

The Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Foundation (RMYLF) was incorporated in 1990 as a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation. The first RMYL Conference (RMYLC), was held in 1993 with 17 students at the Colorado Springs School. By 1996, over 50 students attended the event at the Air Force Academy. In 2001, the conference was moved to Colorado State University-Pueblo (CSU-P) where it remained through 2017. The five-day RMYLC was held at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs (UCCS) in 2018, 2019, & 2022. The 2020 conference was cancelled due to COVID. The 2023 conference was held at CSU-P, and will return there, June 24-28, 2024.



Conference attendance is competitive. Capacity is ~100 students who come from over 40 Colorado high schools. Students are housed in a college dormitory and eat in the college cafeteria, giving them a taste of college life. The conference is strictly chaperoned by team counsellors and other adults who 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 10-12 person teams where they develop concentration skills via competitive teamwork exercises. Collaboration and communication tools and strategies are also stressed.

## **Who Can Attend?**

Students are usually incoming high school seniors from Colorado high schools who have displayed leadership skills or potential with their peer group. Some incoming juniors may also be invited with counselor or JROTC instructor endorsement.

## **What is Student Selection Process and Timeline?**

Applications are accepted January through late March. The school's RMYLF liaison accepts applications from interested students nominated by their High School Point Of Contact (HSPOC). The HSPOC may be a counselor, teacher, or JROTC faculty member. Nominated students are directed to the RMYLC website to complete their Conference Application. Their high school POC reviews the applications in late March and forwards their recommendations to the RMYLF Registrar. The RMYLF Selection Committee makes its final selections from the list of nominees by 22 March 2024. If selected for attendance at the Conference, the student and the high school POC are promptly notified by text and email. Students not selected are automatically considered as alternates. We often have cancelations so alternates are encouraged to stay positive about their chances to attend.



Once the students are selected, they will return to RMYLF.org to complete the Conference Registration Form. This form includes a Medical Release which must be signed (electronic) by the parent/guardian. This is also an opportune time to review the Student Handbook, available for download at RMYLF.org. Prior to the Conference, any updates and final instructions will be emailed to students.

We use **email** extensively to keep our POCs, parents, and students informed. We also use text messaging for those who register for our texting service, REMIND. We encourage all students and parents to provide an email address to which they have access whether or not they are in school.

### **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 several times each year). In particular, pay attention to the pages “What to Bring” and “What Not to Bring.”

We have a strict policy regarding all Electronic Communication Devices (ECDs). ECDs are not permitted for the duration of the Conference in order to promote learning objectives. ECDs include but are not limited to laptop computers, cell/smart phones, tablets, iPads, Smart watches, or similar devices. These devices will be surrendered at check-in and may not be used at any time during the conference.

### **More Information for the Parents**

Parents may learn more about the venue and environment of the 2024 Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference by visiting RMYLF.org, reviewing the Student Handbook, and by clicking on the CSU-Pueblo website—or email us at: RMYLF1981@gmail.com.

### **Support Our Program**

*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. The only costs for students 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 \$600 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 - one student scholarship (\$100 – \$599)

The Silver level - two student scholarships (\$600 – \$1199)

The Gold level - three student scholarships (\$1,200 – \$1,799)

The Platinum level - more than three student scholarships (> \$1,800)

Thank you for your interest in our program. More information about the conference is on the second page. A pledge and confirmation form may be found on our website at: [www.rmlyf.org/donations](http://www.rmlyf.org/donations) or by contacting the Conference Director, Steve Shambach, at 719-481-4776 or shambachsm@msn.com

