

Student's Last Name _____ First _____
10. _____
Name of High School

11. School Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

12. _____ 13. _____
High School Guidance Counselor's Name (Area Code) School Telephone Number

14. Birth date: _____ Date Graduation Expected: _____

15. Local newspaper/radio/TV/other media: _____
(What stations do you listen to, what newspaper do you look at?)

16. In your own words, describe your disability. (This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities and match with appropriate mentors.)

17. Race/Ethnicity: Native American _____ Asian _____ Black _____ Hispanic _____
White (non-Hispanic) _____ Other _____

18. **Information for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS), or Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB)**

Are you on the waiting list for services from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services? Yes No
If you are currently a client of the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services or Department for the Blind, please print your counselor's name below:

IVRS/IDB Counselor's Name: _____

19. _____
Your Local **State** Senator's Name (not Congressional) _____ District Number _____

20. _____
Your Local **State** Representative's Name (not Congressional) _____ District Number _____

21. **Please attach a copy of your latest High School Transcripts.**

22. **Letters of Recommendation:**

Attach two letters of recommendation, which describe your demonstrated leadership skills or your leadership potential. Each letter must have an original signature and arrive in a sealed envelope. Please submit the two sealed envelopes containing the reference letters with this application. One letter must be from a high school representative and one must be from a community representative outside of your school.

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List name, position/title, organization and telephone number of the two people who write these letters.

Name

Title

Organization

(Area Code) Telephone Number

Name

Title

Organization

(Area Code) Telephone Number

23. **School and Community Involvement**

Briefly tell us about your involvement with your school and community (since 9th grade). This may include any offices you have held, club memberships, after school activities or work experiences. Include the length of involvement, your grade level at the time of participation, and the name of an adult with whom you worked.

24. **Tell us a little about yourself:**

Your responses to the four topics listed below will be used to assess your eligibility to participate in this leadership forum. You may respond by writing your answers on paper, using email, recording your answers on tape, you may videotape yourself, or come up with other mediums to answer the four topics. Send your responses along with your completed application packet.

- (a) **Qualifications** - Explain why you are qualified to be a delegate to this forum and why you want to attend.
- (b) **Positive Influences** - In terms of leadership, please tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life. Why? (Families, teachers, counselors, friends, or public officials are appropriate examples.)
- (c) **Experiences as a Person with a Disability** - Describe two important experiences you have had as a young person with a disability. (Please be specific about your examples as they relate to your disability).
- (d) **Future Plans** - Describe your goals for the future.

25. Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided.

Required Items	Enclosed
1. Application form (4 pages)	
2. Two letters of recommendation (sealed envelopes)	
3. Tell us about yourself (response to four topics)	
4. Transcripts	
5. School/Community Activity Sheet	

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Signature of Student

Date

If selected my child has permission to participate in the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

If you would like to have this application packet in an alternate format, please contact (888) 219-0471.

Thank you for completing this application. Please **mail it to the address below**. If you have any questions, please contact:

Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities
Attn: YLF Committee
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(888) 219-0471 (V/TTY)
www.state.ia.us/dhr/pd
dhr.disabilities@iowa.gov

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(KEEP THIS PAGE, DO NOT MAIL WITH APPLICATION)

**HOW STUDENT DELEGATES WILL BE SELECTED AND APPLICATION
INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

1. To be eligible for the Youth Leadership Forum, students must:
 - (a) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act);
 - (b) Be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2008 (although exceptions can be made for 5th year seniors);
 - (c) Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community; and,
 - (d) Reside in Iowa and are a client of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Iowa Department for the Blind.
2. Student applicants must mail the completed application packet to the Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities office--postmarked no later than **February 27th, 2009.**
3. Semi-finalists will be selected and contacted by telephone to arrange a personal interview. Interviews will take place in March and April, 2009
4. All applicants will be notified by letter whether they are selected to attend the forum. (Letters will be mailed by the end of April, 2009.) Approximately 30 students will be selected to attend.
5. After being selected, students will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information.
6. All appropriate expenses will be paid by the Youth Leadership Forum management, including such expenses as lodging, food, accommodations to attend and participate, and scholarships for travel expenses when needed.

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GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS: KEEP THIS PAGE DO NOT MAIL BACK

Rules and Guidelines for Students Delegates of the Youth Leadership Forum

In order to provide a fun, safe learning experience at the leadership forum, all delegates will be expected to follow the rules listed below.

Students are selected to attend this forum because of their leadership skills and potential. Consequently, students are expected to demonstrate their leadership ability, and must:

1. Be punctual.
2. Be at designated places and stay with your assigned group at all times. Attendance at all general sessions is mandatory. When attendance is optional at scheduled free-time sessions, delegates are expected to attend or be in their own room.
3. Maintain a respectful attitude toward peers, counselors and conference staff.
4. Respect the facilities (maintaining the condition of dormitory rooms and all other areas). Participants will have to pay for property damage they cause and for lost room keys or towels.
5. When not in assigned groups, delegates are restricted to their own assigned rooms at all times. No coed visitation is allowed.
6. Smoking and possession or use of illegal chemicals or alcohol are strictly prohibited. (Prescription or other approved medications require verification and can only be dispensed under supervision by the staff.)
7. All other campus residence halls and facilities are off limits. Music players, radios and electronic games may be brought to the forum and used during free time only
8. Cell phones are permitted but must be turned off in large group and small group settings.
9. No student delegate will use a personal vehicle . Special arrangements can be made by parents for a student to have a vehicle at the forum but keys will be held by staff.
10. Curfew hours: All delegates will be in their own rooms by 11 p.m. unless waived by staff supervisor.

Any violations of these rules will result in students being sent home immediately at parents/guardians expense. Your application to the Youth Leadership Forum indicates your acceptance of these rules and guidelines.

AND more importantly, we emphasize that delegates are chosen to attend the forum because of their leadership potential. Remember the responsibility that goes with the honor of being selected and plan to have a great time!!

KEEP THIS PAGE---DO NOT MAIL BACK!