



# Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA) 2022 Mentor Application

**MENTOR APPLICATION DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT MIDNIGHT**

*Application responses will be provided by early January 2022.*

**Before applying** to become a mentor for FYLA, please read the following information below.

*Send completed applications to [Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com)*

*Thank you for taking the time to apply!*

## **Part 1: FYLA Information**

### **Mission:**

To inspire young leaders through building healthy relationships, exploring leadership development, and actively engaging within their communities.

### **Background:**

The Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA) kicked off its first class in December 2007 in Orlando, Florida. What initiated as a professional development project under the direction of Florida's Department of Children and Families' Child Welfare Leadership Program and Connected by 25, grew into a statewide mentorship and leadership program for youth involved in the child welfare system.

### **Specifics:**

FYLA is for youth involved with Florida's child welfare system who meet the eligibility criteria. The FYLA group travels three to four times throughout the program year to engage in several educational and leadership activities, including touring the State Capitol, Supreme Court, and college campuses across Florida. Throughout the program year, we encourage that you and your mentor meet regularly in your local areas to focus on specific learning objectives, including networking, public speaking, resume-building, and interviewing skills as well as meeting with child welfare leadership in their local areas. Your mentor will assist you in achieving your individualized goals that you set at the beginning of the year. Throughout the program year you will have the opportunity to complete your student portfolio. Typically, each FYLA class concludes with a graduation ceremony during the annual Child Protection Summit.



## Part 2: Mentor Expectations

### **Mentor Eligibility:**

1. Currently (at the submission of application) employed with DCF, a Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency, or their subcontracted providers, and Guardian Ad Litem.
2. Applicants must have a minimum of child welfare experience for at least three years or who have at least two years of experience mentoring to youth.
3. Ability to demonstrate in the application strong capabilities as a leader.

*\* Mentors will be matched with mentees based on their skill set and qualities. The Office of Child Welfare (OCW) will do its best to find a mentee for each eligible mentor but will be unable to guarantee a match.*

The Department expects each mentor to be actively engaged in all activities. **This includes limiting time spent on cell phone(s) and other electronic devices.** If at all possible, *mentors should not miss more than one scheduled trip (even if they are virtual) and if unable to attend, please communicate, at least two weeks in advance.*

### **Group Trips:**

The following dates re mandatory trips for the class of 2022 FYLA. Mentors must make a commitment to attend all the trips and encourage their mentee to attend all the trips as well.

1st Trip (February)	Camping Trip Ocala National Park – February 24-27, 2022
2nd Trip (April)	College Tour Tallahassee- April 21-24, 2022
3rd Trip (June/July)	College Tours, leadership activity, service project – Miami- July 7-10, 2022
Graduation Trip (August/Sept.)	Child Protection Summit Graduation- Orlando- TBD

### **Off-Months:**

Mentors and mentees will be responsible for meeting face-to-face during the off months when we're not meeting for the group trips. You and your mentor will be responsible for completing the activities for that particular off-month theme. The themes of the off months will be discussed as a group at the kickoff trip.



## **Part 3: Mentor Contract**

By choosing to participate in the Florida Youth Leadership Academy, I agree to the following:

### **Expectations:**

- Be flexible and provide the necessary support and advice to help your mentee succeed.
- Make a commitment to participate as a mentor for a minimum of 9 months with your mentee.
- Keep any information that your mentee tells you confidential unless he/she may cause harm to him/herself or others or if others are causing harm to him/her.
- Follow all rules and guidelines as outlined by the program coordinators, mentor training, program procedures, and this contract.

### **Participation:**

- Attend the mentor training/orientation **Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**.
- Participate in the mandatory monthly virtual mentor calls, which will last approximately 30 minutes. Calls are designed to discuss the upcoming group trip as well as share any concerns, questions, or comments that you may have.

### **Contact:**

- Meet with your mentee face-to-face for a minimum of four hours per month during the off-months. Off-month themes will be discussed during the kickoff trip.
- Make at least weekly contact with your mentee, as appropriate.

### **Communication:**

- Notify your mentee's caregiver, school, case manager, and any other pertinent contacts of all scheduled trips at least 2 weeks in advance, and in regard to your face-to-face visits.
- Be present for all scheduled trips. If for whatever reason you and your mentee will be late, please contact the program coordinators as soon as possible.
- Contact your mentee at least 2 weeks in advance if you know you will not be able to make a trip.
- Inform the program coordinators of any difficulties or areas of concern that may arise with your mentee.
- Notify the program coordinators if you have any changes in address, phone number, or employment status.

**Matching process:** The matching process is one of the most important components of the mentor and mentee relationship. We are committed to ensuring that the process is done carefully and that all matches are thoughtful and are in the best interest of the overall experience for the mentor and the mentee. Your feedback below provides the opportunity to make sure that we are able to match you with the best fitting mentee. Our goal is that you and your mentee are able to establish trusting relationships that will extend beyond the FYLA experience. We seek to match mentees and mentors that have shared interests and that geographically are close enough, so they are able to develop a positive relationship.



## Part 4: Application

### General Information:

<b>First and Last Name:</b>	
<b>City and County of Residence:</b>	
<b>Gender:</b>	
<b>Employer:</b>	
<b>Length of Child Welfare Experience:</b>	
<b>Supervisor's Name:</b>	
<b>Work Address:</b>	
<b>Work Phone:</b>	
<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
<b>Work Email:</b>	
<b>Emergency Contact Name and Relationship:</b>	
<b>Emergency Contact Number:</b>	

### Mentor Questions:

1. Describe your experience with mentoring at risk youth?

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2. Why do you want to be a 2022 FYLA mentor?

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3. What is your definition of leadership And how will you encourage and foster leadership in your mentee?

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4. How would describe yourself (personal characteristics, values, or qualities)? Also, what are your hobbies or interests (for example, swimming, certain sports, reading, hiking, animals, gardening, music, cooking, library, movies, shopping, etc.)?

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5. What areas do you finding challenging in working with the youth with complex dynamics?

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6. Please list your ideal mentee match (e.g. gender, age, qualities, interests, personality type, etc.):

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7. What Circuit(s) would you be available to be a mentor?

\_\_\_\_\_ *\*Please consider the **travel time** you will incur depending on your circuit availability and know that there is the possibility that your mentee may move circuits. More information about this will occur at orientation.*



8. Do you require any special accommodations to participate with FYLA?

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9. Do you have any dietary restrictions?

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10. Please list any allergies you have, and the type of reaction associated with each allergy (food, insects, seasonal, medication):

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**I agree to follow all the above stipulations of this program as well as any other conditions as instructed by the program coordinators at this time or in the future. I also attest that the above information is accurate and truthful.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



## **Two References**

### **Current Supervisor Reference:**

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Name

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Phone

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Email

### **Character Reference:**

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Name

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Relation

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Phone

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Email



## Background Verification Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency

The individual above is applying and, if chosen, agreeing to be a mentor with the Department of Children and Families' Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA).

We are asking for verification that the above-named individual has been background screened in accordance with Level II Chapter 435, F.S.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, the above-named individual has been background screened in accordance with Level II Chapter 435, F.S. and certify that there was no disqualifying information found.

\_\_\_\_ No, the above-named individual has NOT been background screened in accordance with Level II Chapter 435, F.S.

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Supervisor Name

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Agency Head/Designee Name

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Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Head/Designee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

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Date

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Date