all worked together and encouraged each other."



GDMLI President Tracy Abbas welcomes the new YLI class

YLI Students Challenged on Ropes Courses

YLI students challenged themselves on two separate obstacle courses and a climbing wall during the weekend opening retreat, learning about themselves and their classmates along the way. On the high ropes course, students were harnessed into safety gear and climbed thirty feet into the air where they each completed four mid-air challenges followed by a zip line finish. Some students even took the "leap of faith" where they climbed a tall pole, stood at the top, and then jumped into midair to try and catch themselves on a trapeze suspended in the air. The low ropes course challenged students in a different way, forcing trust and teamwork as they navigated blinded partners through a maze, brought the group over various challenges, and problem-solved to move team members over islands and through a spider web. The climbing wall provided an atmosphere for students to take risks and cheer each other to success.



Courage on the high ropes course

Upcoming YLI Events

Mark these dates on your calendar now!

September 18, 2009	Community Engagement	7:30 am
September 21, 2009	Processing Session	5:30 pm
October 16, 2009	Leadership Style & Vision	7:30 am
October 19, 2009	Processing Session	5:30 pm
November 13, 2009	The Arts	7:30 am
November 16, 2009	Processing Session	5:30 pm
December 11, 2009	Law & Order	7:30 am
	No Processing Session	

All classes begin and end at the United Way Building at 1111 9th St in Des Moines. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Program Director Tim Rittgers at director@youthleadershipdm.org or by phone at 515-779-0362. All classes and processing sessions are required; please have a parent or guardian notify the Program Director ASAP if you cannot attend a class.

Please be sure to wear your YLI shirt, a "nice" pair of pants, and comfortable shoes for the September class, as we will be out in the community for the class day on Friday.



YLI is sponsored by the United Way of Central Iowa with support from private donations and the Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa.

The next class is Friday, September 18: Community Engagement

1350 E Washington Ave • Des Moines, IA 50316-2449 • 515-262-5695 • www.youthleadershipdm.org