Youth Leadership Summit
Information Guide for Prospective Students

What is YLS?
The YLS is an event held in conjunction with the NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference that culminates in a 3.5-day leadership training and a final presentation to over 1,800 members of the GEAR UP community from all over the country. It is an opportunity to travel to Washington, DC to represent the over 560,000 GEAR UP students nationwide and further develop your leadership skills, and showcase your story and talents.

Why Attend?
A plethora of YLS alumni have given testimonies about what they have gotten out of the program. Many students say that the experience is life-changing, and that it gives students more confidence. The program is fun and impactful, but students especially love the people they meet—trainers, GEAR UP staff, and other students. You will have the opportunity to meet new people from all over the country, and stay connected with them before and after the event.

What is the schedule?
A preliminary schedule for the 2020 YLS is available on the NCCEP website. Each day will be an early rise, students will be dropped off by an approved chaperone, and picked up at the end of the day. Lunch is provided Monday-Wednesday, and dinner is provided on Tuesday night. Students will have a daily curfew.

Who Will Attend?
The YLS brings together 200 GEAR UP students from around the country. Selected students will be passionate about GEAR UP, and about improving their leadership skills to benefit their community and school. Students will also make friends and connections that will last beyond the event.

YLSTestimonials

Chase Walther
July 20 · San Francisco, CA
Alright, I think it's my turn to get all lovey and sappy. This Leadership camp, man, I don't even know where to start. When I found out I was chosen to attend back in May, I thought this was just going to be like any other leadership camp. That all changed when this Facebook group was made over a month ago. We opened up, shared our feelings, and connected before we had even gotten the chance to meet one another face to face. That's when I knew YLS was different.

Fast forward one month. I had never been nervous to go to a leadership camp before, but something about this felt different. It felt more surreal. 150 leaders from across the nation. 150 new personalities, new lives, new backgrounds. 150 opportunities to change lives. That's when I knew YLS was powerful.

Lydia Young
July 21 · Maynardville, TN
I am so thankful to have had this experience! Every single one of you are such inspiring and kind people! Not gonna lie, I was kinda weary about the whole thing because I'm not the biggest fan of crowds, but I had the time of my life! I can't wait to use some of the things I learned and apply them to my student mentoring back home! Thank you for being you. Please follow my Instagram or snapchat because I'd love to keep in touch with all of you! Until we meet again.

Carson Huffer
July 19
I'm so privileged to have met you all and gone through such an amazing experience. Thank you all so much for everything. Meeting and being with you all made me future proof.

Washington, DC
July 19-22, 2020