

Summer Youth Leadership Institute

Application

Apply to be a Youth Leader for
2024-2025!

Requirements:

In order to participate in SYLI, youth must:

- Have previously attended a Building Bridges Camp
- Currently be in High School between 2024-2025
- Complete the Application and participate in the Interview process
- Attend Retreat & all weekly meetings
- Past YLs must re-apply to continue as a Youth Leader

Mandatory Retreat:

SYLI Retreat is June 21st-23rd, 2024 at Pilgrim Pines Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains

Mandatory Weekly Sessions:

*The timing for weekly meetings is 2:00pm-6:00pm

- Wednesday, June 26, 2024
- Wednesday, July 10, 2024
- Wednesday, July 17, 2024
- Wednesday, July 24, 2023
- Wednesday, July 31, 2023

*All sessions held at CCEJ Office 3605 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 100, Long Beach, CA 90807

SYLI Graduation:

Thursday August 1, 2024 (5:00pm-7:00pm)



SYLI Application Due
Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Application link:
<https://forms.gle/XA4M1sY6C9nbRDf68>

For more info contact
Sarah Rana srana@cacej.org

Summer Youth Leadership Institute (SYLI)

Important Dates & Application Process

Important SYLI Dates:

- SYLI Retreat is June 21, 22, & 23, 2024 at Pilgrim Pines Camp in Yucaipa, CA
- All Weekly Meetings are from 2:00pm-6:00pm and take place at the CCEJ Office (3605 Long Beach Blvd, Suite 100):
 - Wednesday, June 26, 2024
 - Wednesday, July 10, 2024
 - Wednesday, July 17, 2024
 - Wednesday, July 24, 2024
 - Wednesday, July 31, 2024
- SYLI Graduation is on Thursday, August 1, 2024 5-7pm

APPLICATION PROCESS

The SYLI Application Process consists of 3 steps: (1) **Application**, (2) **Reference Form**, and (3) **Group Interview**. Please read and follow the steps below to complete your application.

Step 1: Application

The application form is to be filled out by the student and their parent/guardian. If the student is under 18, their parent/guardian **MUST** sign all documents, including the medical form and liability form. This electronic application is due to CCEJ by Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 5pm.

Application link: <https://forms.gle/yTKYne719q69c2ji6>

Step 2: Reference Form & Applicant Evaluation Form

The online reference form is to be filled out by a teacher, school staff, and/or mentor of your choice. Your Building Bridges Camp School Recruiter may also be a good option. This electronic form is due to CCEJ by Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 5pm.

Reference Form link: <https://forms.gle/J994stEGQLoIGiz19>

Step 3: Group Interviews

All applicants are required to participate in ONE group interview. The group interview will be an interactive experience for applicants to demonstrate how they communicate and work with others. The group interview is an opportunity for applicants to show CCEJ Staff who they really are, beyond the application and reference form. Applicants will attend ONE of the interview options below:

SYLI Group Interview
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
OR
Thursday, May 30, 2024
4:00pm-5:30pm
Zoom interview

If you are unable to attend a group interview due to prior commitments, please email Sarah Rana at srana@cacej.org or call 918-809-4290.

Application Notification:

Following the group interviews and the final selection process, applicants will be informed on their application status by Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

Information for Parents/Guardians

Who is CCEJ?

For 60 years, the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) has been building a world where people live free of oppression and thrive. Our mission is to educate and empower youth and adults to lead change for equity and justice in our communities. CCEJ breaks down the distance between people by promoting understanding and respect among all genders, races, religions, and cultures through education, conflict resolution, and advocacy.

Why should my youth participate in the Summer Youth Leadership Institute? ?

Your child will have an unforgettable learning experience. They will make new friends while developing their leadership and communication skills. They will learn about mutual respect for others and how to take personal responsibility for their own actions and how their behavior influences their own life, their school, and the world they live in. This program will prepare them to return to Building Bridges Camp this next school year as a peer Youth Leader.

How many people will be attending the SYLI Retreat?

There will be approximately 40 people, which includes up to 25 student participants, and 15 Adult Staff.

