



BECOME A VOICE THAT CREATES CHANGE

Do you want to learn about being a leader? If so, the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is for you!

YLA is a way to connect with peers with disabilities and learn leadership skills. Spend two hours per day for five days this summer and gain skills for a lifetime.

All sessions are virtual and FREE!

BUILD LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Goal Setting
- Networking
- Mentoring
- Self-Determination
- Disability Rights
- Advocacy and Civic Engagement

ATTEND WITH PEERS LIKE YOU

YLA is for youth and young adults with disabilities ages 14-21.

Fifteen students will be accepted.

YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to become a leader
- How to advocate for yourself and others
- What you can do
- What you are capable of

SCHEDULE

YLA Training

July 27-31, 2026

Service Day and Graduation Ceremony

- August 4, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines
- FREE for students, parents, and family members!

Get involved and make a difference with your fellow YLA students, alumni, leaders and mentors at The Arc of Iowa's Inclusive Zoo Day 2026.

Agenda:

- **9:00 a.m.** - Volunteer helping Iowans with disabilities and their families enjoy the zoo event
- **12:00 p.m.** - Lunch and YLA Graduation Certificate Ceremony
- **1:00 p.m.** - Leisure and fun time at the zoo

Special program **just for parents** at 10:00 a.m. Family members are invited to this in-person event. A virtual option will also be available.

American Sign Language (ASL) will be made available.

APPLY ONLINE

www.iowaddcouncil.org/yla



QUESTIONS?

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Preparation, Participation, Power

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Disability Rights Iowa

IOWA HEALTH CARE

University of Iowa Health Care Center for Disabilities & Development