



MOWW[®] FACT SHEET

★The Military Order of the World Wars[®]★

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (YLC)

★Purpose

Multi-day Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) are free educational conferences that give U.S. high school students the opportunity to develop leadership skills *via patriotic education*. Participants, who attend public, charter and private high schools or who are home-schooled, usually attend as juniors/seniors during the summer. Single-day YLCs are available for elementary and secondary schools students. MOWW interviews, selects, and pays for YLC attendance.



★Accreditation

MOWW sponsors over 25 multi-day YLCs in 17 states, and an additional number of single-day YLCs. Some YLCs are conducted under “Resolutions of Cooperation” with the National Sojourners (multi-day) and the Joe Foss Institute (single-day). MOWW also encourages Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) seminar attendance. All secondary school conferences are approved for listing by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP) on their National Advisory List of Contests and Activities. MOWW also recruits attendees from other organizations, e.g., HOBY, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, and the National Honor Society.



★Objectives

YLC attendees receive *patriotic education*, including elements of leadership needed to maintain a free society, concepts of a free enterprise system, and the foundational principles upon which the U.S. was built. Attendees develop an appreciation for the Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc., and an awareness of the civic responsibilities associated with preserving rights and freedoms. Students also develop leadership skills which help them be better citizens and future leaders.

★Program

Classes are participatory and present leadership principles and examples, and provide opportunities for YLC attendees to demonstrate their own leadership. Curriculum varies from YLC to YLC, but the general goal is 50% of class time is devoted to leadership, 30% of curriculum is devoted to U.S. History and the U.S. Government, and 20% of class time is devoted to the





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Free Enterprise System and the U.S. economy. Students interact with instructors and peers in small group discussions, debates, skits, etc. All have fun learning with peers.

Typical YLC attendees learn respect of the U.S. Flag and what it symbolizes, how to display it, and its proper care and disposal. Students learn and use Roberts Rules of Order in debates on current issues affecting the U.S. There are classes on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and responsible citizenship. Most YLCs conduct a mock trial using an actual U.S. Court case. Students defend their position before the complete conference. Students also participate in communications classes, and make oral and written presentations.



★Recognition

Students write a short essay during the communications class during the application process, and may receive an award for their written submissions. A panel of judges evaluates all essays, selects the top ten, and then picks the top three in the category "Best Essay." The other major YLC prize is the "Outstanding Student Award." The Best Essay and Outstanding Student awards are presented at the YLC Awards Banquet. Conferences typically present these awards, plus two runners-up for each. There is normally a \$100 award for the Best Essay/Outstanding Student Award, a \$75 award for each 1st Runner-Up and a \$25 award for each 2nd Runner-Up.



★Phoenician Award

The Phoenician Award, MOWW's national YLC student essay award, is given annually for the best essay of all of the Outstanding Students from multi-day YLCs. The student receiving the first prize Phoenician Award receives a \$2,000 first prize during the annual National MOWW Convention. Second and third prize Phoenician Award winners are presented \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, by their local area MOWW representatives on behalf of the national MOWW organization.

★Supervision

Instructors lead YLC classes and Team Leaders/Counselors supervise students (typically 10-12). Directors/Assistant Directors (at least one adult male and one adult female) supervise Team Leaders/Counselors. During multi-day YLCs, students live in dorms with team members of their gender. Students are supervised by adults of their gender, and social activities are chaperoned.



★Application



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