



WYMAIN TEEN
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

PARTICIPANT **SELECTION GUIDE** 2014-2015



WHAT IS THE WYMAN TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?



The Wyman Teen Leadership Program engages high potential teens who could not otherwise afford this year-round program for six years. The program is guided by a progressive leadership theme. Teens gain the experiences, skills and values needed as successful college-bound students, family members, employees and citizens.

*While financial need is a strong influence in our decision making, other factors play an important role as well. Diversity, family, school & community involvement are all valued in the Wyman community.

OUR MISSION

To serve as a significant resource to develop positive assets in today's youth, enabling them to achieve their full potential and to contribute to the improvement of their community.

We will do this through:

SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Provide a safe and nurturing residential summer experience, challenging our youth with programs where they will learn life skills, develop greater self-awareness and improve self-confidence.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Under the guidance and support of caring adults, encourage our youth to become involved in their communities by giving back in meaningful ways through leadership roles.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

We encourage our young people to graduate high school and pursue post-secondary education while examining a variety of positive options and interests. We provide the support and resources for teens to enter and graduate from whichever post-secondary option they chose.

WYMAN TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Wyman's Teen Leadership Program (TLP) uses a progressive **year-round approach** over six years to support healthy teen development, leadership skills, and college and post-secondary access and persistence. The program begins the summer before the teens' ninth grade year and offers consistent support and opportunities through their second year of post-secondary education. Each of the six summers include a significant developmental experience.

Six summer experiences:



YEAR 1

Teens participate in a 21 day summer experience based at the Wyman campus and a 4 day wilderness travel experience.



YEAR 2

Teens participate in a 21 day summer experience based at the Wyman campus which includes a 9 day trip focusing on outdoor adventure, civil rights and community service.



YEAR 3

A 9 day multi-state college tour experience prepares teens for the pursuit of higher education.



YEAR 4

A 7 day college and community immersion experience prepares our teens for life after high school.



YEAR 5 & 6

Our 3 day Summer Bridge program exposes teens to the many facets of the college and post-secondary experience.

Each year emphasizes a different leadership theme & builds upon previous experiences.

Participants will engage in many school year events, including: college fairs, community service activities, leadership conferences, college tours, and a wide variety of seminars.

TLP Year– Round Expectations:

- 40 hours of community service
- Minimum of 2.5 GPA
- Be active in community or school groups & organizations
- Make good choices & represent yourself and the TLP well
- Keep in touch with the TLP

100% of TLP teens graduated from high school on time

compared to **79%** of teens from TLP Partner Schools

*Average graduation rate for Lift for Life Academy, Confluence Academies Northwest, Parkway, Hazelwood, Normandy, Fox, Ferguson-Florissant, Maplewood/Richmond Heights, Ritenour, University City, & Saint Louis Public School Districts. (Source: MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2013 statistics)

the TLP DIFFERENCE

average GPA of 2014 TLP graduates **3.19**

“Wyman has definitely taught me to put my best foot forward in all that I do. I have learned that as long as I speak my dreams and aspirations into existence, there is no way that I can be stopped!”

— Serena, TLP graduate

95%
of TLP teens enrolled in college upon high school graduation

only **81%**
of high income youth go on to college

only **51%**
of low income youth go on to college

*According to the 2012 National Center for Education Statistics



WHAT IS A

Nominating Partners are schools or agencies that have entered into an agreement with the Wyman Teen Leadership Program to create meaningful opportunities for TLP participants. Nominating Partners serve primarily to manage an equitable nomination process. Each school or agency will appoint a “**Nominations Coordinator**” to oversee and ensure an equitable process for nominating appropriate students. This involves collecting forms and communicating with parents. Nominating Partners accept responsibility for making efforts to stay connected with each participant as long as they are in the program and to create service and leadership opportunities for students. The number of nominating partners each year is limited. TLP strives to create core groups of participants at each school who can work together to support one another and impact their community positively.

NOMINATING PARTNER?

importance

More so than any other factor, selection of the right participants is **essential** to achieving successful outcomes for our teens. This guide includes information about the Wyman Teen Leadership Program student selection process. Being an informed Nominating Partner is **critical** to ensure the best fit between teens and the TLP.

You play a vital role!

benefits for you

Partnering with the Wyman Teen Leadership Program not only benefits youth accepted into the program, but it also benefits the school or agency and the surrounding community as a whole.

Partnership with the Wyman TLP allows you to:

- Strengthen school culture by recognizing young people who are preparing for their futures
- Create an incentive for students to perform at their highest level
- Draw support for building this group from Wyman, an organization with a proven track record in youth development

WHO IS AN APPROPRIATE NOMINEE?

