

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM ON NATIONAL SECURITY

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The National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security (NYLF/NS): Exploring American Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defense, conducted in our nation's capital, is an intense and stimulating six-day exploration of the fields of national security, diplomacy and other related career areas. The Forum on National Security exposes America's brightest high school students to a myriad of exciting and challenging careers available to them in these vitally important fields and gives students a sense of the academic preparation needed for a career in government service. Forum participants develop skills in consensus decision-making and learn to differentiate between the various levels of national interests. Through NYLF's hands-on interactive and integrated curriculum of site explorations, speaker topics and simulation exercises, scholars obtain a truly meaningful educational experience.

**Speakers** — Forum on National Security scholars have the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with some of today's internationally recognized and respected civilian policymakers and senior military officers. They gain rare insights into current issues and obtain invaluable information about the careers they dream of pursuing.

**Site Explorations** — During site explorations to renowned government agencies and military installations, Forum scholars go behind-the-scenes and meet with civilian officials, military officers and intelligence specialists who discuss their duties, responsibilities and daily operations. Students also visit premier diplomatic and military academic institutions, where these future leaders are educated in diplomacy, international affairs and military strategy.

**Seminars** — Students have the opportunity to engage in small group discussions on specific specialties within the diplomatic, intelligence and defense communities. A panel discussion with speakers representing each of these three areas also allows students to explore the various career opportunities available. In addition, scholars spend an evening meeting with recruiting representatives of the intelligence agencies, diplomatic communities, military academies and services and officer training programs.

**Simulation** — During a weeklong activity, Forum on National Security scholars are challenged to examine and develop a viable response to a simulated national security crisis situation. During the simulation, they assume the roles of key players on the national security scene and learn how to execute a crisis decision-making procedure similar to that employed by the nation's top policymakers. Through discussion and debate, students develop a greater comprehension of the realities and complexities involved in formulating national security policy and reinforce critical thinking, public speaking and leadership skills.

### BACKGROUND

**About NYLF** — The National Youth Leadership Forum is an educational organization founded to help prepare young people with scholastic merit and strong leadership potential for their future professional careers. Its mission is to bring various professions to life, inspiring young people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices. In addition to national security, NYLF also offers high school programs in the areas of law and medicine. Since its founding in 1992, over 100,000 students have attended NYLF programs. More information on NYLF and its programs can be found at [www.nylf.org](http://www.nylf.org).

**Participants** — The Forum on National Security enrolls high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from diverse backgrounds who possess academic promise, leadership potential and a strong interest in the areas of diplomacy, intelligence and defense. Students are nominated to attend the program by educators, youth organization advisors, NYLF alumni and through classroom surveys.

**Funding** — The National Youth Leadership Forum is funded through student tuition. Students who require financial assistance may request a copy of the Forum's Student Fundraising Guide to help raise funds in order to earn their way to the Forum. NYLF also awards a limited number of competitive scholarships based upon financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievements and other factors.

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