



Sponsored by Leadership Seminars of America, Inc.

Information Summary

Contact

Organization's Name: Leadership Seminars of America Inc., sponsor of the Louisiana Youth Seminar

Date Incorporated as a 501C3: 1976. **Tax Exempt #:** 72-0070035

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Applicant Organization's Mission

The Louisiana Youth Seminar is a leadership camp designed for high school juniors and seniors. LYS was founded in 1971 by three college students. It was founded on the belief that if businesses, communities and government are to have effective leaders in the future, we must help our students to develop their core leadership skills such as effective communication, setting and achieving goals, team building, understanding and accepting others, developing self confidence, conducting effective meetings, problem solving skills. LYS is held for one week each summer during the third week of July on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Approximately 200 students attend from throughout the state.

Endorsements

Given the challenges of the world today, we believe it is so important to invest in developing our youth as future leaders. The most compelling reasons to support LYS come from quotes from past participants and their families. Here are a few:

- "LYS is an experience like no other. I have learned how to formulate a plan to make my dreams come true."
- "The different involvement sessions taught me valuable lessons about working as a team and communicating effectively. LYS is truly a life changing experience."
- From a relative of a student – "I have watched three kids come out of their shells as a result of LYS. You all have such a positive impact on the lives of these teens...it means so much to so many students, and it means a lot to the people that love those students too."
- "It is rewarding to note that the highest standards are being maintained to bring the best possible leadership training to Louisiana's youth through LYS. I can personally say that this program achieves great results." former US Senator John Breaux, LA
- "My years as a LYS delegate did more towards the development of my character than any other experience I have ever had."
- "Not only have I learned how to communicate, organize and work under pressure, but how to love and accept people in a way I have never experienced before."
- "LYS put me in contact with myself and my dreams. LYS made me realize that no goal is impossible."

- "I've always had a desire to serve my community; LYS taught me to channel that desire into positive, sustainable action. It also showed me how much talent lies within our state's youth. I was inspired by the examples set by my peers at LYS to believe in the possibilities that extend from a group of complete strangers coming together and not only getting to know and respect one another but also working toward the fulfillment of a common goal that has the ability to positively impact many more lives than our own. That's the power of learning. That's the power of collaboration. That's the power of leadership. That's LYS." From a 1989 delegate, Dr. Nghana Lewis, who is now an Assistant Professor of English at Tulane University.
- "In thirty-five years of association with LYS, the impact of this unique leadership program is difficult to quantify. In my experience, the essence of LYS is the transfer, from generation to generation, not of power but of the power of *grace* in relationships....a quality that can surely change our global village, one young and tenacious leader at a time. Such leaders are being born at LYS summer after summer....When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, I made acquaintance with countless evacuees of all colors and shapes and perspectives, as many re-settled in Shreveport. I realized as I looked into the face of hope of my new friend Joan, as we measured and hammered to build her Habitat/Fuller Center house, that the comfort of diversity I experienced with her had first been established at LYS in the turbulent early 70's when I served with a loving, wholesome checkerboard of black and white delegates and counselors....in the south! While the National Guard prepared to guard the halls of our high school, we laughed, learned parliamentary procedure and lost our voices screaming with support for our Home Groups, oblivious to the pigment of one another's skin. Leadership is colorblind...that was one of the life-altering gifts, for me, of LYS..." Do you yearn to work and live in a neighborhood, a town, a city, a world, where the buoyant chords of *No Man Is An Island* are heard...and lived? The hope of that prospect is what I took home from LYS...as an adult, it is an ethic I strive to foster for my colleagues every single day...*No one is an island, no one stands alone, each one's joy is joy to me, each one's grief is my own, we need one another, so I will defend, each one as my brother or sister...and each one as my friend.* "(Note: *The LYS Theme Song is "No Man Is an Island"*). From a 1973 delegate, Dr. Patricia M.B. Kitchen, who lives her life in service to others through her Pastor position and through her outreach ministry.

Financial Overview

LYS is funded by tuitions paid by students, by donations and by "tuition scholarships" provided by individuals and corporations. It is directed and staffed essentially by volunteers. There is one part time contract staff. A \$395 tuition fee is charged to participants. However, this fee covers only a portion of LYS expenses as the real cost per delegate approaches \$500. The Executive Committee, supported by the Board of Directors has purposefully kept the tuition low in order to make LYS affordable for all students throughout the state. This has been particularly important during the struggles caused by the recent hurricane disasters and the impact on many families.

Almost 60% of the total expense is attributable to food and lodging at LSU for the students and staff during the one week seminar in July. The remaining expenses cover: supplies and materials, printing and publication, telecommunications, insurance, contract staff and miscellaneous.

In addition to subsidizing tuition, we give almost \$25,000 in "tuition scholarships". Thus, we must raise almost \$50,000 annually to cover operations and provide scholarships.

