



1700 Spartan Drive Elgin, IL 60123 • www.ylacademy.org • (847) 214-6965

News & Notes

October 2019

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 7

1st Thursdays Fundraiser - Riverside Pizza, located at 456 Redington Dr. in South Elgin

Nov. 9

Session 7 - Veteran Celebration

Nov. 16

Session 8 - College Day (get pledges, then wear your college gear and/or colors with jeans)

Dec. 3rd

- Giving Tuesday! This is a national day of giving. Give with Elgin and Illinois. Donate \$25 or more on this day to YLA and you will receive a FREE YLA mug. Donate \$50 or more and receive a YLA umbrella. Only 1 gift per donation.
- The 1st Thursday Fundraiser in December will actually be on Tuesday, December 3rd

Dec 7

Session 9

Dec. 13

YLA Extravaganza 2019 - Sell \$70 worth of ads for a free ticket. Click here to download the [business packet](#).

Dec. 14

Make-up session – attend this session to have one of your absences removed from your attendance record.

[Click here for our complete 2019-2020 calendar](#)



Let us Honor You!

We are having a Veteran Celebration on Nov. 9th! We want to honor all the friends and family of our YLA crew who have unselfishly given their time and honor to serve our country. Please contact this office ASAP if you would like someone to be honored. We cannot accept any requests after Oct. 31st, to allow time for engraved medals.



Bonds and Memories Already Formed this Year!



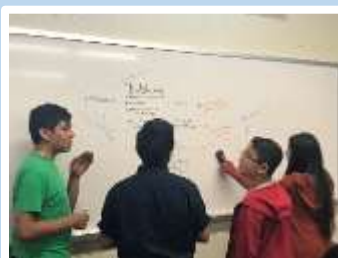
**Coding Summer
Camp & Lord's Park
Service Learning**



Kick-Off Day



**7th Grade
Leadership
Camping Trip**



**Robotics Team
Collaboration**



**Panel Discussion
Learning**



Parent Session



**1 on 1 career
planning session**



**Discovering
Science at
STEMFest 2019
& Robotics
Team
Collaboration**



**Annual Picnic
2019**



College Fair



College Visits with College Cafeteria Food



For many more pictures, be sure to purchase our annual Extravaganza Publication. Coming Soon!

Service Learning Projects!



We are extremely excited about the service learning projects our students are working on this year. Service learning projects are an opportunity for YLA cadets to help our community while gaining valuable leadership experience in the process. 12th grade will be wrapping up their presentation about their Lord's Park project, then will pass the task to a group in 10th grade. The rest of 10th grade will be working on a Big Brother- Big Sister project to help students transition to high school, a Kindergarten Readiness program to help preschoolers in the area get ready for school, a Healthy Minds project to help students in high school cope with the stress of high school, and a project to help middle and high school students deal with Contemporary Issue discussions.

In addition, 9th grade will be tackling homelessness and drug prevention. They will also be creating a podcast designed for students in the area to deal with issues in their community. A few students will be working with 10th grade on the Big Brother- Big Sister project. 8th graders are planning to pick their projects at the end of the year.

College Day is Nov. 16th!



Wear your favorite college colors and/or gear on Nov. 16th and get pledges to raise money for YLA! The more participation, the greater the pledge \$\$\$. More details are coming soon!

Grant Announcements

We received a \$6,800 grant from Best Buy to give our students more exposure to STEM opportunities. We also received \$950 from First Robotics to give our students the funds to participate and compete in robotics. In addition, YLA received \$5,000 from Northrop Grumman to invest in our students' college readiness programs. Thank you!!!



1st Thursdays - No Cook Day

You know, sometimes, you just don't want to cook! So, come out to our 1st Thursdays Fundraisers and order dinner to-go or just sit down to eat with some of your YLA family. The next 1st Thursday is Nov. 7th at Riverside Pizza in South Elgin.



#GIVING
TUESDAY™

Giving Tuesday

Join the city of Elgin as we give to our favorite non-profit organizations on **Dec 3rd**. Giving Tuesday is a national day of giving and is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Elgin has always been one of the most giving cities in Illinois. Give to YLA on this day and receive a YLA mug for donations over \$25 and a YLA umbrella with any donation over \$50. Only 1 gift per donation, please.



Leader of the Month – Xavier Becerra

Xavier Becerra was born January 26, 1958. He is an American politician and lawyer serving as the 33rd Attorney General of California since 2017. Prior to becoming Attorney General, he was a member of the United States House of Representatives for California's 34th congressional district, who represented Downtown Los Angeles in Congress from 1993 to 2017. Becerra, a member of the Democratic Party, was Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Born in Sacramento, California, Becerra is the son of working-class immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico. As a young child Becerra grew up in a one-room apartment with his three sisters. He graduated in 1976 from C.K. McClatchy High School, located in the center of Sacramento. He studied abroad at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain, from 1978 to 1979, before earning his B.A. in economics from Stanford University in 1980, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college.

