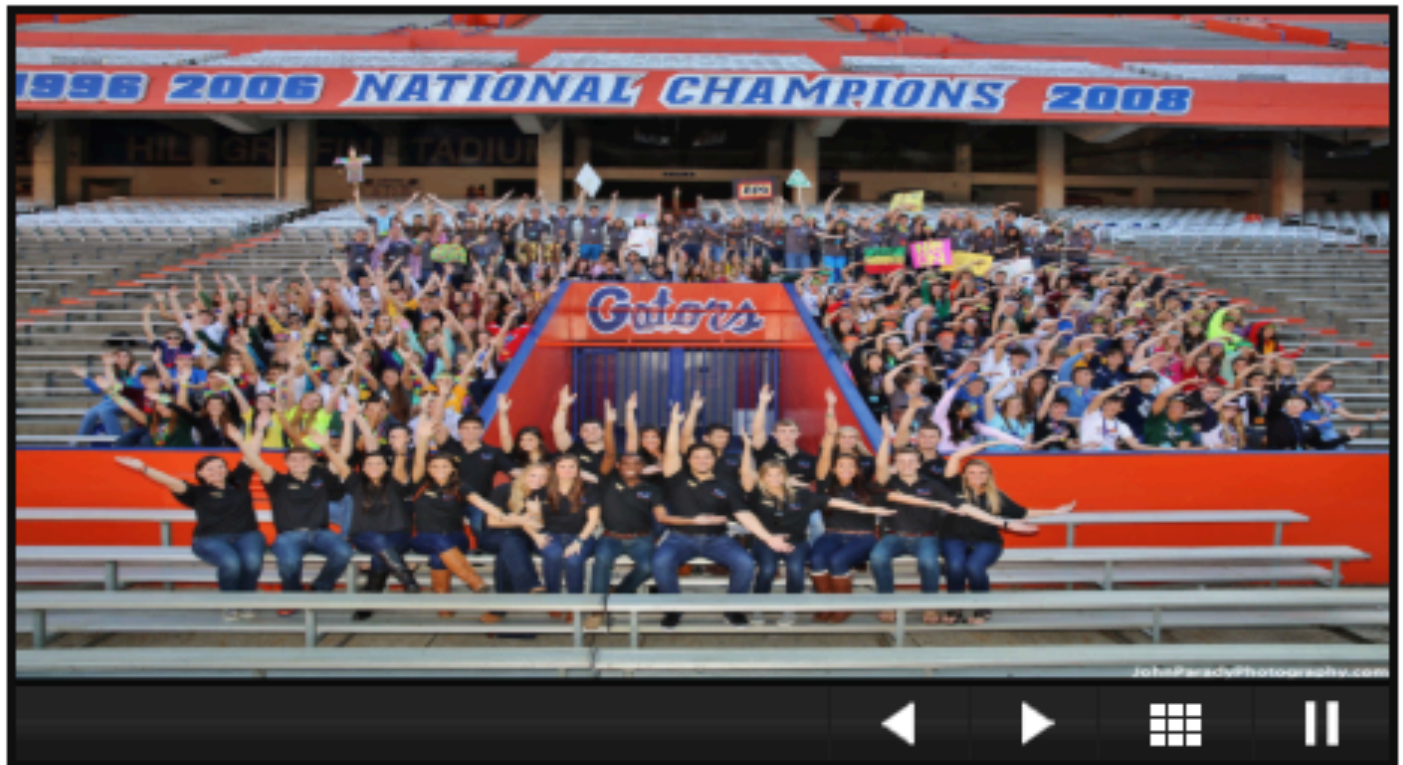


Young Leaders Conference

by [Kelli Eichorn](#) | [Florida](#) on 2/28/2013



This year's sixth annual Young Leaders Conference was held Friday, Feb. 8 to Sunday, Feb. 10. YLC is a three-day high school leadership conference organized and run by University of Florida students. Florida students that show outstanding leadership from the freshman to senior level in high school are asked to come as delegates for the conference.

The conference is designed to bring these students together for extensive leadership development. The students attend presentations and workshops put together by UF students called Small Group Leaders. These interactive workshops and seminars allow participants to improve their leadership theory and experiences. More relaxed and fun events are also included, such as a game night, a talent show and a dance.

“Our main purpose is to watch over the students while also going through and teaching them leadership skills through certain activities. Many of the students break out of their shell; everyone has a good time,” said sophomore Ryan Alman of Beta Theta Pi, who was a second-year small group leader.

“We made the conference a little bit smaller this year, because we wanted to reach the students on a more personal level. The leadership workshops focused more on the student’s strengths and weaknesses and how to improve them. I believe this conference was better than any other we have put on, and hopefully the students have gone back and tried to implement those lessons into their daily lives,” said sophomore Leah Miller of Zeta Tau Alpha, who was the assistant director of registration.

Both the high school students and the UF students working with them stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel all weekend long. They hold activities in the hotel, at the Reitz Union and at Lake Wauburg. Many people involved think that this time together gives everyone a chance to reflect on what they can do in their future.

“YLC is a place where everyone can be themselves, and it’s really a learning experience. It’s surprising how even though you are suppose to be teaching the students, you still learn a lot too,” said Alman.

“YLC is one of the most life-changing experiences I have ever had the privilege to partake in, and I have learned so much more from these students than they will ever know. They have encouraged me to find the courage to strive for my goals and not settle for anything less than achieving them,” said Miller.

Many UF students who partake in the conference continue throughout their college career, sometimes staying at the small group leader level or advancing to assistant directors, directorships and executive board.

“I absolutely plan on doing YLC next year. I’m between either applying for director of workshops or something on the executive board. It just depends on what I’m drawn to,” said Miller.



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