

# Leadership Conference

**Preparation Checklist** To prepare for your Youth Frontiers Leadership Conference (YFLC), please complete each item on the checklist. If you have questions, call us at 952.922.0222. Please note that a staff member from your school is required to attend with your students. We're honored to be working with you.

Return your signed contract and payment within 10 business days.

Confirm your 20 student participants. If you haven't provided their names to us yet, please email [info@youthfrontiers.org](mailto:info@youthfrontiers.org).

Determine student transportation to the retreat. (Schools have found success using vans, small buses, carpools or sharing a bus with another participating school.)

Have students complete the online survey at least two weeks prior to the retreat.

Access the survey at [youthfrontiers.org/pre-yflc-survey](https://youthfrontiers.org/pre-yflc-survey).

*(Students will also fill out a survey after the YFLC to measure the impact of the day.)*

Inform teachers, counselors and staff about your retreat.

Inform parents about your retreat.



# Leadership Conference Overview

The Youth Frontiers Leadership Conference (YFLC) runs **four hours** in length. For the highest quality retreat experience, we recommend this retreat for students who show leadership abilities, have been selected by school staff as leaders and/or have opted in for this motivational experience. Every YFLC includes the following dynamic mix of activities designed to have the greatest impact on participants:



## WELCOME

We welcome students with music and high-energy activities that break down social barriers and encourage connection with students from other participating schools.



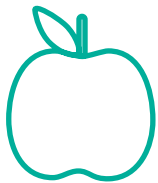
## PRESENTATIONS

Programs Staff will give a talk and share original music challenging students to accept personal and ethical responsibility for fostering a positive school community where everyone can thrive.



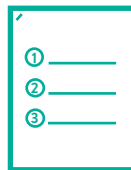
## SMALL GROUPS

Students will meet in small groups with participants from other schools. They will have the opportunity to further discuss the ideas shared in the large-group presentation.



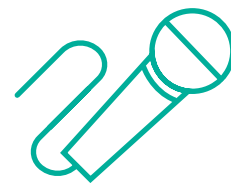
## LUNCH

We will provide lunch for all students and staff. We will also gather staff to have meaningful conversations about character development and social-emotional learning.



## REFLECTION

Students will have time for personal journaling and reflection to determine an action plan and the first step to solving a problem they see at school.



## SHARING

The closing is an opportunity for students to share their action plans. Each student will make a commitment to take responsibility and be a leader in a specific way at their school.

# Day-of Details

## Sharing

During both small-group conversations and large-group sharing, students will be asked to refer to their own experiences at school. During large-group sharing, our staff will create expectations for your students regarding what is appropriate to share. The students will be encouraged to share in front of their peers one thing they will do to help build a positive school culture.

At the end of the YFLC, there will be time for students to share some thoughts and reflections from the day. Our staff will set expectations for the students that this should be a time for them to share a commitment to make their school a better.

Occasionally, students may bring up emotional or personal experiences. To ensure appropriate sharing, our staff will redirect students, when necessary, to stay within proper boundaries. We recommend that you have a counselor or mental health professional present at the retreat in the event that a student requires further support.

If, during any part of the retreat, a YF staff member is made aware of a student referring to wanting to hurt themselves or someone else, our staff will document the incident and relay it to one of your staff, ideally a counselor or school psychologist.

## Staff Expectations

- **Attend the staff meeting.**
- **Be present** with the students during the large-group activities and topic-based talk.
- **Participate** in activities as they feel comfortable.
- **Assist** with any behavior corrections or disciplinary problems as needed.
- **Help distribute** snack, lunch and retreat materials as needed.



## Participation Benefits

1

Teachers/staff will better understand the language of the retreat, enabling them to reinforce those lessons in the classroom.

2

The retreat experience builds community. Teachers have told us that the retreat gives them a chance to see students in a different light, and many students say the same about their teachers.

3

At the end of the retreat, students will walk away with tangible ideas to implement positive change. This is a great chance for school staff to partner with, support and guide these leaders. Please encourage school staff and administrators to attend.

4

The values we discuss are timeless and everyone can benefit from this experience.

# Sample Letter for Parents/Caregivers

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your student has been invited to participate in a leadership retreat facilitated by Youth Frontiers (YF). The Youth Frontiers Leadership Conference inspires 11th-grade leaders to take responsibility for a respectful and connected school culture and helps students define individual strategies to improve school climate. This experience heightens students' awareness of their strengths and helps students recognize how they can use their strengths through leadership to make their school a better place.

Youth Frontiers (YF) is a nonprofit organization that has been delivering retreats to schools since 1987. They provide schools with experiences that inspire character, civility and community so that our next generation of leaders is grounded in character.

At the YF Leadership Conference, the Youth Frontiers Programs Staff will focus on creating a more positive school community by engaging students in a variety of activities that build students' leadership skills and encourage them to take responsibility for a culture of respect at school.

This high-energy, interactive retreat is scheduled on \_\_\_\_\_ for selected 11th-grade student leaders and will be held at \_\_\_\_\_. We encourage parents and caregivers to inquire about their student's experience by asking the following questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the day?
2. What issues at school can you help solve?
3. Did you see your classmates or students from another school community in a new way?
4. What is one thing you can do tomorrow at school to show more leadership?

Sincerely,

School Principal or Teacher