



National Youth Leadership Network
The national voice for young leaders with disabilities

Press Release: November 2008

Topic: NYLN Governing Board Application

The National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN) is looking for new leaders! And we want you to apply to serve on our Governing Board! NYLN is a non-profit organization run by young people with disabilities. We empower all young people to reach their maximum potential.

Applicants to the Governing Board must:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 28;
- Have a disability;
- Have leadership and advocacy skills.

“We are excited to open the door to new leaders,” said Betsy Valnes, NYLN Executive Director. “Young people have a lot to offer. We look forward to setting goals that make them fully empowered.”

The Governing Board Application is below. It can also be found at <http://www.nyln.org/>.

Send completed applications to:

National Youth Leadership Network
Attn: Betsy Valnes
PO Box 5908
Bethesda, MD 20824

For more information, call 1-866-480-6565 or e-mail bvalnes@tie.net.



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Governing Board Application

The National Youth Leadership Network is the first national non-profit organization to be run by young people with disabilities. We are made up of young leaders with disabilities from across the U.S. and its territories. The Governing Board leads the Network. Our mission is to promote leadership development, education, and advocacy for all youth with disabilities to attain their maximum, unique, personal potential.

To apply for the Governing Board, you must:

- be between 16 and 28 years old;
- have exceptional leadership and advocacy skills; and
- be willing to share what you know with the mission of the Network.

Governing Board members will also serve on a committee. The average time commitment is about 12 hours per month.

To find out more about the Network, visit our web page at: www.nyln.org.

Questions? Call Betsy Valnes, Executive Director, at 1-866-480-6565.

Information About NYLN:

The National Youth Leadership Network:

- Encourages young leaders to reach their goals and become more involved at national, state and local levels.
- Increases opportunities for employment, independent living, health and wellness.
- Communicates about issues that are important to youth with disabilities and the policies and practices that affect their lives.

NYLN Activities Include:

- The NYLN Youth Information Center: This is a web site where you can find information and resources. The topics include anything from education to employment to international travel.
- Resource Consultants: Young people have knowledge and experience to share. NYLN leaders serve as consultants at events around the country. This could include serving on boards or committees. It may also include giving presentations.
- NYLN Newsletter: Our newsletter comes out four times a year. The articles are written by and for young people. It includes current events, opinion articles, and personal stories.
- Webcasts: Webcasts are group discussions over the telephone and the Internet. These conversations are led by youth experts. They don't cost anything. It's a chance to talk with other young people around the country and share ideas or ask questions.

Governing Board Application Deadline:

**Applications MUST be postmarked by
Friday, November 14, 2008!**



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Governing Board Application

Name: _____

Gender: Female Male Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

The following information is optional for you to complete. It will be kept confidential [private]. It helps us select diverse board members.

What is your disability? _____

How would you categorize it?

- Mobility Hearing Visual Learning
 Cognitive Health Emotional/Behavior
 Other _____

What is your race/ethnicity? [Please check all that apply.]

- African American Latino/Latina White/Caucasian
 Asian Native American/Alaska Native Pacific Islander
 Other _____

What size town you are from?

- Small, rural area Mid-sized City or suburb

Please also include the following:

1. A copy of your resume or personal biography [a paragraph that tells us about your leadership experiences]
2. Two letters of recommendation
 - These must come from people who are not members of your family
 - They must be included with your application, not sent separately
3. Replies to the following questions – please keep your answers to no more than 500 words each
 - Question #1: Tell us about a positive experience you have had as a person with a disability. How has this experience affected your life?
 - Question #2: NYLN focuses on education, employment, health care, disability culture and accessibility. Tell us about your interest(s) in one or more of these areas. Then, based on your interests, what skills would you bring to our organization?

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