

NEW YORK STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

*Defending our Right to **Dream**, Exercising our right to **Act!***

New York State Youth Leadership Council Awards

New York State Youth Leadership Council Awards Program 2009

Introduction

The NYSYLC promotes the advancement of immigrant youth and children of immigrants through leadership development, organizing and advocacy. We believe that improving access to higher education and creating equal opportunity for immigrant youth are a means to fulfill our mission.

Today many youth, especially immigrant youth, face financial burdens in attending college. The **New York State Youth Leadership Council Awards Program** was founded in order to support immigrant youth by lessening this burden and enabling these promising young people to continue their commitment to the immigrant rights movement and their leadership development.

Summary of the New York State Youth Leadership Council Awards Program

It is integral to the NYSYLC's mission to provide opportunities for immigrant youth to advance themselves and their communities, pursue their dreams and continue to contribute to our society in the manner of their choosing. The NYSYLC Awards Program will provide monetary support to youth who aspire to being active in the immigrant rights movement and wish to continue their commitment in the coming years. Priority will be given towards students with limited or no means to obtain financial aid for higher education.

2009 will be the second year of the NYSYLC Awards Program. Up to 10 scholarships of \$500 will be awarded, in addition to two fellowships. Applicants must indicate whether they are applying for the scholarship, the fellowship or both. Additionally, applicants should take care to fulfill the requirements for whichever they choose to apply. A list of requirements can be found on the following page.

General Requirements

- Currently a graduating high school senior planning to attend college in the fall, or attending college in New York or New Jersey.
- Is engaged or wishes to become engaged with the immigrant community.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (on a scale of 4.0) upon application.
- If awarded, must attend a mandatory leadership development curriculum developed by the NYSYLC (date TBA).
- If awarded, must attend the awards ceremony on the evening of June 5th or 6th (date TBA).

All applications must be postmarked by May 1st, 2009. Please mail or drop-off your application to the address below:

The New York State Youth Leadership Council Awards Program
137-139 W. 25th Street 12th Floor
New York, NY, 10001

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at **(212) 627-2227 x 248**
OR send an e-mail to scholarships@nysylc.org

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Scholarship:

Up to 10 students will be selected to receive scholarships of \$500. Awardees will be required to complete a leadership development curriculum. Upon completion of this 2-day program, the scholarship awards will be sent to the respective colleges of the recipients. The award may be used for tuition, on-campus housing or books. Awardees will be selected based on academic achievement, community involvement, financial need and commitment to the immigrant rights movement.

To apply for a scholarship, please complete the following:

- Application form
- Lists of extracurricular activities and work experience
- Statement of financial need
- Personal statement (optional)
- Transcript
- Letter of recommendation
- Scholarship essay

Fellowship:

2 students will be selected to receive fellowships. The awardees will spend 10 hours a week at the NYSYLC from June 1 to August 30 completing an assigned project and assisting with additional activities of the organization. The awardees will receive leadership development training during their fellowships. In August, scholarship awards of \$1,500 will be sent to the respective colleges of the recipients. The award may be used for tuition, on-campus housing or books. Awardees will be selected based on academic achievement, community involvement, financial need and commitment to immigrant rights movement.

To apply for a fellowship please complete all the requirements for the scholarship AND the following:

- Resume
- Fellowship essay

Please indicate whether you are applying for a scholarship, a fellowship or both. You may apply for both, although you can only receive one.

I am applying for a scholarship.

I am applying for a fellowship.

*We may also have an opening for a paid summer intern. In order to be eligible you must be able to work 20hrs/week and you must be eligible to work in the United States (US Citizen or green card holder). Check here if you are interested in this opportunity:

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Application Form

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Current Permanent Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) - ____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Gender (optional): _____

Current School (if high school senior, specify high school *and* college you will most likely be attending):

Name and Address of College/University Financial Aid Officer (if you receive an award, this is where your scholarship check will be sent):

Current year in high school or college (at time of application): _____

Current or intended major: _____

Current GPA on a 4.0 Scale: _____

Do you currently have a checking account? (It is NOT required for you to fill this question out and will not in any way lessen your chances of receiving the award.) Yes___No___

Are you eligible to apply for FAFSA? Yes___No___

Are you eligible to apply for the NYS Tuition Assistance Program(TAP)? Yes___No___

By signing below, I _____ declare that all the information presented on this application and in all attachments is true and accurate. I understand that any false statements and/or misrepresentation of this information will result in the disqualification of my application for the New York State Youth Leadership Council Awards.

Applicant Signature

Date

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Extracurricular Activities:

List some extracurricular activities (student government, sports, publications, school-sponsored community service programs, student-faculty committees, arts, music, etc.) as well as public service and community activities you have had during your high school or college education (homeless services, environmental protection/conservation, advocacy activities, work with religious organizations, etc.)

List in descending order starting with the most recent activities.

Activity	Month/Year	Description

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Work Experience:

List any work experience you have had during your high school or college education. This also includes paid or unpaid internships. Do not repeat items listed previously.

List in descending order starting with the most recent experience.

Activity	Month/Year	Description

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Financial Need (REQUIRED):

Please list any other scholarships and other forms of financial assistance you have applied for, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Indicate if you have been awarded any scholarship(s) and/or financial assistance for Fall 2009.

Personal Statement (OPTIONAL):

Please use the space below to share any personal or family hardships that you would like the scholarship award committee to take into consideration when reviewing your application. All information provided will be kept confidential.

Transcript:

Please attach a current academic transcript to your application.

Letter of Recommendation:

Submit one letter of recommendation that can attest to your character, academic excellence and/or commitment to serving the immigrant community. The letter can be written by a teacher or other faculty member of your high school or by an employer, etc.

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Applicant Name: _____

Scholarship Essay:

Please respond to **ONE** of the following questions with 500-1,500 words.

1. Using your experiences as an immigrant student, what do you think is necessary for you and your peers to achieve your dreams?
2. President Barack Obama believes that, instead of driving thousands of children who were on the right path into the shadows, we need to give those who play by the rules the opportunity to succeed. He helped pass the Illinois version of the DREAM Act as a state senator, has fought for it in the U.S. Senate, and will continue to fight for it and sign it into law as president. Write a letter to President Obama and talk about why the Dream Act is important to you.

Fellowship Essay:

If you are applying for the fellowship, please respond to the following question with 1,000-1,500 words.

The New York State Youth Leadership Council is youth-founded, youth-led and youth-run. What skills and experiences do you possess that you feel would be useful in your work with the NYSYLC? How do you think you can contribute to an immigrant youth movement?

Resume:

If you are applying for the fellowship, please attach a current resume to your application.