



**Applications DUE **Sunday, December 1st** at midnight!**

**Introducing the 2025 Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA):**

FYLA's mission is to inspire young leaders through building healthy relationships, exploring leadership development, and actively engaging them within their communities.

*Apply now if you are interested in working with a mentee to develop their leadership capabilities relating to communication, personal development, public speaking, and interviewing while also building connections with their peers and other adults.*

Please send your completed application in an email to **Cal Walton** at:  
[Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com)

**Application responses will be provided by early January 2025.  
Thank you for taking the time to apply!**



# Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA)

## 2025 Mentor Application

**MENTOR APPLICATION DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Application responses will be provided by early January 2025.

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

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

### **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, or Guardian ad Litem.
2. Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years of child welfare experience or at least two years of experience mentoring youth.
3. Applicants must have the ability to demonstrate strong capabilities as a leader.

*\*Mentors will be matched with mentees based on their skillsets and qualities. The Office of Child and Family Wellbeing (OCFW) will do its best to find a mentee for each eligible mentor but is unable to guarantee a match.*

The Department expects each mentor to be actively engaged in all activities. This includes limiting time spent on your cell phone. Mentors should not miss a trip unless due to exigent circumstances. If you are unable to attend, please communicate at least two weeks in advance and coordinate transportation arrangements for your mentee.

### **Group Trips:**

The following dates are mandatory trips for the FYLA Class of 2025. Mentors must commit to attending all the trips and encourage their mentees to attend all of the trips as well:

- 1<sup>st</sup> trip – Camping Trip, Ocala National Park – February 20-23, 2025
- 2<sup>nd</sup> trip – College Tour, Tallahassee – April 24-27, 2025
- 3<sup>rd</sup> trip – College Tours, Leadership Activity, Service Project, Miami/Ft. Lauderdale – July 10-13, 2025
- 4<sup>th</sup> trip – Child and Family Wellbeing Summit, FYLA Graduation, Orlando – TBD, 2025

***Please make arrangements to attend as all trips are mandatory unless approved by the FYLA coordinator.***

### **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:**

1. Be present.
2. Be Flexible and provide the necessary support and advice to help your mentee succeed.
3. Commitment to participate as a mentor for a minimum of 9 months.
4. Keep any information that your mentee tells you confidential unless they may cause harm to themselves or others or if others are causing harm to them.
5. Follow all rules and guidelines as outlined by the program coordinators, mentor training, program procedures, and this contract.

### **Participation:**

1. Attend the mentor training/orientation on **Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**.
2. 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.

### **Communication:**

1. Notify your mentee's caregiver, school, case manager, and any other pertinent contacts of all scheduled trips and face-to-face visits at least 2 weeks in advance.
2. Be present for all scheduled trips. If you and your mentee will be late, please contact the program coordinators as soon as possible.
3. Contact your mentee at least 2 weeks in advance if you know you will not be able to make a trip.
4. Inform the program coordinators of any difficulties or areas of concern that may arise with your mentee.
5. 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 in the best interest of the overall experience for the mentor and the mentee. Your feedback below provides us the opportunity to make sure that we can match you with the best-fitting mentee. Our goal is that you and your mentee can 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 that they can 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>T-Shirt Size: (ladies cut size )</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 2025 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 you describe yourself (personal characteristics, values, or qualities)? Also, what are your hobbies or interests (i.e., swimming, certain sports, reading, hiking, animals, gardening, music, cooking, library, movies, shopping, etc.)?

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

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6. Please list your ideal mentee match (i.e., 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 be available 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, medications):

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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.**

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*Name*

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*Signature*

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*Date*

## **Part 5: References:**

### **Direct Supervisory Approval:**

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*Name*

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*Phone*

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*Email*

Approved? \_\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No

### **Agency Leadership Approval:**

*(Above your direct supervisor)*

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*Name*

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*Phone*

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*Email*

Approved? \_\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No





## **Part 6: Background Verification Form**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Agency*

The individual above is applying and, if chosen, agrees 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 by Level II Chapter 435, F.S.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Head/Designee Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date