

# YLA Newsletter

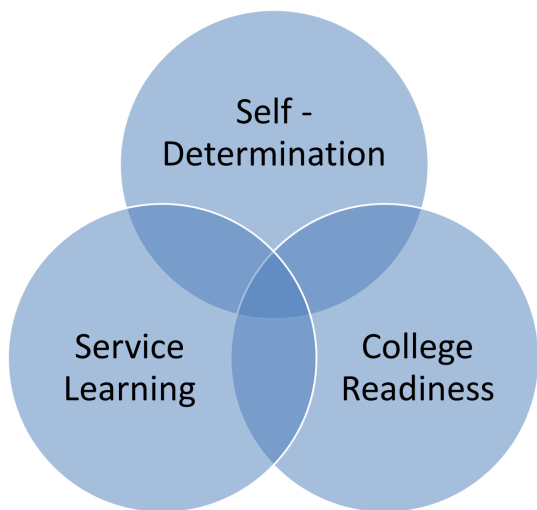


YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

*A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation*

## YLA KICKS OFF the 2011-2012 Year!

The Youth Leadership Academy KICKED OFF another great academic year on August 27. With a new Program Coordinator, Joann W. Hartmann, who brings 33 years teaching experience to the organization, and an expanded Staff Team that worked hard over the summer, there is a lot to look forward to! The program has been re-designed to more intentionally raise young leaders who will be better prepared for college. The program is a combination of three important training concepts: Self-Determination, Service-Learning, and College-Readiness. This unique approach will provide a way for each individual cadet to measure their own progress in skill building goals. YLA Parent Meetings this year will focus on the six principles of Self-Determination:



October 22: SELF-AWARENESS

November 5: SUPPORT NETWORKS

December 3: AUTONOMY and SOCIAL SKILLS / INCLUSION

January 21: ASPIRATIONS

March 3: WORK AND WORKLIKE EXPERIENCES

Each of these Parent Meetings will be delivered at 9am in English, and then the same material will be presented at 10:30 am in Spanish, thanks to our new bilingual YLA Parent Coordinator and Assistant, Reina Franco.

In addition to a re-design of the program, all YLA cadets will discuss special presentations about campus safety, the dangers of gangs, prevention of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and bullying behavior. Stay tuned for highlights from YLA cadets along the year! We are stepping up boldly to equip the leaders of tomorrow!

Quote of the month: "I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." - *Author Unknown*

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The YLA Newsletter is produced at 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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## Volunteer Opportunities for YLA Cadets

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

**Where:** Eastside Recreation Center, 1080 E. Chicago St., Elgin

**Position:** After School Program – Teacher’s Assistant

**Details:** Do you love working with children? Then sign up to help with After School Program teachers with arts and craft preparation, reading, homework, computer lab supervision and assist with supervising fun physical fitness activities and games. This is a great opportunity for high school or college students interested in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. Volunteers must be 14 years old or older. Any volunteer under the age of 18 must have a waiver form signed by a parent or guardian. Orientation will be required prior to beginning your volunteer shift. Volunteers must pass a background check.

**Commitment:** The program follows the U-46 school year calendar. A minimum of a one day per week commitment for the fall or spring semester is requested.

**Contact:** Renee Edsall, edsall\_r@cityofelgin.org or (847) 931-6770.

**Where:** The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin

**Position:** Fitness Area Assistant

**Details:** Assist the fitness staff with providing exceptional customer service through face-to-face interaction with fitness center users. Fold towels, wipe down machines, pick up towels and paper in locker rooms just in general make the place look top notch. Orientation is required prior to beginning your volunteer shift. Volunteers must be 13 years or older. Volunteers must sign a waiver form. Any volunteer under the age of 18 must have a waiver form sign by a parent or guardian.

**Commitment:** Minimum of one 3 hour shift per week requested.

**Contact:** Renee Edsall, edsall\_r@cityofelgin.org or (847) 931-6770.

**Where:** The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin

**Position:** Track Greeter

**Details:** Duties include providing a friendly smile at the check-in table, checking track pass, refer questions to the fitness desk staff and effectively communicating the track safety rules to users. All volunteers must attend a volunteer orientation, receive training, complete a waiver form and pass a background check. Volunteers must be 18 years or older.

