

Youth Leadership Institute

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) is a youth-led and highly interactive leadership development program designed to empower and engage youth, ages 11-13. Students will participate in monthly youth-led activities that focus on the leadership quality of self-awareness through the concept of growth mindset. Each student will be paired with a mentor that they can ask questions during each meeting.

Date(s): Every 1st Saturday* starting August 2024 – May 2025

Time: 9 – 11am*

Location: TBD

*Subject to change

ABOUT THE SPONSOR

The Tau Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has been proudly serving the Coppell, Irving, Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Lewisville, and surrounding areas for 31 years, and we are committed to continuing our legacy of excellence in community service.

For more information, please visit www.akatro.org

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

Please make sure all (3) sections of the application are included in your submission.

- Parent/Guardian Permission Form
- Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Youth Intake Form
- Youth Leaders - Interest Form

YLI Examples of Activities

Create a Short Video focused on the individual traits of group participants in which each participant presents one of their strengths and one of their challenges.

Create a Skit In small groups, write a fun skit that can be performed for the larger group. Pick a challenge you or your friends deal with often. First, create a skit where characters respond to the challenge with a negative mindset. Then, create another skit where the character responds with a positive mindset.

Vision Board. Create a vision board (a physical or digital collage/collection of items such as pictures, magazine clippings, words, and quotes that visually affirm goals and dreams).

Goal Treasure Map. Draw or paint a goal treasure map (an artistic visualization of steps from start to finish toward a goal with incentives along with key points on the map).

Escape Room. Solve a series of puzzles within a certain amount of time to escape the game room.

Legislative Challenge. Visit a legislative body (view a state legislature or city council in session or make an office visit to a legislator), visit an executive branch office (i.e., Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Agency Director), emulate a Legislative Session (i.e., role play), or conduct a mock legislative session.

Emergency Preparedness and Planning. Develop a home emergency response plan to include necessary emergency resources and a storage area for these resources (create a first aid kit) or develop an emergency response plan for the YLI meeting setting and conduct an emergency drill (i.e., evacuation or shelter-in-place).

Social Activism. Launch or join a campaign (i.e., propose a postage stamp for an important figure; advocate for a building name change or a statute to be taken down; launch a letter-writing campaign or shoot a public service announcement on an issue; design a visual infographic about a topic), hold a youth town hall or march on an issue or for candidates for political office Host a debate on various hot topics (i.e., bullying, music, movies, television, news), or write a “Bill of Rights” for your YLI group

Career Adventure Challenge. Rotate between various stations to complete tasks or assignments related to various careers or professions.

Create a T-Shirt Create a “me tee” (an all-about-me t-shirt) in which you design a t-shirt in a personal and imaginative way, using doodles, words, and/or illustrations to help others learn about you.

Entrepreneurial Exploration. Break out into small groups or work individually to develop a business idea. Think about choosing an idea that solves a problem and has a clear path to making money. Present ideas to one another either in groups or individually, then select your favorite entrepreneurial idea.

Cultural Exchange. Have a gathering with another youth group from a different culture or host a cross-cultural food-tasting activity. Select a country/geographic area to learn about that culture’s food (this activity might include visiting a restaurant, bakery, or a setting that supports an Exchange).

International Music Playlist. Create an international music playlist in a genre of interest (

Cultural Dance. Participate in a dance lesson that focuses on the tradition and norms that are important in every culture, which can be represented in dancing and often colorful props and costumes (this activity might involve forming teams to learn and presenting dances during a session)

Art Exploration. Recreate a piece of art (i.e., painting, sculpture) originally created by an artist from another country (this activity might involve using paint, playdough, and other materials to recreate the piece of art and to present it during a session)