

# YLA Newsletter



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation

## YLA KICKS OFF ANOTHER GREAT YEAR



Pictured above is YLA's 8th grade class with Miss Linda Guzman, trainer.

The ATC Auditorium on the morning of August 28 was alive with the sound of ... YLA! Cadets and parents heard from Dr. Scott, President of the YLA Board; Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, YLA Executive Director; and Dr. Sam, President of Elgin Community College who shared their enthusiasm for YLA's mission. After reviewing the new Cadet Manual together, cadets and parents then had some time to get to know their new trainer and learn about their curriculum for the year.

### How September became National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month had its origins in 1968 when Congress passed Pub. L. 90-498 (PDF, 153 KB) which authorized and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation designating the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. By directing that this week should include September 15 and 16, this law celebrated Hispanic Americans and the anniversaries of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua as well as Mexico's independence on September 16. President Lyndon Johnson issued the first proclamation, Presidential Proclamation 3869, in September 1968. In 1988, Congress made some amendments to expand celebrations from one week to a full month.

### Calling All Cadets — Writers for YLA Newsletter Wanted

YLA Cadets are encouraged to share about what they're learning and experiencing by writing about it! This newsletter is shared not just with other cadets, but electronically also to many community leaders in the Elgin area including school district officials, non-profit agency staff, business owners, volunteers and donors. Let the community know what you're up to. Contact the YLA office for details.

Volume 1, Issue 2  
September 2010

The YLA Newsletter is produced and distributed by the YLA office and is distributed once per month. Any comments, questions or letters can be addressed to Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, YLA Executive Director, 51 S. Spring St., Elgin, IL 60120.

E-mail:

[dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu](mailto:dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu)

Phone: 847-214-6910

Fax: 847-214-6914

Web site: [www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org)

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## Opportunity for YLA cadets interested in local government elections

Did you know that the state of Illinois has more elected government positions than any other state?

Yes, and a lot of elections will be taking place this fall. The Elgin chapter of LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, is calling upon YLA for help with an upcoming forum where the community can come to meet and learn more about candidates who are running for elected positions. This opportunity is open to any YLA cadet of any background. A total of 25 cadets are needed to help host this event. Cadets will serve as greeters and presenters of questions to the candidates to answer about important issues.

The Candidates Forum will be held October 25 from 7:00—9:00 pm at the Gail Borden Library. Interested cadets need to notify their trainer. The cadets selected will then need to be available on September 18, October 2, 8, and 23 to stay one hour past the regular Saturday working sessions (until 12:30 pm) on those days to meet with JoAnn Armenta, representative from LULAC. Ms. Armenta will be training the cadets on those days in preparation to serve on October 25. This is a special opportunity for YLA cadets to step up and be recognized in the community for their service and leadership.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Only one in five 15-year-olds have a web of positive, sustained, and meaningful relationships with adults. (Source: Search Institute Teen Voice 2010)
- By 2018, nearly 2/3 of available jobs will require some form of higher education. (Source: Lumina Foundation)
- Less than half of first generation students attend college. (First generation = parents did not attend college) (Source: Engle Bermeo, [Straight from the Source: What works for first generation students](#))
- Only 74% of all students in Illinois graduate from high school with a regular diploma in 4 years. (Source: Alliance for Excellence in Education)
- High school drop outs cost Illinois almost \$11 billion in lost wages over their lifetimes (Source: Alliance for Excellence in Education)

### ATTENTION YLA PARENTS:

The Parent-In Service scheduled for December 4 will be a YLA version of “parent—teacher conferences” to keep you informed about your cadet’s progress in building leadership skills. But you need not wait until then to learn about how they are doing at the YLA. Below is a list of our trainers and their e-mail addresses. You may contact them with any questions you have about your child’s participation in YLA:

7th grade— Ms. Candace Washington,  
cdwashin@gmail.com

8th grade — Ms. Linda Guzman,  
Linda.guzman@d300.org

9th grade — Ms. Liliana Gonzalez,  
Lgonzalez@d47.org

10th grade — Ms. Deloris McKinney,  
ladydm53@yahoo.com

11th grade — Mr. Avery Lambert,  
AJL7@comcast.net

12th grade—Ms. Elaine Scott,  
jsteelee@aol.com

### Quote of the month:

“I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.” — Bill Cosby, Actor and Comedian

## Attention Parents! Please come to the YLA Parent In-Service on September 18.

**September 18 there will be a Parent In-Service held in ATC Auditorium from 9:00 am—11:30 am (same time cadets meet). We will hear from:**

- Senator Michael Noland — he wants to listen and learn about the issues that are important to parents of YLA cadets. Senator Noland is running for re-election this coming November.
- Michelle Sood, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights — will share about the importance of voting and how to help others get registered to vote
- Robert Nelson, Illinois Student Assistance Corps — will share a presentation about how the college financial aid process works, including scholarships and loans. All cadets, even those planning to attend Elgin Community College, are required to fill out the FAFSA (Federal Application for Financial Student Aid) in order to be awarded scholarships, including the YLA full tuition scholarships. Even if your cadet is not a 12th grader yet, it’s good to know what to look forward to!

Robert Nelson and Michelle Sood will be available for individual consultations following the In-Service. See you there!

## Attention: YLA Adopt a Highway volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers who have signed up to clean up Bowes Road on September 18! We are still in need of more volunteers, so if you are available that day, contact the YLA office at 847-214-6965.