Unique Opportunity

LYS has been thriving for about 40 years and has developed almost 200 students each summer, totaling approximately 7000 juniors and seniors in high school. This has been accomplished largely by an all volunteer staff of students who work their way up from delegate to staff to Executive Committee. In the last several years, we have found this all volunteer model to be particularly challenging; a couple of years ago, we hired a part time contractor to assist us. However, to sustain the program, the Board of Directors believes we need to move to at least a half time Executive Director.

Thus, the Board is considering a Endowment Campaign to raise \$1,000,000. Properly invested, this endowment would assist in meeting a large portion of the annual expenses. The remainder would be covered by tuition and ongoing fundraising.

History

The Louisiana Youth Seminar was established in 1971 as a unique and progressive leadership learning experience for high school students. Every year the Seminar is held at Louisiana State University for one week in July. During this week, students participate in many activities which focus on leadership skills, such as effective communication skills, setting and achieving goals, team building, understand and accepting others, developing self confidence, conducting effective meetings, problem solving skills.

The goal of LYS is to develop students' raw leadership potential into skills that will help them to succeed in life. LYS delegates meet interesting people from across the state, learn how to achieve life goals, and compete in good-natured yet challenging games.

LYS is a non-profit organization that has been providing the highest caliber of leadership training for many years. We welcome all high school incoming juniors and seniors throughout the state of Louisiana. Students come to LYS via a variety of ways: selected by their schools, sent by their parents, recruited by past LYS delegates and by LYS friends and family. The goal of LYS is to attract students of all talents, interests and backgrounds. LYS enhances the leadership potential in each individual and provides leadership opportunities to its delegates through hands-on experience.

LYS is organized, staffed and directed by young professionals and college students who volunteer their time every summer. Each staff member has participated in the seminar as a student delegate and therefore understands the inner workings of the program. The staff is young, positive, and progressive and can easily identify with the hopes, feelings and trends of Louisiana's youth. Each staff member has participated in LYS as a student delegate and therefore understands the inner workings of the program. The staff move up within the program, taking on more responsibilities as they grow personally and professionally. The staff move from active summer program staff to being Vice Presidents of the nonprofit organization, LSA, Inc. The various Vice Presidents have responsibilities which contribute to the overall achievement of the organization and result in getting everything ready for the summer program staff. Again, all are volunteers, except for the part time Executive Director who is paid a small stipend.

The total cost of LYS is slightly under \$100,000. We have no offices as we have a virtual organization. The largest single expense is for food and lodging at LSU for the delegates during the leadership camp.

Since inception, LYS has impacted almost 7000 high school students, many of whom are currently leaders in the state: in government, in corporations, in nonprofit organizations.

Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors includes:

Mark Barnes, term ends 2012. Staff, Louisiana State Senate, Baton Rouge
Liz Baudoin Landry, term ends 2012. Assistant, Office of the President, University of Louisiana, Lafayette
Scott Daigre, term ends 2010. Owner, small business. Los Angeles.

Vickie Guzzino Guarisco, Chair, term ends 2011. Community volunteer. Mandeville

D'Ann Morris, term ends 2010. Chancellor's Office, LSU. Baton Rouge.

Mary Langely Hernandez, term ends 2010. Former Recruitment Lead, UL – Lafayette.

Amy Allums Lee, term ends 2011. Attorney. Lafayette

Nghana Lewis, term ends 2012. Assistant Professor, Tulane University, New Orleans

Norma Jane Sabiston, term ends 2012. CEO, Sabiston Consulting, New Orleans

Wendy Walker Stanford, term ends 2011. Community volunteer. Baton Rouge

Hasting Stewart, term ends 2012. Manager, Shell Foundation and Corporate Contributions, Houston.

Advisory Board

Barbara Jo Pease, founder
Valsin Marmillion, founder
Karl White, founder

Adrian Baudoin
Lisa Zaccaria Barnett
Anne Sonnier Calhoun
Tom Calvert
Kyle France
Stephanie Sonnier Calhoun
Donald Cravins
Jeanne Hebert Fisher
Pattie Morrison Kitchen
Yvette Vezina LaCour
Jerry Luke LeBlanc
Amy Young Maniscalco
Melinda Landrieu Seiter
Rowland Stalter
Barbara Stott
Brother Henry Werner

Past Supporters

In the past, LYS has received support largely from individuals connected with LYS including past staff and their families, friends and colleagues. In recent years, LYS has also been supported by corporations with critical operations within Louisiana, including: Shell Oil Company, Shell Chemical Company, Shell Exploration and Production Company, Shell Retail, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, CenturyTel, Freeport McMoran, Acadiana Ambulances and LA Education Loan Authority. LYS has just began approaching foundations; support has been received from: Pat Taylor Foundation, The Community Advancement Fund, the Dale Brown Foundation and the P&C Carroll Foundation, the John and Susan Wilder Foundation.