



2009-2010 ASPIRE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Asian Sisters Participating In Reaching Excellence

Program Background

The ASPIRE Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is a year-long leadership program specifically tailored to the cultural and developmental needs of Asian-American (AA) high school girls in the greater Boston area.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, ASPIRE will select outstanding YLP Scholars who will have an invaluable opportunity to gain and develop strong leadership skills through the following programming opportunities:

- 1) *Leadership Training* – Customized training to develop leadership in areas such as communication skills, organizational ability, strategic thinking, personal growth, and civic engagement
- 2) *Hands-on Leadership Experience* – Leadership experience through serving as an intern on a committee of ASPIRE’s Advisory Group (currently comprised of 20 adult volunteer women organizing ASPIRE programming). YLP Scholars will assist in developing and managing ASPIRE programs (e.g., newsletter, conference, leadership career panels, etc.). Each YLP Scholar will be given projects, goals and deadlines to meet and will put skills gleaned from leadership training into practice
- 3) *Mentorship* – Each YLP Scholar will be paired with multiple mentors to facilitate leadership and career path development. Mentors will come from ASPIRE (over 150 adult volunteers) and our collaborating partners, such as American Association of University Women, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Asian-American Journalists Association, The Commonwealth Institute, Asia Society, and Simmons Institute for Leadership & Change

Furthermore, YLP Scholars will serve as “ASPIRE Ambassadors” to promote and raise awareness of ASPIRE programs in their schools and communities. Through leadership training, serving as an Advisory Group intern, and the mentorship of AA women, ASPIRE will help YLP Scholars build a toolbox of leadership skills and experiences to ultimately help in the college application process while building a solid foundation for future career development. YLP Scholars will be required to attend all leadership training programs (minimum of six during the school year), and commit a minimum of 5-10 hours/month to YLP activities.

All expenses (e.g., travel, meals, etc.) incurred during ASPIRE’s Youth Leadership Program will be covered by ASPIRE.

Eligibility

- High school **juniors and seniors** attending a Boston/Greater Boston area high school (who expect to graduate in 2010 or 2011)
- Applicants must be Asian/Asian-American and female
- Must demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and/or leadership potential
- Preference will be given to students from underserved backgrounds

Application Guidelines

All applications must be complete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. A complete application includes the following items:

- Completed application form
- Official high school transcript
- Resume (one page in length; additional pages will not be read)
- Short essay responses
- Final round interview (if you are selected for final round interview, you will be notified by phone/email)
Two letters of recommendation to be **submitted at the time of the interview** (may be completed by teacher, guidance counselor, community leader, etc.; recommendation letters may not be completed by peers or relatives)

Deadline

Completed applications must be sent in by **11:59PM Thursday, October 1, 2009** and emailed to: Director of ASPIRE Youth Leadership Program (ylp@girlsaspire.org) or mailed to: 7 Sargent St. Apt 3, Cambridge, MA 02140

All applicants will be notified when their application has been received. We will not return phone inquiries about receipt of application. Final round candidates will be contacted to arrange an interview, and YLP Scholars will be chosen by mid to late October.

Please direct any questions to the YLP Director at ylp@girlsaspire.org

ASPIRE Background

Asian Sisters Participating In Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE) is a career and leadership development program focused on the specific developmental needs of Asian-American (AA) girls. In 2001, ASPIRE was founded by a group of AA professional women with the mission of empowering AA high school and college girls with career development and leadership skills through shared experiences and mentoring.

For more information on ASPIRE, please visit our website at www.girlsaspire.org

YLP APPLICATION FORM

Please fill in the required information below. Responses may be typed or neatly handwritten.
Attach separate page for responses if necessary with the question clearly labeled.

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Best way to reach you: ___ cell phone ___ text message ___ email ___ home phone

Primary E-mail Address: _____

Secondary E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth (month/day/year): _____

Place of Birth: _____

Place(s) of Family Origin: _____

First Language: _____ Second Language: _____

High School (do not use abbreviations) _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Expected Graduation Date (month/year): _____

(Please note: Only high schools seniors and juniors are eligible for ASPIRE YLP)

YLP ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please answer the following short essay questions below. Limit responses to each essay question to 150 words, 12 point font. Attach your essays on a separate sheet of paper with the question number clearly labeled. Also, please include your name and high school on the header of each page.

- 1. In your own words, what does it mean to be an Asian-American girl?**
- 2. What are you most proud of?**
- 3. Describe a difficult situation you faced and your response to it. Also, what did you learn from the situation?**
- 4. What has been most challenging for you as an Asian-American, female youth?**
- 5. What are your goals for the future?**
- 6. How will ASPIRE's Youth Leadership Program help you achieve your future goals?**

YLP RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

To Applicant:

Please complete the top portion of the reference letters on the following pages and give the forms to your two recommenders. Be sure to give your recommender enough time to complete the signed and sealed recommendation letter and return it to you. Recommendations should be submitted at the interview. Recommendation letters sent separately will not be reviewed, and your application will be deemed incomplete

We strongly encourage you to give your recommenders information on ASPIRE and YLP (included on pages 1-3), along with the recommendation letter form.

YLP RECOMMENDATION FORM 1

To be completed by applicant:

Name _____
High school _____
Name of recommender _____
Recommender's relationship to you _____

To Recommender:

Thank you for taking the time to support this candidate's application for ASPIRE's Youth Leadership Program, a competitive year-long leadership program specifically tailored to the cultural and developmental needs of Asian-American high school girls in the Boston and Greater Boston area. Preference will be given to candidates from less privileged backgrounds.

Please respond to the following five questions about the candidate in the space below (you are welcome to attach additional pages if necessary). You are also welcome to write your own letter (however, please address questions listed below in your letter). Upon completion, please sign your recommendation and return it to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your **signature across the seal**. Applicants are required to submit completed application packets postmarked by October 1, 2009, with recommendation letters to be turned in at the interview. Recommendations sent separately will not be reviewed.

1. What is your relationship to the applicant, and how long have you known her?

2. What are the applicant's strongest qualities and/or characteristics? What makes her stand out from her peers?

3. How has the applicant exemplified leadership capability or potential in your interactions with her?

4. In your opinion, why is this applicant a strong candidate for ASPIRE's Youth Leadership Program?

5. Preference will be given to candidates from underserved backgrounds. Please explain any extenuating circumstances (that you know of) that this applicant faces.

I certify that the information contained in this recommendation is true.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

YLP RECOMMENDATION FORM 2

To be completed by applicant:

Name _____
High school _____
Name of recommender _____
Recommender's relationship to you _____

To Recommender:

Thank you for taking the time to support this candidate's application for ASPIRE's Youth Leadership Program, a competitive year-long leadership program specifically tailored to the cultural and developmental needs of Asian-American high school girls in the Boston/Greater Boston area. Preference will be given to candidates from less privileged backgrounds.

Please respond to the following five questions about the candidate in the space below (you are welcome to attach additional pages if necessary). You are also welcome to write your own letter (however, please address questions listed below in your letter). Upon completion, please sign your recommendation and return it to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your **signature across the seal**. Applicants are required to submit completed application packets postmarked by October 1, 2009, with recommendation letters to be turned in at the interview. Recommendations sent separately will not be reviewed.

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I certify that the information contained in this recommendation is true.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2009 YLP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed application form
- Official high school transcript
- Resume (must be one page)
- Short essays
- Two letters of recommendation (to be submitted at the interview)