

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM ON MEDICINE

The **National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED)** is an extraordinary 10-day program offering an intense and stimulating exploration of the field of medicine. Held each summer at renowned medical centers in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., it is the nation's foremost program in pre-medical education for high school students. First held in 1993, this year approximately 8,800 students will attend 23 NYLF/MED programs.

NYLF/MED gives participants a sense of the academic preparation necessary for a career in medicine. Students learn to differentiate between basic stages of research, develop an appreciation for the social, financial and emotional responsibilities of practicing medicine and gain skills in clinical decision-making. NYLF's hands-on interactive curriculum is designed so that site visits, speaker topics and simulation exercises complement each other for a truly integrated and meaningful educational experience.

Speakers — Students participating in NYLF/MED learn from and exchange ideas with some of today's internationally recognized and respected physicians and healthcare professionals. They gain rare insights into current issues and obtain invaluable information about pursuing a career in medicine.

Site Visits — Some of the nation's most prestigious and technologically-advanced medical schools, research facilities and hospitals welcome NYLF/MED participants. Students have up-close and personal contact with physicians, surgeons, researchers, scientists and medical educators as they go behind-the-scenes to view these professionals at work.

Seminars — During various seminar sessions, NYLF/MED participants explore some of today's leading medical issues and gain insights into the medical field as it is today and as it promises to be in the future. In small groups, students meet with physicians to discuss subjects such as "life as a resident," "a personal perspective of patient care" and various medical specialties.

Educational Activities — NYLF/MED students participate in educational activities that cover important medical topics, such as bioethics, clinical decision-making and public health. Throughout the Forum, students work to develop public health projects to take home and implement in their local communities. During a medical ethics activity, they are challenged to examine an ethical issue facing the medical community and debate the pros and cons of the issue. Students also engage in an activity utilizing problem-based learning, a methodology now used in medical schools, and participate in "The Match," a simulation of the process used to match medical students with their specialties. Scholars learn how to capture patient history, check vital signs and suture a wound during the "Principles in Practice" component of the curriculum.

BACKGROUND

About NYLF — The National Youth Leadership Forum's mission is to bring various professions to life and empower outstanding young people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices. Over 100,000 students have attended NYLF programs. In addition to Medicine, NYLF also offers high school programs in the areas of Law and National Security. More information on NYLF and its programs can be found at www.nylf.org.

Participants — NYLF/MED enrolls high school students from diverse backgrounds who possess academic merit, leadership potential and a strong interest in the field of medicine. Students are nominated to attend the program by educators, youth organization advisors, participating institutions, NYLF alumni and through classroom surveys. Students may also be admitted in an application process.

NYLF/MED is committed to increasing participation of underrepresented minorities in the medical field. Using targeted outreach, NYLF/MED strives to make it possible for motivated young people to remain true to their dream of entering the medical profession.

Scholarships — NYLF has established a scholarship fund to assist nominees who wish to participate. A limited number of scholarships are awarded based on financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievements and other factors.

FACT SHEET