

# YLA Newsletter



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation

## YLA's End of Academic Year Session is May 21! You are Invited!

Attention all YLA families and friends — May 21 is our last session of the year and you are all invited! We will hear presentations from each service-learning group about what they have accomplished over the semester, present special awards and recognitions, and celebrate our graduating seniors. We will begin at 9:00 am and go through 12:00 noon (with an intermission) at the ATC Auditorium at Elgin Community College. You will not want to miss this important YLA event! See you there!

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May 2011

### YLA Summer 2011 Calendar Announced

June 3	YLA Summer Office Hours begin (Monday – Thursdays 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Fridays the office is closed)
June 4	NHS Elgin Volunteer Day – this is a community volunteering day led by Neighborhood Housing Services of Elgin. Cadets, wear your YLA shirts, shorts and tennis shoes as we will be cleaning up a neighborhood from 8am - 1pm. Over 150 volunteers will help with yard work, painting fences, planting flowers, and more. Parents and cadets needed! Please meet at 8:00 am at Garfield School, 420 May St. in Elgin. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
June 13 & 14	YLA Student Council Training – ECC main campus, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm each day, lunch will be provided.
June 15	Elgin Drug and Gang Task Force – Youth Focus Group at the Renz Center, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm with lunch provided! Renz Center is located at 2 American Way - #C, Elgin, IL 60120.
June 17 & 18	YLA Trainer Meeting # 1 to plan 2011-2012 YLA curriculum
June 25	YLA Car Wash
July 4	Downtown Elgin 4th of July Parade
July 15 & 16	YLA Trainer Meeting # 2 to plan 2011-2012 YLA curriculum
July 23	YLA Car Wash
Aug. 15	First day of school for D300
Aug. 19	YLA Regular Office Hours begin again (Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

The YLA Newsletter is produced the YLA office and is distributed once per month. Any comments, questions or letters can be addressed to YLA 410 Renner Dr., Elgin, IL 60123.

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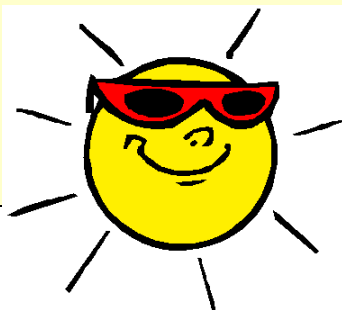
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**LOOK FOR YLA NEWS-LETTERS ONLINE OVER THE SUMMER!**

**Cadets, have a great, safe and fun summer!**





## YLA Cadets Have Had a Busy Spring!

In addition to keeping their grades up at school, attending YLA Sessions on Saturdays, delivering great service-learning projects, and of course, spending time with family, YLA cadets have been involved in various extra activities ... activities that are perfect examples of how they are leaders TODAY! Pictured above are cadets with the Bracelets for Humanity project which sells hand-made bracelets to raise money for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. At the top right, cadets are volunteering at the soup kitchen at First United Methodist Church in Elgin. To the right, Victor Diaz, 9th grade cadet from Elgin, planted a tree at Elgin Community College's campus as part of his environmental beautification project. At the bottom right, 11th grade cadets gathered for lunch at Al's Café to celebrate their hard work in planning for YLA Family Fun Day (even though it was cancelled due to low RSVPs). Finally, on the bottom left, YLA Venture Crew #200 did their first bike hike to enjoy the beautiful spring weather and get some good exercise.





## NOW THIS is How You Design a Teen Center!

Cadets: The Gail Borden Library downtown Elgin's "Studio 270" is designed for YOU! There is plenty of space to do crafts, read, watch movies, play games, or use the new computers. Adults and small children are not allowed in this space! Check out the Studio 270 calendar available online under [www.gailborden.info](http://www.gailborden.info), then click under the "Teen" tab. What a great place to be on HOT summer days when you need air conditioning, or when you just want space to be yourself!

## CALLING SUMMER VOLUNTEERS AT GAIL BORDEN LIBRARY

Cadets are known in the community for their leadership and service! Here is an excellent opportunity for the summer — reading to younger children. Reading to children is the BEST way to help them learn the alphabet, colors, shapes, animal names, and other important skills they need to get a great start in kindergarten! Here are some important things to consider:

- There is summer reading booth in the library where cadets would read to small children on a regular basis. This is a place to help families have fun reading over the summer.
- Volunteers will be trained, but also have a staff member in the booth at all times.
- Teens must be detail oriented--to give out accurate information and to input customer data correctly.
- Teens should be readily willing to talk to strangers--to be a good "face" of Gail Borden.
- The library has a lot of hours available for the booth at the Main Library.
- Volunteers must be going into 9th grade and up. *(Parents are invited to help too!)*
- There is another opportunity for YOUNGER cadets to volunteer by helping children playing outside on the patio.

If you are interested in STEPPING UP to this great volunteering opportunity at the library, please contact the YLA office at 847-214-6965. YLA will help the Gail Borden coordinate a training session for all YLA cadets in early June. Whether you can volunteer every day or only once a week, you can make a difference this summer!

# Youth Leadership Academy

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*"I AM on the path to success.  
I AM college bound."*

**Visit us online at  
[www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org)**

## Mission of the Youth Leadership Academy:

We engage and inspire youth to maximize their potential to become successful community leaders through the access and responsible utilization of post-secondary education.

## YLA Office Hours:

- Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
- No office hours on Saturday
- Summer Schedule: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm.

## YLA Board members:

- Dr. Wes Scott, President, Elgin
- JoAnne Fields Whittaker, Vice President, Elgin
- Kevin Stark, Treasurer, Algonquin
- Jeri E. Smith, Secretary, Elgin
- Eric Isibue, West Dundee
- Eary Isibue, Elgin
- V. Elaine Miller, Elgin
- Danesa Tamayo, Belvidere
- Dr. Bruce Austin, Grayslake
- Dr. Julie Schaid, Elburn

## YLA Executive Director:

Dianha Ortega-Ehreth

## YLA Administrative Assistant:

Karen McCoy

## YLA Schedule for 2011-2012 Announced

Attention YLA families and friends! Mark your calendars for next academic years' YLA sessions. Please know that these dates are tentative. Changes will be communicated to everyone at our August 27 KICK OFF session. All sessions will continue to be held from 9:00—11:30 am at Elgin Community College.

<u>2011</u>		Jan. 14-16	(Saturday – Monday NO SCHOOL) MLK Week end / Day of Service – all cadets participate!
Aug. 27	KICK OFF	Jan. 21	YLA session # 9
Sept. 10	YLA session #1	Feb. 4	YLA session #10
Sept. 24	YLA session #2	Feb. 18	YLA session #11
Oct. 8	YLA session #3	Feb. 20	(Monday – NO SCHOOL DAY) Possible field trip
Oct. 10	(Monday – NO SCHOOL DAY) Possible field trip	Mar. 3	YLA session #12
Oct. 22	YLA session #4	Mar. 17	YLA session #13
Nov. 5	YLA session #5	Mar.26-30	Spring recess for all school districts AND Elgin Community College
Nov. 19	YLA session #6	Apr. 14	YLA session #14
Nov. 21-22	(Monday & Tuesday NO SCHOOL DAYS) Possible YLA activities	Apr. 21	YLA session #15
Dec. 3	YLA session #7	May 5	YLA session #16
<u>2012</u>		May 12	YLA Graduation / Final Presentations
Jan. 7	YLA session #8		