



Youth Leadership Jacksonville

Currently Selecting Class 2022 for Participation in 2021-2022

Apply as a Freshman; if selected participate as a Sophomore

Please Read This Overview In Its Entirety Prior to Beginning Application

MISSION: *Youth Leadership Jacksonville (YLJ) identifies a diverse group of high school students from the First Coast who have demonstrated leadership and prepares them to become responsible, ethical leaders committed to active community involvement.*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: YLJ is a 'once in a lifetime' experience that is challenging, eye-opening, and enriching. Students are selected from high schools in Baker, Clay, Duval and St. Johns counties to participate in activities and presentations designed to help them understand the issues facing our community, our successes at addressing issues and opportunities for involvement in all aspects of the community. The program addresses the critical skills needed to be a community leader. Like all the best things in life, it requires commitment and dedication.

TIME COMMITMENT: ATTENDANCE AT ORIENTATION, ALL RETREATS, PROGRAM DAYS, AND GRADUATION IS EXPECTED. Class 2022 Orientation will be held **Monday, May 3, 2021** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and is **MANDATORY** for the students selected for the class and at least one of their parents or guardians. An Opening Retreat will be held on **Friday, August 20, 2021 and Saturday, August 21, 2021**. The entire Opening Retreat is **MANDATORY** for the students in the class. Program Days for Class 2022 will be on the following Thursdays: **September 9, 2021; October 14, 2021; November 4, 2021; December 2, 2021; January 20, 2022 and February 17, 2022**. The Closing Retreat/Graduation will be on **Saturday, March 26, 2022**.

Parents will need to provide transportation to the designated drop-off point for all retreats and program days and pick up at this same location at the end of the program day. Drop-off is generally between 7:15 am and 7:45 am. Program Days ends at 3:30 p.m. Pick-Up is at 3:30 p.m.

ELIGIBILITY

- ❑ Attend a participating high school in Duval, Clay, Baker, or St. Johns counties.
- ❑ **Apply as a freshman for the program (if selected, participate in the sophomore year).**
- ❑ Demonstrate proven leadership in school and/or community activities.
- ❑ Have an interest in addressing the issues confronting your community.
- ❑ Commit to 100% attendance at the Orientation, Opening Retreat, Six Program Days and Closing Retreat. Program Days are from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- ❑ Be academically sound. An average of "B" or better is recommended.

APPLICANT CHECKLIST

- ❑ Complete the application form completely. Make sure to save your document. Either e-mail your completed application to your school's Youth Leadership Jacksonville Faculty Advisor or print and give to your school's Youth Leadership Jacksonville Faculty Advisor.
- ❑ Your Faculty Advisor will provide a Reference Form to students your school selects as applicants to YLJ. Give reference forms to an adult you know well, other than a parent or relative. The reference must be included with your application to Youth Leadership Jacksonville to be considered.
- ❑ Return your completed application packet to your school's Youth Leadership Jacksonville Faculty Advisor by **Thursday, January 28, 2021**. Your school will select applications to forward to the Leadership Jacksonville Office for participation in the Selection Process.
- ❑ **Strongly suggested for Parents and Applicants prior to your interview: Visit the Leadership Jacksonville website at leadershipjax.org**

SELECTION PROCESS

- ❑ All applicants will be interviewed by three to five members of the Selection Team via Zoom in February or March 2021.
- ❑ Be advised that members of the same family (including siblings and cousins) will not be selected for participation in the same program year.
- ❑ Letters will be sent to all applicants to notify them of their interview date and time.
- ❑ The Selection Team and the Leadership Jacksonville Board of Directors will select 56 students to participate in Class 2022 during the 2021-2022 School Year. All Applicants will receive letters notifying them of the Selection Team's decision by April 16, 2021.

PROGRAM FEE AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SELECTED STUDENTS

Cost per selected participant is \$250. Scholarships will be provided for those with financial need. This fee will be due at the Orientation for the selected students. **There are no fees due with the application.**

Meg Folds, Youth Programs Director
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The application deadline is January 28, 2021



Please be sure to complete all questions. Limit your responses to the space provided. Additional pages will not be considered.

Student Personal Information

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____ (Middle): _____

Name you prefer to be called: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Sex: _____ Race: _____ Current Grade: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ High School: _____

Recognitions

List awards, honors, or recognitions for academic, school, or community related activities you have received over the last TWO years:

Main areas of interest in studies: _____

Organizations and Activities

Please list activities and/or organizations in which you have participated during the last TWO years:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Volunteer Experience

List any volunteer experience and paid work, and briefly tell what it involved:

General Information

*** What do you like the most about you? What are your best qualities?**

*** Name someone in your life who has taught you about leadership. Why did you select this person? What did they teach you?**

*** Why do you want to participate in Youth Leadership Jacksonville?**

*** Why are you a strong candidate for Youth Leadership Jacksonville?**

*** Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?**

Essay – If you could make one positive change to improve the quality of life in your community, what would it be and why? How would you personally make a difference? Please respond to the question in the space provided. (limit 700 characters)