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**2019 YMCA Swimming Emerging Leader Academy**

The YMCA Swimming Emerging Leader Academy (ELA) provides high school juniors who already demonstrate personal and team leadership qualities with an opportunity to further develop their skills alongside other emerging leaders from the YMCA Swimming community. This is a comprehensive 9-month learning and development opportunity that includes training, e-learning, assignments, projects and conference calls as well as an on-site swimposium experience. Participants must be thoughtful, prepared and proactive throughout the ELA experience.

Qualifications

* High school junior (11th grade)
* Grade Point Average 3.0 or higher
* Has participated in YMCA National Swimming Championship Meet
* Demonstrates positive leadership skills among peers
* Exemplifies the YMCA’s core values of Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility
* Prepared to contribute to discussions, express opinions and share ideas
* Prepared to complete all assignments, projects and conference calls
* Able to complete challenging two-hour practice sessions of 5,000-7,000 yards without sitting out. (see sample workout) Average freestyle intervals 1:15/100 yds. and faster

Complete applications include

* Application Form
* Leadership Essay
* Coach Recommendation
* Peer Recommendation
* School, or Civic Recommendation
* School/Academic Transcript

**Applications are due no later than July 1, 2019.**

Send complete applications in **one** .pdf or zip file

**Meredith Griffin**

**YMCA Swimming and Diving Sports Coordinator**

**mgriffin@myy.org**

\*If individuals writing recommendations prefer to send their letters directly, please have them use the same address and deadline above.

Fall Swimposium Details

* All applicants will be notified by July 30, 2019.
* Participants pay for their transportation to and from the swimposium. YMCA of the USA covers the cost of on-site transportation, lodging and food.
* Arrive by 3:00 pm on Thursday, October 10 and depart after 9:00 am on Sunday, October 13.
* **Airport**: Orlando International Airport (MCO). Coaches/facilitators will provide transportation to/from the airport to the hotel/pool on October 10 and October 13.
* **Pool**: YMCA of Central Florida Rosen Aquatic Center in Orlando.
* **Hotel**: TBA. There will be two (2) participants (of the same sex) per hotel room with two double beds in each room.
* All coaches/facilitators:
	+ Are current YMCA employees and have completed all pre-employment screening, background checks and trainings as required by their YMCAs.
	+ Are current members of USA Swimming and have passed the required USA Swimming background screening and completed the required Safe Sport trainings.
	+ Have current certifications in CPR, First Aid, Safety Training for Swim Coaches and Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving.
* Workshops include: Leadership Styles, Decision-Making, Communication, Inclusion, Leadership Behaviors & Challenges, College Search, and a Social Responsibility project.



**YMCA Swimming Emerging Leader Academy Application**

\*Send complete application as **one** .pdf or zip file. Recommendations may be sent separately.

**Deadline: July 1, 2019**

**Application Requirements**

* Completed Application Form
* School/Academic Transcript
* Personal Leadership Statement
* Coach Recommendation Letter
* Peer Recommendation Letter
* Church, Civic or School Recommendation Letter

**APPLICATION**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME |       | E-MAIL |       |
| ADDRESS |       | PHONE |       |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP |       |
| Female | [ ]  |  | Male | [ ]  |  |
| YMCA |       |
| ADDRESS |       | PHONE |       |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP |       |
| COACH |       | E-MAIL |       |
| YEARS PARTICIPATING IN YMCA SWIMMING |       |  |  |
| YMCA NATIONALS ATTENDED (List) |       |
| HIGH SCHOOL |       |
| GPA (unweighted) |       | GRADE LEVEL (as of Sept. 2019) |       |
|  |
| LEADERSHIP ROLES (List all leadership positions you have held, the duration of your service, the organization/group and describe your specific responsibilities and accomplishments). Add page if necessary. |
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| VOLUNTEER SERVICE (List all volunteer service projects/activities you have participated in, the duration of your service, the sponsoring organization/group and describe your specific service activities). Add page if necessary. |
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**LEADERSHIP ESSAY**

Please write a one (1) page, single-spaced essay on one (1) of the following options.

*Option 1: Example of a Leader*. Who do you admire as a leader? What specific leadership qualities do you identify in him or her? How and why is he or she effective as a leader?

*Option 2: Beyond Leading By Example*. All leaders set an example that others follow. That is why they are considered leaders. Identify two core leadership qualities that you believe you possess and give specific examples of how you demonstrate those qualities in various situations. How do you know when or if you are effective?

**RECOMMENDATIONS (see attached instructions for those writing recommendations)**

Please ask individuals in the following categories to write a short (one page) letter of recommendation for your participation in the ELA. The letters should include how they know you, how they have experienced your leadership skills in action and how they believe your participation in the ELA will further your leadership ability. They should use specific examples to illustrate.

* Coach
* Peer (teammate or classmate)
* School, Church or Civic Leader

These recommendations may be included with your application or sent directly to Meredith Griffin at mgriffin@myy.org.

**OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT**

Please attach an unofficial academic transcript from your school.





**YMCA Swimming Emerging Leader Academy**

**Recommendation Letter Instructions**

Thank you for writing a letter recommending \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the YMCA Swimming Emerging Leader Academy. This program is a nine month learning and development experience that includes a four day “Swimposium” in Orlando, FL in October 2019. Components of the academy include training, e-learning, workshops, projects, community service and reflections.

Participants must be high school juniors (graduating class of 2021), have competed in the YMCA National Championships and are selected based on their grade point average, community service and leadership activities, personal leadership statement and recommendations from coaches, teachers and civic or community leaders.

Please write a letter no more than one (1) page in length. Please include how you know the applicant, your personal observation of the applicant as a leader and influencer of others and how you have witnessed or experienced the applicant’s leadership skills in action. Use specific examples to create a clear description of the applicant as someone who positively leads and influences others.

You may share your letter with the applicant to include electronically with his or her application packet, or you may send your letter directly to:

Meredith Griffin

YMCA Swimming and Diving Sports Coordinator

mgriffin@myy.org

All applications and recommendation letters are due no later than **July 1, 2019**.

Thank you for your time and support of this applicant to further his or her leadership development.