The Wyman Teen Leadership Program is **not** designed to address the needs of under-performing students or those not yet ready for the long-term commitment required. It **is** designed to keep promising students with risk factors present in their lives on track and to help them achieve their potential as students, leaders and contributors to the community. The selection process is rigorous. Before nominating any young person, consider their readiness for the Wyman TLP. *Youth who do not meet the minimum qualifying criteria will not be considered.* *Only youth affiliated with a Nominating Partner school or agency are eligible for nomination. There is no guarantee that any student from a particular entity will be accepted. Each student's application is compared with the entire pool of applicants.

The Wyman TLP seeks to provide support for youth growing up in environments that present risks to their successful completion of school and their ability to prepare for college and meaningful employment. Experiences are intended for students who could not otherwise afford them. This does not infer that nominees must be living in poverty or qualify for government assistance. Eligibility is based on **family income not to exceed approximately \$10,000 per family member in the household.** (One suggestion is to look at teens who receive free or reduced lunches at your school. They would generally fall into our income guidelines.)



SUCCESSFUL NOMINEES:

- Must have a minimum of 2.5 GPA to be considered
- Currently in the 8th grade—NO EXCEPTIONS
- Positive attitude
- Involvement in school & community
- Leadership potential
- Respectful of peers & adults

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON:

- Accepting responsibility for personal choices
- Adjusting to being outdoors
- Making new friends
- Listening and following directions
- Adjusting to being away from home for summer experiences
- Managing conflicts appropriately
- Working well in a group

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

WHO DOES WHAT IN THE TLP SELECTION PROCESS?

TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- Introduces the selection process to the Nominating Partners
- Provides the Nomination Packet
- Conducts a Parent/Student Information Session at the Nominating Partner's campus
- Reviews applications and identifies candidates to be interviewed
- Ensures an objective interview process
- Notifies the nominating partner of each candidate's status: accepted, waitlist or not accepted
- Sends letter of congratulations to students who are selected
- Sends letter of recognition to students who are not selected
- Manages acceptance and waiting lists

STUDENTS

- Complete application & return it on time
- Be on time for interview
- Attend informational meeting
- If selected, attend the Orientation Meeting in the spring

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Support teen's application & involvement with the TLP
 - Attend a mandatory Orientation Meeting in the spring
- *Parental support is an important part of success in the TLP. When families do not co-invest in the experience, it is difficult for participants to fully embrace the opportunity.



YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT!

The Wyman TLP can be a life-changing experience. To reap the benefits, however, participants need to invest personally in the TLP and stick with it over time. When a student is accepted and then drops out of the program after a short time, their place cannot be filled. The TLP is a program based on progression. Nominating a student who is not likely to continue with the program may prevent a more suitable student from the experience of a lifetime. The right students are those who are most likely to make the TLP a priority, to give their best efforts, and to add as much to the TLP as they benefit from it.

2014 – 2015 TLP NOMINATION TIMELINE

● August 25—Nomination Paperwork Sent to Partners

Nomination paperwork will be mailed and/or emailed to all Nominating Partners.

● September—Nominating Partners Select Nominees

Nominating Partners identify and nominate TLP candidates.

● September 8-October 17—Parent Information Sessions

TLP information sessions are scheduled and delivered at Partner Schools for nominees and their parents. At this time, nominees who want to pursue a position in the TLP are given an application to complete.

● October 24—Nominations Coordinator Collects Applications

The Nominations Coordinator at each Partner School collects completed TLP applications from the students and checks for completion.

● October 31—Applications Due Back to the TLP Office

The Nominations Coordinator from each Partner School will submit all completed applications to the TLP office by this date.

● November 21—TLP Interview Invitations Made

TLP staff will have reviewed all applications and decided who to invite for an interview and who to decline.

● December 14, January 11 & 18—TLP Interview Dates

Nominees will participate in interviews on one of these dates at various locations in the Saint Louis area.

● January 30—Final Decisions Made

Final decisions will be made on who to invite to the TLP, who to place on the waitlist and who to decline. Accepted teens will be mailed a registration packet.

● February 20—Acceptance Deadline

Students accept the invitation by returning their completed registration packet by this date.

● February 27—Nominating Partners Notified of Acceptance

Nominating Partners will be notified on who has been accepted into the TLP and who has been declined.



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To download nominating materials visit:
www.wymancenter.org/tlp/partner-resources