



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**THE RACINE FAMILY YMCA
YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY**

**BUILDING
FUTURE
LEADERS**



SCHOOL ACHIEVERS

YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY (YLA)

The Young Leaders Academy (YLA) is a year-round program consisting of three components dedicated to reversing the negative trend of low academic achievement and stereotypical behavior of youth ages 7-18 from low-income communities in Racine, WI. The YLA's mission is to nurture the development of leadership abilities and life skills of inner-city youth, empowering them to improve the quality of their life and assist them in becoming productive citizens.

The YLA uses the Search Institutes 40 Developmental Assets as the foundation of its education and leadership philosophy. The Assets are a set of skills, experiences, relationships and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults.

YLA COMPONENTS

Component 1: School Achievers

An after school leadership program for **2nd-5th graders**, YLA offers homework assistance, tutoring, leadership group sessions and activities. Programming is currently held at 5 different sites: Fratt Elementary School, Giese Elementary School, SC Johnson Elementary School, Wadewitz Elementary School & 21st Century Preparatory School Monday through Thursday.

Component 2: Young Achievers

A program for **6th- 8th graders** designed to prepare them for the academic and social rigors of high school and beyond. The program combines the self-discipline of the Young Leaders Academy program, with the independence of Teen Achievers. Young Achievers allows students to participate according to their interests, and provides students with the opportunity to enhance their academic progress, increase existing skills and pursue their interests. Participation in the program will result in increased school attendance and development of positive peer relationships. Program hours are Monday through Thursday 4:00pm-6:30pm.

Component 3: Teen Achievers

A teen program for **9th -12th** graders that offer participants college readiness, college tours, collaboration with local businesses, and career exploration workshops. Achievers also receive a free YMCA membership.

YLA SUMMER SESSION

Seventy-five (75) youth participate in an interactive six-week summer session at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. Qualified applicants must be incoming students **3rd-8th grades**. Youth will attend academic classes in the mornings and participate in fun and educational activities in the afternoons. Program operates Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-3:30pm, with weekly field trips/community service projects on Fridays.

SCHOOL ACHIEVERS ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

In order for parents/guardians to enroll their children in School Achievers, the child must be in 2nd through 5th grade and a school teacher/counselor feels that child will benefit from leadership program by submitting a School Achiever Nomination Form. Before any child can start the program, the parent/guardian must:

- Complete the School Achiever Enrollment Packet which will include: registration form, nomination form (from school teacher/counselor/principal)& release record form
- Complete YLA Annual Parent Agreement form

**Member will be notified of their start date.

OUR GOALS

- Participants learn courage, integrity, perseverance, Initiative, responsibility, enthusiasm and judgment.
- Participants learn about interpersonal skills, Positive decisiveness, and conflict resolution.
- Participants learn the importance of reading and math comprehension and doing their best.
- Participants learn about Career development, training and education power, self-esteem, & a sense of purpose.

OPERATIONAL HOURS

School Achiever participants attend the program 2 days a week. 2nd & 3rd graders will attend on Mondays & Wednesdays, 4th and 5th graders will attend on Tuesdays & Thursdays for approximately 2 1/2 hours each day. (School Achiever program at Wadewitz and Giese elementary schools will meet 4days a week, Monday-Thursday).

PARENT IN ACTION (PIA)

PIA is the component of the YLA that affords parents the opportunity to maximize their participation in the program. Meetings are announced at the beginning of each month through newsletter or flyers, all parents are encourage to attend. If parents cannot attend, grandparents, mentor, family members or any other caring adult whom you trust may attend in your place.

PIA meeting and activities are to:

- Involve YLA parents/guardians in the planning of program activities.
- Keep all parents/guardians informed about the program.
- Develop relationships with other YLA families.

The African philosophy, "**It takes a village to raise a child**" explains the critical role parents, teachers, volunteers, donors, community members, and YLA members play in helping achieve our mission.

There is not another program in Racine like the YLA. We are a member program with the goal of changing the attitudes of youth toward and empowering them to achieve success in school and life.

Members embark on the three stages of the Young Leaders Academy between a two to six-year period, depending on when they start the program.

**For enrollment
information contact**

Paola Rodriguez, YLA Executive Assistant
(262) 898-4610 or prodriguez@ymcaracine.org

RACINE FAMILY YMCA LOCATIONS
LAKE FRONT BRANCH
725 LAKE AVE.
RACINE, WI 53403

SEALED AIR BRANCH
8501 CAMPUS DRIVE
MOUNT PLEASANT, WI 53406

www.ymcaracine.org
262.634.1994



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