**Commitment:** Minimum of one shift per week October-April.

**Contact:** Renee Edsall, edsall\_r@cityofelgin.org or (847) 931-6770.

**Where:** The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin

**Position:** Office and Front Desk Support

**Details:** Duties would include answering the phone, sharing program information, greeting customers and directing to proper locations within the facility, giving tours to prospective members and providing general support services. Other duties include office filing, computer data entry, stuffing envelopes, making copies etc. All volunteers must attend a volunteer orientation, receive training, complete a waiver form and pass a background check. Any volunteers under the age of 18 must have a waiver form signed by a parent or guardian.

**Commitment:** Minimum of one 2 hour shift per week requested.

**Contact:** Renee Edsall, edsall\_r@cityofelgin.org or (847) 931-6770.

### ONE DAY OPPORTUNITIES

**Where:** Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove, Elgin

**When:** Saturday, October 8 from 2:00—5:30 pm

**Position:** Hispanic Heritage Celebration Event — Assistant

**Details:** Assist the library planning team for the event with various tasks throughout the day, including greeting at the front entrance, assist in children’s craft area, support with microphone checks, directing people to upstairs activities, and staffing a YLA information booth during the event.

**Contact:** Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu, 847-214-6910



**YLA Cadets had a busy summer!** Top left: Cadets at the June 25 YLA Car Wash at PNC Bank working hard in the sun! We've been told we're the best fundraising car wash in town! Top right: Marching in Elgin's 4th of July Parade is always a good time. Middle left: Cadets helped staff the Fiesta Salsa event downtown Elgin on September 3rd. Middle right: Cadets and parents wearing safety gear helped clean up Boves Road as part of YLA's Adopt a Highway project on June 11. Immediate left: Neomy and Edna helped usher a special concert by the Elgin Symphony Orchestra for Feeding Greater Elgin on August 13. Bottom left: Thanks to all the YLA Parents who helped organize and bring food to the YLA Family Picnic on August 6 at Lord's Park! It was a blast! Bottom right: Over 30 YLA cadets and parents turned out for Elgin's Neighborhood Housing Service's "NeighborWorks" Day on June 4. On this very hot day, we—along with 100 other community volunteers—painted, raked, trimmed trees, picked weeds and more! Thank you cadets these and many other summer activities that made the hot days go by too quickly. **Twenty-five cadets participated in the "Summer of Volunteering" challenge logging in over 300 hours in service to our community!**



# 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

## 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
- Dr. Bruce Austin, Grayslake

- Dr. Julie Schaid, Elburn
- Betty Villagomez, Elgin
- Simeon Kim, St. Charles

## YLA Executive Director:

Dianha Ortega-Ehreth

## YLA Program Coordinator:

Joann W. Hartmann

## YLA Administrative Assistant:

Karen McCoy

## ECC College Night is October 4

More than 140 colleges and universities from Illinois and across the country will provide information and materials during College Night 2011 on Tuesday, October 4 at Elgin Community College. This event is free and will be from 6:00—8:00 pm in the Performing Arts and Events Centers. ECC faculty and staff will be there also to share information about different areas of study. For more information, call 847-214-7385 or visit [www.elgin.edu/collegenight](http://www.elgin.edu/collegenight).

Cadets – it is never too early to explore your college options. You are all encouraged to attend and collect information on colleges and study programs to discuss in your YLA sessions.

## Is College Still Worth It In This Economy? YOU BET!

Gallup Daily tracking of unemployment and underemployment in the U.S. finds that college-educated Americans fare better in the workforce than U.S. adults without a college degree. Their unemployment and underemployment rates so far in 2011 are lower than those rates for Americans with less education and are also well below the national averages. (Source: August 18, 2011 Gallup Report posted at [www.gallup.com/poll/149045/Americans-College-Essential-Getting-Good-Job.aspx](http://www.gallup.com/poll/149045/Americans-College-Essential-Getting-Good-Job.aspx))

### *Unemployment and Underemployment, by Education Level*

Jan. 2-July 31, 2011

	Unemployed	Underemployed*
All U.S. adults	6%	19%
High school or less	8%	26%
Technical/Vocational/Some college	7%	21%
College graduate	5%	12%
Post-graduate work or degree	3%	9%

Gallup Daily tracking

\*Unemployed or employed part time but wanting full-time work

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