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**2020-21 YMCA Swimming Emerging Leaders Virtual Academy**

The YMCA Swimming Emerging Leaders 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 6-month (October 2020-April 2021) learning and development opportunity that **will be conducted virtually**. It includes e-learning, assignments, projects and conference calls. Participants must be thoughtful, prepared and proactive throughout the ELA experience.

Qualifications

* High school junior (11th grade / class of 2022)
* Has competed in a sanctioned YMCA championship meet since Sept. 1, 2019
* Unweighted Grade Point Average 3.0 or higher
* Demonstrates positive leadership skills among peers, is inclusive and takes initiative
* Demonstrates commitment to the Y and team through consistent strong practice and meet attendance
* 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 on time

Complete applications include

* Application Form
* Personal Leadership Statement
* Coach Evaluation Form
* Peer Recommendation
* Community Leader Electronic Evaluation Form
* School/Academic Transcript

**Applications are due no later than September 15, 2020.**

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

**Meredith Griffin**

**mgriffin@myy.org**

\*Per U.S. Center for Safe Sport MAAPP policies, please copy your parent or guardian when sending e-mail.

Program Details

* All applicants will be notified by September 30, 2020.
* There will be six regional cohorts with no more than 12 athletes and 2 coach facilitators per cohort. The curriculum and assignments will be universal and some sessions will include all participants. Most sessions will take place within each cohort for more comprehensive discussion and learning.
* All ELA sessions will be virtual. They will occur once per month for 1-2 hours each and will be scheduled within each cohort to best accommodate participants and facilitators. Participants are expected to attend and participate in all online meetings, discussions and workshops. There will be several individual and small group assignments, activities and projects. Participants are expected to complete these on time.
* Workshops include: Working with Different People and Groups, Leadership Styles, Decision-Making, Communication, Inclusion, Leadership Behaviors & Challenges, College Search, and a Social Responsibility project.
* Cost: The only cost to participants is a personal strengths assessment which will be no more than $30 per person.
* All coaches/facilitators:
	+ Are current YMCA employees and have completed all pre-employment screening, background checks and trainings as required by their respective 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.



**YMCA Swimming Emerging Leader Academy Application**

\*Send complete application as **one** .pdf or zip file.

**Deadline: September 15, 2020**

**Application Requirements**

* Completed Application Form
* School/Academic Transcript
* Personal Leadership Statement
* Coach Electronic Evaluation Form
* Peer Recommendation
* Community Leader Electronic Evaluation Form

**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 |       |  |  |
| HIGHEST LEVEL YMCA SANCTIONED CHAMPIONSHIP MEET SINCE 9/1/2019 (Include Dates) |       |
| HIGH SCHOOL |       |
| GPA (unweighted) |       | GRADE LEVEL (as of Sept. 2020) |       |
| PARENT/GUARDIAN |       | E-MAIL |       |
|  |
| 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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**YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION**

Please select two (2) of the following questions and type short responses of no more than two paragraphs or ½ page each. Use specific examples.

* How are you a change-maker? What have you done to affect positive change and for whom?
* Share a time when you stood up for someone or something that went against popular opinion. What did you learn?
* How are you a Leader by Action (as opposed to a Leader by Example)?
* How would your peers describe your leadership style/voice? How do you know whether you are an effective leader?
* What do you consider to be your strengths as a leader? What would you like to strengthen?

**(Continued)**

**PERSONAL LEADERSHIP STATEMENT**

Please write a one (1) page essay on your concept of leadership. Questions to consider: What is leadership to you? What are the essential qualities of an effective leader? What are the functions of a leader? Who is someone you view as an effective leader? Why? How are you an effective leader and how do you want to further develop? What is your leadership goal?

**ELECTRONIC EVALUATION FORMS**

There are two Electronic Evaluation Forms to be completed as part of the application process: Your Coach (Your YMCA head coach or head practice level coach) and a Community Leader (teacher, civic or church leader). Share the hyperlink below with each evaluator. These must be submitted by **September 15, 2020**.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eGTguP6hnnZcts5hLrIpTvkSlTXkt0vvGukMnd2JZP8/edit>

**PEER RECOMMENDATION**

Please include a one-page letter of recommendation from a peer (fellow swimmer, student, Y member, etc.) that expresses how you are a leader among your peers and the impact you have had on that individual. If preferred, this letter may be sent separately from your application, via e-mail, to Meredith Griffin.

**ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT**

Please attach an academic transcript (official or unofficial) from your school.

**U.S. CENTER FOR SAFE SPORT MAAPP COMPLIANCE**

In compliance with Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy requirements, please copy your parent or guardian whenever sending e-mail or any electronic communication to a coach, facilitator or other adult affiliated with the Emerging Leaders Academy. Your parent or guardian will also be copied when you are sent direct electronic communication from a coach, facilitator or other adult affiliated with the ELA.