Becerra received his Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School in 1984 and was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1985. He was initially a lawyer, working on cases involving individuals who had mental disorders for the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts before returning to California in 1986 to work as an administrative assistant for state senator Art Torres. He served as a deputy attorney general in the California Department of Justice from 1987 to 1990, before he was elected to the California State Assembly, where he served one term from 1990 to 1992.

Becerra was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, representing California's 34th congressional district from 1993 to 2003, and California's 31st congressional district from 2003 to 2013. During his tenure in the House, he served as Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus from 1997 to 1999, vice chairman of the House Democratic Caucus from 2009 to 2013, and as a member of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. Becerra is also a member of the Washington, D. C., based think tank The Inter-American Dialogue.

(From Wikipedia)

Leadership is can be simply setting goals for yourself and setting out to achieve those goals.

Student Council



The student council (also known as the Cadet Council) is proud to announce the winners of the 2019-2020 election. Congratulations to Josselyn P. who is this year's President and Kevin D. who will serve as Vice President! We look forward to them representing YLA including attending council meetings and YLA board meetings. The next Student Council meeting will be November 16th at 8:30 A.M. All grade captains will be expected to attend.

In the Spotlight

Josselyn P. Class of '20

Josselyn is one of our amazing 12th graders at YLA who would add tremendous value to any college institution. She has been elected President of Student council and has proven to be a leader in many ways. She was born in El Salvador and moved to the United States at nine years old, where she quickly learned English in one year. She is a student who takes advantage of the many opportunities offered to her. Her biography is proof of this.

Elementary school was only the start of her learning curiosity. Josselyn started playing viola in 4th grade, and then she moved on to the trombone in 5th grade. In 6th grade, she joined AVID and focused on her goals to attend college, including joining YLA.

But Music and Academics were not the only interests for Josselyn. In 7th grade, through YLA, her group was able to collect 500+ books through a donation box placed at Gail Borden Library. The books were later donated to students from Golfview Elementary School during a reading night event. Her Service Learning group in 8th grade joined forces with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and conducted a presentation for the city at Gail Borden Library.

During high school, Josselyn joined ECC's LGBTQ+ Club in learning and teaching others about the LGBTQ+ community during 9th-10th grade. Last year, she was an instrumental leader in planning for the City of Elgin and Lords Park Zoo in creating a native plants garden and a leader in executing her plans that summer. AP classes she has taken are Human Geography, Psychology, Language and Composition, Spanish, Physics, and Calculus.

Recently, Josselyn was admitted into Columbia College Chicago as a Music Business major, and was offered the Dean's Scholarship- an amount of \$11,500 per year.



Social Media Perhaps you have noticed that we now have a bigger presence on our social media pages. Please help us to get even BIGGER!

If you haven't done so already, please like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Our Facebook can be reached by searching "youth leadership academy Elgin", and our Twitter and Instagram handles are yla_elgin.



Happy Birthday!

Class	Name	Month	Day
2025	Erik M.	August	5
2023	Nikko H.	August	5
2021	Israel G.	August	5
2020	Jason G.	August	6
2024	Emily C.	August	14
2022	Alan D.	August	30
2023	Nyomi A.	September	1
2022	Avianna D.	September	5
2022	Tianna S.	September	7
2025	Dakarai H.	September	8
2023	Clarisa P.	September	8
2023	Bruno Q.	September	9
2023	Yazil C.	September	16
2020	Kevin O.	September	18
2022	Jeremiah W.	September	21
2020	Edith A.	September	23
2024	Daniel M.	September	24
2025	Angel V.	October	3
2024	Mia S.	October	4
2025	Fatima M.	October	9
2021	America A.	October	9
2020	Susan B.	October	10
2025	Viraaajreddy B.	October	11
2022	Vanessa H.	October	12
2025	Yarianis V.	October	21
2024	Tauryan Y.	October	22
2021	Justyna T.	October	22
2020	Deztiny L.	October	26

**Happy Birthday to our
August, September, and
October birthday cadets
and staff!**



Staff

Elaine Blair	August	9
Stephanie Maxwell	August	24
Briana Bradford	October	9
Shane Isibue	October	23

Articles of Interest

This Month's "Articles of Interest" are geared towards our 12th graders as they go through the process of finding their college homes for the next 4 years. Enjoy!

How Colleges Choose which Students to Admit

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2019-09-10/how-colleges-choose-which-students-to-admit>

College Admissions Process Mistakes Students Make

<https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/articles/2019-09-16/college-admissions-process-mistakes-students-make>

How Colleges Use SAT/ACT Results

<https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/articles/2019-09-09/how-colleges-use-sat-act-results>

10 Best Colleges for Financial Aid

<https://www.cnn.com/amp/2019/03/08/the-10-best-colleges-for-financial-aid.html>



Do you order from Amazon? PLEASE, don't forget to use AmazonSmile when ordering from Amazon. Be sure to designate Youth Leadership Academy as your supporting charity and YLA will receive 0.5% of your total order.