Housing and Meals for SYLI Retreat

This year's *Summer Youth Leadership Institute (SYLI) Retreat* will be held at Pilgrim Pines in Yucaipa, California. Lodging is provided in 12 person cabins equipped with individual beds, storage, and restrooms with showers. Each cabin is supervised by two staff persons. Housing accommodations can be made for participants with accessibility needs. Meals are served three times a day and water and snacks are provided.

Pilgrim Pines
39570 Glen Rd, Yucaipa, CA 92399
[\(909\) 797-182](tel:(909)797-182)

Who is the Staff at the SYLI Retreat?

In addition to CCEJ staff members who are in attendance throughout the entire program, volunteer staff also participate at *SYLI*:

- Adult Staff are from diverse professional backgrounds and may include administrators, teachers, classified school employees, social workers, and community leaders.
- Youth Mentors (ages 18–24 years old) have previously attended the program as participants and assist the adult staff as co-facilitators.
- Licensed medical staff is on site and physicians at a nearby hospital handle medical emergencies.
- All of the volunteers have completed an extensive training program and have had a full background clearance.

Transportation

For the SYLI Retreat, CCEJ will provide transportation from both the CCEJ office to and from Pilgrim Pines Campsite.

For the SYLI Weekly Sessions, CCEJ will provide transportation for YLITs who are coming from outside of Long Beach. In addition, bus passes can be provided upon request.

Cancellations

If for some reason your student cannot attend SYLI, please immediately notify CCEJ staff.

Behavior Guidelines and Program Rules

CCEJ reserves the right to search belongings and rooms at any time. Possession of these items can result in immediate dismissal from the program. The camp rules also ban sexual activity, harming other people or their belongings, being out of rooms after curfew and missing meals or required sessions. Violating the program rules may result in your child being sent home. Parents/Guardians will be required to pick up or arrange for transportation for any child dismissed from the program. *Please also refer to the Behavior Guidelines and Rules Agreement.*

For more information regarding the *Summer Youth Leadership Institute* program, contact Sarah Rana, Program Coordinator of Residential Leadership at the CCEJ office at 918-809-4290 or srana@cacej.org

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Sarah Rana, CCEJ Staff 918.809.4290 Serena Padilla, CCEJ Staff 310.699.6684
California Conference for Equality and Justice 562.435.8184 (M- F / 9am–5pm)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Do I need to attend all sessions?
 - Yes. Every session covers new materials and provides opportunities to practice skills essential to becoming a Youth Leader at camp. Missing one session can result in a student not completing the program and not becoming a Youth Leader. If emergency situations (unplanned absences) occur, you need to contact CCEJ staff as soon as possible to remain in the program.
- I was a Youth Leader last year. Do I need to apply to continue being a Youth Leader?
 - Yes. This training program will include new skills and activities for all participants. All future YLs must first go through this program, whether or not they've been a Youth Leader in the past.
- Where will the weekly meetings be held for the program?
 - All weekly sessions of the program will be held at CCEJ's office in Long Beach.
- *Please note that the overnight retreat will be held at Pilgrim Pines in Yucaipa, CA*
- What is the process for being selected into the Summer Youth Leadership Institute?
 - First look over all the dates and times for the required meetings. You must attend all sessions to successfully complete this program. If you can commit to the schedule, please fill out this application completely. The three short answer questions are very important to the selection process, so be honest and thorough. Turn in the completed application to CCEJ by day, Wednesday May 22, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted. CCEJ staff will then review all applications and select the participants for the program. CCEJ staff will notify all applicants of next steps by Friday, May 24, 2024.
 - How can I get to the retreat/meetings?
 - Retreat: CCEJ will provide transportation to the SYLI Retreat in June, but youth will be responsible for getting to the bus pick-up location. The Bus pick-up location for the retreat will be communicated after the application and interview process.

Weekly Meetings: If you live in the Long Beach area and are unable to find transportation to the SYLI weekly meetings, please contact CCEJ Staff. Bus passes can be provided.

