

The Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Foundation (RMYLF) was incorporated in 1990 as a Colorado nonprofit 501(c)(3) foundation. The first RMYL Conference (RMYLC), was held in 1993 with 17 students at the Colorado Springs School in Colorado Springs. By 1996, over 50 students attended the event, held that year at the USAF Academy. In 2001, the conference was moved to CSU-Pueblo where it remained through 2017. The five-day RMYLC was held at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs (UCCS) in 2018 and 2019.



The 2020 conference was cancelled due to the closure of Colorado universities under the COVID-19 pandemic. The venue will move back to Pueblo in 2021.

Between 90–100 students attend the conference from more than 30 Front Range high schools. Students are housed in a college dormitory and eat in the student cafeteria, giving them a taste of college life. The conference is strictly chaperoned by group counsellors and other adults who also reside with them in the dorms.

The RMYLC provides an educational experience that develops leadership, patriotism and free enterprise competencies for young leaders. In addition to informative and lively presentations by subject matter experts, experiential learning is accomplished in a focussed, single tasking environment, which promotes character, discipline, and leadership while tempering procrastination. Students are assigned to 8-10 person teams called Color Groups where they develop concentration skills via competitive teamwork exercises. Collaboration and communication tools and strategies are also stressed.

The RMYLF has no paid staff – it is an all-volunteer organization dedicating its resources to conducting the annual RMYLC. All students attend on full scholarships provided by sponsoring civic-minded individuals and organizations. Student attendees' only costs are travel expenses involved in getting to and from the Conference venue.

Donations and grants are essential to provide this educational experience. It costs approximately \$500 per student to operate our week-long conference. Various donation levels are available for those who wish to support the annual conference:

- The Bronze level (\$100 – \$499)
- The Silver level (\$500 – \$999)
- The Gold level (\$1,000 – \$1,999)
- The Platinum level (> \$2,000)

Thank you for your interest in our program. More information about the conference is on the reverse and additional details, along with a pledge and confirmation form, may be found on our website at: www.rmlyf.org/donations or by contacting Steve Shambach at 719-481-4776 or shambachsm@msn.com.



Who Can Attend?

Attendees are usually incoming high school seniors from Colorado Front Range high schools who have displayed leadership skills or potential with their peer group. Some incoming juniors may also be invited.

What is Student Selection Process and Timeline?

March is crunch time! The school's RMYLF point of contact solicits interested students via the high school point of contact (POC) in March of the conference year. The High School POC may be a counselor, teacher, or JROTC faculty member. Nominated students are directed to the RMYLC website to complete their Conference Application in early April. Their high school POC reviews the applications and then rank orders the students and forwards the information to the RMYLF Registrar in late April. The RMYLF Selection Committee makes its final selections from the list of nominees by the end of April. If selected for attendance at the Conference, the student and the high school POC are promptly notified by text and email.

Once the student is selected, he or she is required to go to this website again and fill out Conference Registration forms. These forms require strict attention and speedy completion by attendees. One of these forms in particular, is essential — a Medical Release form which must be signed by the parent/guardian, and returned to RMYLF not later than mid-May. This is also an opportune time to obtain/review an electronic copy of the Student Handbook where attendees can study conference requirements. Prior to the Conference any updates and final instructions will be emailed to attendees.

We use email extensively to keep our POCs, parents, and students informed. We also use text messaging for those who are willing to register for our texting service. We encourage all students and parents to provide an email address to which they have access year around.

What Do I Need? (Student Packet)

The conference administrative and logistical requirements can be found in the Student Handbook (the version found on our website is updated each year in February). In particular, pay attention to the pages "What to Bring" and "What Not to Bring." There is also a strict policy that bans all Electronic Communication Devices (ECDs) for the duration of the Conference in order to promote the Conference learning objectives. ECDs include but are not limited to laptop computers, cell/smart phones, tablets, iPads, or similar devices.

What About More Information for the Parents of Student Attendees?

Parents may learn more about the venue and environment of the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference by reviewing the conference Student Handbook and by clicking on the UCCS or CSU-Pueblo website, depending on the scheduled venue.

