



"We unleash the leadership potential of Illinois youth."

Counselors' Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why should I nominate a student from my school for the Illinois Leadership Seminar (ILS)?

A: For 35 years we have been unleashing the leadership potential of Illinois youth. ILS is a once in a lifetime opportunity for most students. Our seminar is an opportunity for students to explore who they are as a leader away from their natural setting. ILS provides its leaders with an active network of alumni to grow and develop long after the seminar is over. We encourage you to watch the video on our website to really grasp what students gain by attending the Illinois Leadership Seminar.

Q: How do I select a student to nominate?

A: We leave the choice of who to pick for our seminar, and how to pick them entirely up to the school, so long as the student selected is currently in their sophomore year. Counselors utilize a variety of different selection methods including essay contests, faculty vote, and if one student stands out right away, it's perfectly acceptable to make the decision without an evaluation. Sometimes it is even helpful to have students who have attended our seminar in the past recommend a sophomore. Past leaders have excelled academically, in athletics, in co-curricular activities, or in community service. It is a leadership seminar and our goal is to cultivate those leadership qualities in the person you nominate. Please look for an exceptional student who you believe represents the potential of your student body.

Q: After I have selected a student, how do I nominate them?

A: Nominating a student is completely paperless. The entire process is completed through our online nomination system. All the school contacts in our system will receive an email in the fall. The email contains all nomination instructions, as well as the School ID and Passcode you will need to complete the nomination process. If you did not receive this email, you can contact our Recruitment Director at ils.registry@gmail.com. We will promptly send you all the information you need.

Q: When is the Nomination deadline?

A: The deadline to nominate a student is January 20th, 2012. To reserve your student's spot at our seminar, please have your nomination in by the deadline. If there is still space available after the deadline, slots will be filled in the order we receive nominations, first come first served. We have had to turn away schools that have nominated late in the past. Though we prefer not turning schools away, we have spatial and financial limitations that we cannot ignore. If you cannot nominate by the deadline, contact our Recruitment Director and we may be able to work out an extension.

Q: How is the seminar structured? What is on the agenda for the weekend?

A: Students are pre-divided into groups of about 10. The group is led by an adult (Senior Coach) who is assisted by two alumni of the seminar (Junior Coaches). During the weekend students will have an opportunity to interact with other leaders from all groups. As for the actual content and schedule, we are purposefully vague. We have found that our leaders have a better experience if they don't know what is coming next. ILS is a highly interactive seminar. If you have specific questions, you can contact our Seminar Chairperson at illinois.leadership.seminars@gmail.com. We challenge our leaders to share their own thoughts and ideas about issues facing their schools, their communities, and our world. The program is not designed to teach students what to think, or even how to think, but rather to emphasize the importance of critical thinking skills in leadership roles.

Q: When and where is the Seminar?

A: The seminar runs from Friday, June 8th 2012 through Sunday, June 10th 2012 at North Park University in Chicago, IL.



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Q: Can I nominate a junior?

A: Only current sophomores can be nominated for our seminar. We feel that the transition from underclassmen to upperclassmen is an underrated transition and the perfect time to reach student leaders.

Q: Does the student have to stay for the entire seminar?

A: Yes, the student must be at North Park University from Check-In early Friday morning until the Closing Ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Please make sure your student can attend for the entire weekend before you complete the nomination process.

Q: What information do I need from the student before I nominate them?

A: After you have confirmed your student can attend the entire Illinois Leadership Seminar, you will need to input the following information into our online nomination system:

-Student's full name

-Student's phone number

-Home address

-Parent's names

- T-shirt size

-Date of birth

-Student's email address

-Parent's phone number

Q: Is the seminar REALLY free?

A: Absolutely. Our Corporate Board and Alumni Association raise funds all year long in order to ensure students do not have to pay to attend. Students are only responsible for transportation to and from our site. All lodging, meals, and overhead costs will be paid for.

Q: May I nominate more than one student?

A: We only allow each high school to send one student to our seminar each year. This ensures that we have a diverse group of students from all over the state and that we are able to offer the seminar to a larger number of high schools. We have found that students are also more willing to explore their own leadership potential when they don't know any other students prior to attending. We encourage you to nominate an alternate student in case the primary student cannot attend after they have been nominated. After you have nominated a primary student, repeat the process by clicking "Add Student" and the second student will automatically be nominated as the alternate.

Q: What happens after I have nominated a student?

A: After a counselor has nominated a student, it is the student's job to sit down with his or her parent or legal guardian and complete the registration process. Like the nomination process, registration is completely online. We will use the email address you provided during nomination to send the student an email with all the registration instructions. These emails will be sent out after the nomination deadline (January 20th). The registration deadline is March 23rd.

Q: What if I don't have student who wants to attend?

A: Please look again! Often, students need an extra nudge to commit to stepping out of their comfort zone. Other students may be unsure of what the program entails, worried that they don't know anyone else attending, etc. If you don't have a volunteer for ILS, nominate a student who you think would benefit. Let them know it is an honor to be chosen! Have past ILS alumni talk to the students, encourage them, and please let us know if you have any questions!