*CCEJ will provide transportation for YLITs who are coming from outside of Long Beach, but youth must meet at one specified pick-up location.

- What if I have summer school?
 - All SYLI sessions are held after 12pm, so most summer school students should be still able to attend. Contact CCEJ Staff immediately if you have summer school scheduling conflicts.
- What will I learn?
 - Participants will learn how to facilitate discussions, plan and run activities, manage conflict, lead large groups, and be more focused listeners. Participants will also learn more about issues of oppression, social justice, and how these topics are important to them and other young people.
- How can becoming a Youth Leader help me outside of camp?
 - Being a Youth Leader is a great way to practice leadership skills that can help you in school and in whatever career you choose. Being a social justice leader now can help you make a positive impact in your community, all while building your resume for work and college.

SYLI RETREAT PACKING LIST

*Parents/Guardians: Please keep this for your records.

MUST BRING

NOTE: All luggage(s) must be labeled with student's name, address, phone number & school name.

- Sleeping bag or sheets and blankets rolled up AND LABELED with your name
- Pillow
- Towel & washcloth
- Toiletries (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Comb, Brush, Hairdryers, etc.)
- Medicines in a clear plastic bag with your name and school written on it (*all medications must be given to the medical staff*)
- Menstruation products
- Bug spray
- Sunblock
- 2 pairs long pants
- 3 Shirts
- pajamas
- 3 pair underwear
- 4 pairs warm socks
- 1 comfortable closed toed shoes

- Warm Sweater/Sweatshirt
- *Flashlight*

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BRING:

- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Musical Instruments
- Notebook/Journal & pencil

DO NOT BRING:

- *Weapons
- *Drugs and/or alcohol
- *Vape Pens
- *Tobacco and/or cigarettes
- *Gambling materials
- *Gang-related clothing
- iPods/MP3 player, Video Game Equipment, etc.
- School-related clothing

**Possession of any and/or all of these items can result in your being immediately dismissed from the Building Bridges Program.*

Summer Youth Leadership Institute (SYLI)

Applicants: Share this page with the person who will complete your reference form!

Reference & Candidate Evaluation Form

What is CCEJ?

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CCEJ breaks down the distance between people by promoting understanding and respect among all genders, races, religions and cultures through education, conflict resolution and advocacy.

What is SYLI?

The Summer Youth Leadership Institute (SYLI) is an intensive program for high school youth that are alumni of CCEJ's Building Bridges Camps. This training is for students who are interested in becoming Youth Leader staff at Building Bridges Camps. SYLI begins with a 3-day overnight retreat and continues with 7 weekly sessions. This program focuses on developing facilitation skills, dialogue immersions, and deeper exploration of historical and contemporary forms of oppression and movements for justice.

Youth Leader Job Description:

Building Bridges Youth Leaders (YLS) are current high school students, ages 14 to 18, responsible for being lead facilitators in Cabin Meetings, and co-facilitating in Dialogue Groups and Affinity Groups at Building Bridges Camps. YLS sleep in cabins with camp participants and help role model the Building Bridges Camp process and using the Communication Guidelines. YLS are responsible for helping to mix students by making connections between different schools, racial groups, and gender identities.

How will SYLI benefit the youth and their community?

Youth who attend SYLI gain a deeper understanding of inequity and justice and return as leaders with a mission to create more inclusive spaces. They walk away equipped with knowledge and skills that will serve them in all aspects of their lives, including their schools. Many youth who have participated in SYLI have gone on to create clubs focused on inclusion and justice on their school campuses and participate in other movement work.

What is this form? Who can fill this out?

This Google Reference Form and Applicant Evaluation Form is an important part of the SYLI Applicant Process. This form provides CCEJ Staff a perspective on the applicant that their application cannot. School staff, Building Bridges Camp Recruiters, and mentors are highly encouraged to fill this form out. Family members and friends may NOT fill this form out. Please share the Google reference form link with your school recruiter. The reference Google form is due Wednesday May 22, 202 by 5pm.

Reference form link: <https://forms.gle/Uro6UTqrkbA1qQhV9>