



The Youth Leadership Miami Program (YLM) further develops socio-economically and culturally diverse local high schools students into future leaders of Miami-Dade County's workforce and volunteer services community. YLM builds upon relationships with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS), local nonprofit organizations and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) to holistically educate high school youth and prepare them to become effective leaders, executives and community volunteers. YLM will create opportunities for the development of knowledge, skills and increased self-awareness for these youth through hands-on adventure experiences, workshops/seminars and social activities throughout the school year. Forty-eight hours of community service will be awarded to each participant and live and online access to one another and current community leaders will also be provided. Small college scholarships will be provided to three graduating seniors. By engaging YLM participants in meaningful experiences otherwise unavailable to them, this collaborative effort between the Greater Miami Chamber and other local organizations and educational institutions will help turn today's youth into tomorrow's leaders.

YLM begins with personalized recruitment of participants through direct mailing of personalized letters and YLM applications to the principals of all MDCPS secondary schools including senior high schools (many of which are Title I schools) technical education centers, magnet schools and career academies.

Private non-sectarian and parochial high school principals will also be sent YLM materials inviting their students to participate. These principals and/or their designees (usually Guidance Department Chairs) will then disseminate information and program applications to all interested 9th-12th graders. Chamber Leadership Programs staff will post program notices and distribute flyers to all schools as YLM staff and Leadership Miami Alumni and volunteers will make presentations at PTA, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council and other school-based meetings (as invited by school staff). Based on previous YLM records, an estimated 100+ students are expected to submit applications for the 2011 program. Program eligibility includes (a) the principal/counselor's signature attesting to the student's good school standing; (b) written parent/guardian approval and commitment to assisting their teen in getting to all YLM activities; (c) written commitment to the program by the student; and (d) compelling student applications, especially their responses to the Community Issues section and their "What Miami Means to Me" creation. A YLM Selection Committee including the Leadership Miami Program Chair, South Florida Progress Foundation (SFPF) Executive Director, Leadership Miami Chamber staff and a few GMCC local business leaders will choose the 80-100 participants based on their applications. These students will include multicultural young men and women from Miami-Dade's diverse neighborhoods. The program is free for all students. All applicants will be notified in December if they were selected or not and will begin the program in January 2011. Those applicants not selected will be encouraged to apply again the following year.

Through 2010, recruitment activities have and will take place through Chamber events and presentations at local Miami-Dade County high public and private schools. YLM will provide a diverse cross-section of 100 primarily public high school students with a series of workshops and a Graduation & Awards Event as well as an opportunity to earn scholarships from the SFPF. A special YLM web page will be located on the GMCC web site year-round. YLM objectives are (a) to increase participants, self-confidence, social skills, community awareness and involvement; (b) to increase their knowledge of their own aptitudes and abilities and how these should guide appropriate career choices; (c) to increase their knowledge about the fastest-growing Miami-Dade job sectors, the requirements of entry-level jobs in these fields, successful navigation of the college application process and development of a winning resume/portfolio; and (d) to recognize all successful program completers and award three small college scholarships to graduating seniors.

The ultimate goal of YLM is to foster long-term relationships among students from diverse backgrounds by developing successful and committed youth who will contribute to the economic development and the overall quality of life in Miami-Dade and, hopefully, later choose to participate in Leadership Miami and become members of GMCC.