

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 2021 conference was held at CSU-P, and will return there, June 12-16, 2023.



Conference capacity is ~100 students who come from over 40 Colorado 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 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.

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 (\$100 – \$599)
- The Silver level (\$600 – \$1199)
- The Gold level (\$1,200 – \$1,799)
- The Platinum level (> \$1,800)

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 the Conference Director, Steve Shambach, at 719-481-4776 or shambachsm@msn.com.



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?

March is crunch time! The school's RMYLF point of contact solicits interested students via the high school point of contact (HSPOC) in March of the conference year. The HSPOC 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 RMYLF.org again and fill out Conference Registration form. This form requires attention to detail and accurate completion by students. The 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, where students can study conference requirements. 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 are willing to register for our texting service, REMIND. 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 several times each year). 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. 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 2023 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.

