



Get Involved!

Statewide Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

Looking for ways to use your leadership and self-advocacy skills? Here's what's going down in Wisconsin for you to **get involved**.

WI Youth First Website!

Wisconsin Youth First is the first-of-its-kind website developed **by** youth, **for** youth! This website was created so youth had one place to go to get all the info they needed about school, work, and leadership activities. It's also a place for youth from all over the state to connect with each other. Website features: Calendar of youth activities, Google Groups chat feature, our own YouTube Channel, information on working, college, relationships, and much more. Families and professionals will also find the site useful for finding information geared toward youth.

How can you participate? To keep this website fresh and unique we need youth giving us their ideas! Send us your ideas, web links, cool videos, etc. Come back often for new info!

For more info, contact us at wiyouthfirst@gmail.com and don't forget to check us out at www.wiyouthfirst.org.

WI Statewide Community on Transition

Transition leaders from across the state get together 3 times a year to talk about how to make things better for youth with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood. The group welcomes youth at the meetings so you can share your experiences to make things easier for other youth with disabilities.

How can you participate? Attend a meeting or give your ideas to a youth who can share them with the group if you can't go. Join the Youth Development and Leadership, Health, Families, Postsecondary or Data Practice Groups, which typically meet by phone. Meeting times are based on what works for the members.

For more info on the Community on Transition, contact Linda Maitrejean lindam@cesa11.k12.wi.us.

For more info on practice groups please contact group facilitators,

Youth Development & Leadership: Cheryl Schiltz cheryls@ilcw.org

Parents & Families: Sherry Gundlach sgundlac@cesa6.k12.wi.us

Health: Amy Whitehead amy.whitehead@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Post Secondary Education: Elizabeth Watson Watsone@uww.edu,

Sandy Hall sghall@matcmadison.edu

Data: Mary Kampa maryk@cesa11.k12.wi.us

Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

The YLF is a week long leadership training program for high school students with disabilities who are motivated and active in their schools and communities. Sharpen your leadership skills and become a recognized leader in your state.

Applications are made available in late fall each year - check with your school—or at: <http://wsti.org/ylc.ylf.php>

How can you participate? Apply! (The YLF is a competitive process).

For more info, contact Pam Jenson at (608) 758-6232 ext. 309 or at pamjenson@cesa2.k12.wi.us.

Statewide Youth Speakers Bureau

This is a list of youth from all over Wisconsin who are interested in speaking at a variety of events like conferences, meetings, and college classes about your experiences as a youth or young adult with a disability.

How can you participate? Sign up and tell your story!

For more info or to sign up, contact the WI Youth First group at wiyouthfirst@gmail.com or apply online at www.wiyouthfirst.org.

A Gathering of Youth Conference

A conference just for you! A Gathering of Youth runs alongside the Circles of Life main conference with one major difference - only youth are allowed to attend these sessions. The conference is planned **by** youth, **for** youth.

How can you participate? Attend the conference or join the planning committee. All planning is done over the phone so youth from anywhere in the state can participate.

For more info, contact Kirsten Engel at (608) 242-8484 or kasawisconsin@aol.com or check out the website www.wfv.org/circle/.

YiPPE! Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment

An opportunity for youth, ages 15 to 20, and their parents to talk about and plan for what comes after high school over 5 weekends. You'll do hands on, fun activities to help you prepare for life after high school while your parents hear from speakers from all over the state. You'll also get to do fun stuff like go to a water park, and make cool friends. New sessions start in October of each year.

How can you participate? Ask for more information, tell your parents and sign up! Brochures are available at http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/par_partn.html.

For more info, contact Jenny Neugart at (608) 266-8778 or jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov.

Peer Power

Peer Power helps you become better prepared to transition to adult life by giving you an opportunity to meet other youth who are going through the same things you are. By sharing knowledge, skills and support a Peer Power group gives you the time you need to absorb information and to practice skills so you can use the information to plan for your future, all with the help of your peers. Peer Power gives you an opportunity to develop a sense of personal power by allowing you to express yourself and talk about your ideas and goals.

How can you participate? Join a Peer Power group in your area or become a mentor for other youth.

For more info, contact Cheryl Schiltz at (608) 256-9257 or toll free at (866) 656-4010 or cheryls@ilcw.org.

The Midwest Alliance in STEM

Are you or someone you know a 9-12th grade or college or university student with a disability who is looking to be successful in achieving a college degree and career? Would you like to develop the skills that are necessary to flourish in your academic and professional life? The Midwest Alliance strives to increase the involvement and level of success of students with disabilities completing postsecondary degrees, and entering careers in social science, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and programs.

How can you participate? There are three main ways in which we help students with disabilities pursue their academic and career goals: One-on-One Mentoring Placements; Internship Searches and Placement Support; Enrichment Camps, Special Events, and STEM Exploration.

For more info, visit <http://www.stemmidwest.org> or contact our Outreach Coordinator, Dan Nordstrom, at (608) 890-0992 or by email at dnordstrom@wisc.edu.