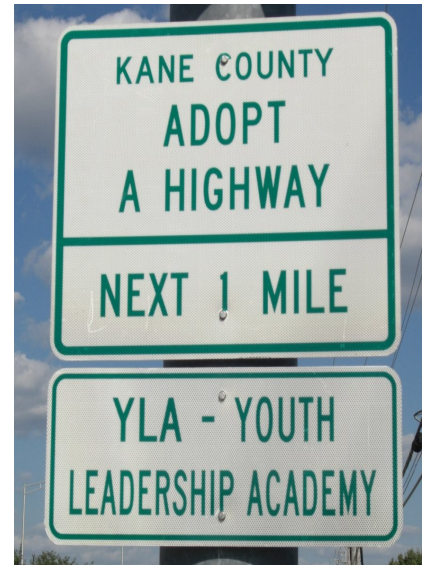
### What to wear:

- long sleeves and long pants (jeans will be permitted for this activity) — even if it is hot. This is for your protection!
- Closed, sturdy shoes such as boots or sneakers, again for your protection.

### Schedule for volunteers this day will be as follows:

12:00 noon—1:00 pm: Lunch will be provided while we watch a required safety video and learn about safety issues. This will take place in the ATC Auditorium.

1:00—3:00 pm: Picking up trash by Bowes Road. Groups will travel together, so please let us know if you can offer rides or need a ride.



### YLA OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to parents who signed up to volunteer in the YLA office! **We will call you** when we need you with as much advance notice as we can.

If you did not get a chance to sign up to volunteer in the YLA office and would like to do so, please call 847-214-6965.



## YLA Policy on Weather-related cancellations

If the weather outside is frightful and you are wondering if a YLA activity is going to take place, here is what you can do:

- CALL YLA OFFICE at 847-214-6910. The outgoing message will state if a YLA session is cancelled for any reason.
- If you have internet, go to [www.elgin.edu](http://www.elgin.edu). Elgin Community College may close facilities if weather is bad. Announcements would be made on this web site by 7am.
- Call 847-697-1000. This is the ECC number for weather-related closings. If ECC facilities are closed, YLA sessions will be cancelled.
- Sign up through [emergency.elgin.edu](http://emergency.elgin.edu) to have ECC send a text message directly to your cell phone alerting you of any cancellations.

## ECC offers FREE Computer Classes

Attention cadets and parents! Want to learn more about how to use computers? The future requires a high level of understanding of computers!

Elgin Community College is once again offering FREE Computer Classes available to the general public this fall. These classes will be held at ECC's Fountain Square Campus downtown Elgin. Each class will be held every other week on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. They meet in

Room 222 on Tuesdays and Room 231 on Wednesdays and Fridays (subject to change). For more information, contact Judy Burman at 847-214-6931. Schedule for the fall is as follows:

- September 7, 8, 10, 21, 22, 24
- October 5, 6, 8, 19, 20, 22
- November 2, 3, 5, 16, 17, 19, 30
- December 1, 3, 14, 15, 17

### HELP get people registered to vote!

If you are interested in helping get people registered to vote in the fall elections, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights is looking for volunteers. Their office is located at 535 Villa Street in Elgin. Volunteers are needed to assist with filing papers and make phone calls. Times available are Tuesdays through Fridays from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Volunteers can work in shifts of 2 hours each. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Sood at 630-234-6780.

## Youth Leadership Academy

51 S. Spring St.  
Elgin, IL 60120

Phone: 847-214-6910  
Fax: 847-214-6914  
e-mail: [dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu](mailto:dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu)



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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

### Administrative Assistant:

Karen McCoy — [kmccoy@elgin.edu](mailto:kmccoy@elgin.edu)

# Ivy League and Youth Leadership Academy: Working Together for Youths' Success!

The YLA is partnering with the Ivy League, a program designed to meet the needs of success-driven teens in the northwest Chicago suburbs. Much like the YLA, they also engage in community service and spend time gathering at Elgin Community College to promote self awareness, explore civic responsibility and more.

**All YLA cadets are invited to attend Ivy League programs which take place once per month.** Because of the strong YLA and Ivy League partnership, the dates are the same as YLA Saturday sessions. When YLA sessions end at 11:30 am, Ivy League activities begin at 11:45 am and go through 2:00 pm in the ICT building of Elgin Community College (room location is posted in the lobby).

In addition to participating in Ivy League programs, YLA cadets in the 11th and 12th grades are also invited to join Ivy League students for a college fair in Chicago on October 16 (cadets, see your trainers for details).

### Ivy League program calendar is as follows:

- Sept. 18—Program Orientation / The 90 Second Personal Introduction / Study Skills and Testing Strategies
- Oct. 16 — 100 Black Men College Fair fieldtrip
- Nov. 5 — Finance / Fiscal Fitness and Kick-off Angel Tree project
- Dec. 4—Service Project—Angel Tree
- Jan. 15 — Fit for Life / Healthy Life Style
- Feb. 19—Career Exploration Day
- Mar. 5—Leadership Seminar and Panel Discussion
- Apr. 16—Environmental Stewardship
- May 7— Etiquette and Event Planning
- June 4 — Year End Awards Banquet

For more information about Ivy League, please contact Tony Branch via phone at 630-842-7885 or via e-mail at [tony.branch@comcast.net](mailto:tony.branch@comcast.net).