YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS • ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Helping young people find their voice, build confidence, and learn to lead.

What is the Youth Leadership Program?

The Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program (YLP) helps young people develop communication and leadership skills through hands-on practice. Participants give speeches, listen actively, evaluate one another, and learn to run meetings.

Who can participate?

YLP serves young people under age 18 through schools, youth organizations, and community groups. A typical group includes 15–20 participants; the program allows up to 25 when needed.

How does the program work?

The traditional program has eight sessions, usually one to two hours each, held during school, after school, or on weekends. Meetings resemble Toastmasters club meetings, with participants taking increasingly active roles. The final session showcases their progress.

What will young people learn?

Participants practice speaking with confidence, organizing ideas, listening thoughtfully, offering constructive feedback, using effective gestures and vocabulary, and leading meetings and group discussions.

What happens during the eight (or ten) sessions?

Sessions introduce chairmanship, public speaking, impromptu speaking, speech organization, listening, gestures, and vocal variety. The last session is a special presentation where participants demonstrate what they have learned.

Does the program replace school classes?

No. YLP complements school and community programs by offering practical communication and leadership experience. Participants learn by doing, rather than through lectures alone.

Is there a fee for young people?

The program is intended to be offered without a participation fee. The sponsoring Toastmasters organization provides program materials; any local logistical expenses should be discussed in advance.



WHY IT MATTERS

The goal is not to recognize only those who are already confident leaders. It is to give every participant a chance to discover and strengthen their own abilities.

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Who can serve as a YLP Coordinator?

Toastmasters who enjoy mentoring young people and are willing to guide a structured program are encouraged to volunteer. You do not need to be a teacher or an expert speaker; patience, preparation, and encouragement matter.

What does the Coordinator do?

The Coordinator works with the host organization, prepares and attends sessions, introduces activities, supports student meeting roles, and provides constructive feedback. The Coordinator is a facilitator and mentor—not a traditional classroom instructor.

Do I need to find my own group?

No. You may approach a school, youth group, or community organization yourself. District 217 may also have host organizations that have already expressed interest and need Toastmasters volunteers. The District YLP Coordinator can help connect you.

Will I receive orientation and materials?

Yes. District 217 provides an orientation and resource materials to help Coordinators prepare. Toastmasters International materials include the Coordinator's Guide and Participant Workbooks.

Can I work with another Toastmaster?

Yes. An assistant can help facilitate meetings, support participants, and provide coverage when needed. Working as a team can make the experience easier and more rewarding.

What is the time commitment?

Plan for eight to ten sessions of roughly one to two hours each, plus preparation and coordination with the host organization. The schedule is arranged locally.

Does YLP count toward Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)?

Coordinating a Youth Leadership Program may satisfy a qualifying leadership-project requirement for the DTM award, subject to the applicable Toastmasters requirements.

Are there requirements for working with minors?

Coordinators must follow applicable laws and the host organization's policies for volunteers working with young people. Confirm any screening, supervision, or safeguarding requirements before sessions begin.

READY TO GET INVOLVED?



Contact the District 217 Youth Leadership Program Coordinator for available host organizations, orientation, materials, and next steps. You can also complete the volunteer interest form on the D217 Youth Leadership webpage: **https://forms.gle/JA8kZL6LHeQprjBa7**

Help the next generation find its voice.