



How to Start a YLA Chapter

Establishing a YLA chapter is relatively easy. YLAs may be in schools, communities, sponsored by an organization, or a group of friends. Here's what to do:

- ◆ Call together a group of youth you believe will want to be part of YLA. Start with a small group of interested persons who will give their time, energy, and work. That's much better than just going after a large number . . . who most often will not put in the effort necessary for success.
- ◆ Find an adult(s) willing to serve as Advisor. The person you recruit needs to have the motivation, interest in youth, ability to work with young people and the YLA organization, positive attitude, and be willing to learn. They don't need to "know how to do it," they just need to be willing to learn along with you.
- ◆ Hold a meeting to explain the YLA purpose and program - including local as well as statewide YLA opportunities. Review how YLA can benefit each person, what is expected of each member, and how YLA exists to build a better school and community. It's a good idea to have a person from the YLA Leadership Center at this meeting or one of your first organizational sessions.
- ◆ Schedule a YLA representative to meet with your group.
- ◆ Develop a constitution.
- ◆ Follow the YLA Membership Policy and Standards available from the YLA Leadership Center.
- ◆ Meet the standards of any local organization, school, church, YMCA, etc. if they are a sponsor of your YLA.
- ◆ Elect officers and give the YLA Leadership Center their names, addresses, phone, title, etc.
- ◆ Submit your annual YLA Affiliation and Roster to the YLA Leadership Center.
- ◆ With everyone's involvement, develop your written goals for the year and your program to achieve them. The best program is a combination of local and state YLA activities and a variety of leadership, service, recreational, and special programs. Remember to set aside time for reflection and evaluation of your program. Set your goals high - determine to achieve YLA Honor status.
- ◆ **GET STARTED!!!** Nothing succeeds like success . . . and success comes from being an active organization where everyone is needed, involved, and participates.

Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association

YLA Groups, Youth in Government, 8th Grade Youth & Government Seminars, Model United Nations, Horseshoe, Cave Lake

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