

Youth LEAD NC

Board of Directors

Application

**A warm welcome from the Board of Directors at Youth LEAD NC!**

Hello,

Welcome! You are receiving this application to join the Board of Directors at Youth LEAD NC because you have expressed interest in the position, been recommended by a current member, or been identified as someone who we want to pursue as a potential director on our board.

Youth LEAD NC is a youth-led organization that was founded by a passionate group of advocates. We hope that you take this opportunity to learn more about our mission and vision to build the next generation of leaders in the Disability Rights Movement.

We are actively seeking potential board members with diverse backgrounds and unique skill sets who are looking to leave their mark on a young nonprofit. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and approved by the members of the organization in accordance with Youth LEAD NC’s bylaws.

If you have any questions or need accommodations to complete this application, please email us at Kay@youthleadnc.org.

We hope you consider applying to join our Board of Directors. Thank you for your time and interest in a board position at Youth LEAD NC!

Sincerely,

Youth LEAD NC’s Board of Directors

**About Youth LEAD NC**

**Mission:**

Youth LEAD NC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, equips individuals with disabilities, ages 30 and younger, with peer support and essential skills to cultivate the next generation of disability rights leaders and to foster their development as independent, productive members of society.

**Vision:**

Youth LEAD NC envisions a society in which young individuals with disabilities are empowered to take on leadership roles within their communities and successfully achieve their desired post-secondary outcomes in education, employment, and independent living.

**History and Current Activities:**

As youth with disabilities transition to independence, they need a supportive environment to experience independence firsthand and develop relationships with peer mentors. Youth LEAD NC was founded to give youth, 30 years old and younger, the supportive environment that they need to become productive members of society. Youth LEAD NC defines youth as 30 and younger because we have seen that young people with disabilities may transition to adulthood and independence later in life than their peers without disabilities.

Our first conversation about the unmet needs of youth with disabilities in North Carolina took place in July 2018. In March 2019, Youth LEAD NC was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the state of North Carolina. The five members of Youth LEAD NC’s founding Board of Directors filed for 501(c)(3) status for the organization in July 2019. A month later, Youth LEAD NC was granted its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the IRS.

Youth LEAD NC is the designated organization to host North Carolina’s Youth Leadership Forum (NCYLF). Delegates come from all across North Carolina to learn about the Disability Rights Movement, advocacy, leadership, and goal setting. Youth LEAD NC hosted NCYLF virtually from 2020 to 2022. Since 2023, NCYLF has been hosted at North Carolina State University. In 2024, Youth LEAD NC hosted its first in-person 5 day NCYLF at NC State University with 20 delegates from across the state.

Youth with disabilities often need additional support to develop the skills that they learn at immersive programs, such as NCYLF. Youth LEAD NC offers a monthly virtual program, LEADing On Series, to continue the work started at NCYLF and cover topics, such as postsecondary education opportunities, vocational rehabilitation resources, housing rights, and self-care. This program mentors young people with disabilities in North Carolina and equips them with the skills needed for them to thrive in the lifestyle of their choosing.

Do you want to join us as we create new leaders to continue the work of the Disability Rights Movement?

**Requirements for the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall direction and policy of Youth LEAD NC. It also recruits, hires, and evaluates the performance of employees. Youth LEAD NC’s board must have between five and 15 members to be in compliance with its bylaws. Board members are elected for 2-year terms and are eligible for re-election for two consecutive terms. **One-third** **of voting board members must be youth with disabilities, ages 18-30, in accordance with Youth LEAD NC’s bylaws.**

**Priorities for Selecting Board Members:**

* Commitment to the mission and purpose of Youth LEAD NC.
* Be able to contribute time to help fulfill the goals and purpose of Youth LEAD NC.
* One or more of the following:
	1. Be a youth (18-30 years old) with a disability
	2. An individual who identifies and has experience with the disability community.
	3. An individual who identifies with a marginalized community (examples include, but not limited to: BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, non-binary, etc.)
	4. An individual with a skill that is beneficial to Youth LEAD NC, such as financial management or prior board leadership experience.

**Board Roles:**

Specific powers of the Board of Directors include but are not limited to:

* Defining the mission, goals, and objectives of Youth LEAD NC, and assigning priorities among the goals and objectives when needed.
* Selecting Youth LEAD NC’s employees and periodically reviewing their performance.
* Reviewing, updating, and enforcing Youth LEAD NC’s bylaws.
* Approving major personnel policies.
* Reviewing the organization’s financial statements and approving its budget.
* Raising financial resources for Youth LEAD NC and establishing general fundraising policies.
* Ensuring quality of programs and services at Youth LEAD NC.

**Time Commitment and Board Member Expectations:**

The board has monthly conference calls to discuss the current activities of Youth LEAD NC. Those on the board who cannot attend our in-person meetings have the option of participating by phone or video conference. Other board expectations include:

* Attend 75 percent of board meetings and conference calls.
* Be prepared by reviewing materials prior to board and committee meetings.
* Respond to communications in a timely manner.
* Promote and attend special events and fundraisers as needed.
* Contribute financially to Youth LEAD NC on an annual basis.
* Advocate on behalf of Youth LEAD NC and its mission in the community.
* Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight.
* Recruit potential board members who can make significant contributions to the organization.
* Ensure legal and ethical integrity.
* Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.
* Advocate for disability rights and the Independent Living Movement.

**Why Serve?**

* Make your mark on a growing nonprofit organization.
* Create opportunities for future youth to become leaders.
* Develop your personal leadership skills.
* Meet others with similar passions.

If this position sounds like you, we urge you to apply to join Youth LEAD NC’s Board of Directors!

**Application for Youth LEAD NC’s Board of Directors**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Youth (18-30 years old)  Non-Youth (30+)

Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please check the phone number at which you prefer to be contacted)

Youth LEAD NC’s bylaws require 51 percent of the board members to be youth with disabilities. Do you identify as a person with a disability? Yes No

What accommodations, if any, will you need to participate as a potential board member? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Occupation/School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed post-secondary education (education after high school)? If so, what is your educational background? Yes No

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Please give an estimate of how many **hours a month** you are willing and able to commit to Youth LEAD NC as a board member.

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**Please answer the following questions in 2-4 sentences.**

Why do you want to be on the Board of Directors at Youth LEAD NC? What will you bring to the board to make this growing nonprofit thrive?

Please list any board experience you may have. Please also describe any current or previous leadership roles and community activities that you have been engaged in.

Boards of nonprofit organizations play an essential role in fund development. Describe any fundraising experience that you have.

**Please mark any of the following skills or expertise that you have:**

 Youth Programming

 Accounting/Bookkeeping Experience

 Information Technology Skills

 Social Media Marketing Skills

 Financial Management Skills

 Legal Background

 Web Design

 Board Experience

 Grant Writing

 Event Planning/Planning NCYLF

**I accept the responsibilities and agree to the expectations of Youth LEAD NC’s board members. I also agree to serve the organization in good faith.**

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Signature Date

**Thank you for completing the application to join Youth LEAD NC’s Board of Directors! Please email your completed application to** **Kay@youthleadnc.org****.**