



Greetings:

National Black Deaf Advocates, INC., is proud to present to Deaf Education programs nationwide, the 2015 Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S!). Y.E.S! is a summer program designed to meet the leadership, non-academic educational, and social needs of Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth from 13 to 17 years of age. Since it's founding in 1997 during the National Black Deaf Advocates, INC (NBDA) conference in Washington, D.C., Y.E.S! has successfully helped foster the leadership development of more than 200 Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youths across the country.

The goal of the 2015 Y.E.S! Summit is to help prepare the next generation of young leaders as they pursue their dreams and contribute back to their communities. The program will include educational workshops of various topics-leadership training, Exposure to Black Deaf role models at the NBDA conference, and fun and challenging activities. Upon the conclusion of participating in the 2015 Y.E.S! Summit, these youth participants will gain more social consciousness, knowledge, and be provided tools on overcoming adversity, as they are part of communities that have been historically disenfranchised here in America.

NBDA is a non-profit organization founded in 1982. Since then, it has enriched the lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing African-Americans through advocacy for educational, economic, social, and political advancement. NBDA will host its bi-annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in conjunction with the Youth Empowerment Summit.

We anticipate having 20-30 youth participants from all across the United States during the week of August 3 -9, 2015. We warmly welcome Black Deaf youth of any and all ethnicities!

### **Peer Advisor**

We are expecting to staff this program with Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Peer Advisors, ages 21-30. These Peer Advisors will be trained and will also have backgrounds in working with young people. They will supervise each student throughout the program and serve to their best needs. These Peer Advisors will also be role models to help enrich each student's life as Black Deaf individuals. This program offers pre-planned activities and workshops as considered for Peer Advisors to facilitate with Y.E.S! students and their leadership development.

## **Fees**

Many Black Deaf youth are from a lower income bracket and may not be financially able to cover the Y.E.S! registration fee. That should not deter their hopes of participating in Y.E.S.! In the past, through fund raising projects and donations, some schools have elected to sponsor several students to Y.E.S! We hope you will be able to recruit and sponsor a minimum of two students from your school to attend the 2015 Youth Empowerment Summit. We have enclosed letters for parents of students, registration form, parental consent form, and 2015 Y.E.S! brochure. It would be greatly appreciated if you would give the following information to any interested Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing youths from 13 to 17 years old. The registration fee for the 2015 Y.E.S! is \$650, which covers lodging, scheduled meals, field trips, educational workshops and activities, the Miss Black Deaf America Pageant, and the NBDA Conference Banquet. The youth applicants will be responsible for the \$50 application fee and their own transportation arrangements. The deadline for the youth registration form and parental consent form with the \$650 total fee is on June 8, 2015.

Mr. Corey Burton and Mr. Brandon Williams are the co-directors of the Y.E.S! program and have extensive backgrounds in working with Black Deaf youth and in the Deaf community as a whole. If you are interested in sending your students to the 2015 Y.E.S! Summit or if there are any questions about the program, please contact Mr. Burton and Mr. Williams at [youth@nbda.org](mailto:youth@nbda.org).

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this matter. We are looking forward to meeting with your student(s) in Louisville, Kentucky!

Sincerely,

Patrick Robinson

NBDA President

Enclosures: A Letter to Parents, Youth Registration Form, Parental Consent Form and 2015 YES!  
Brochure



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Corey Burton and Brandon Williams, the co- director of the 2015 Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S!). We are writing this letter to inform you that National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) will host its bi-annual conference in Louisville, KY on August 3-August 9, 2015. NBDA is a non-profit organization founded in 1982. Since then, it has enriched the lives of Deaf and Hard of hearing African-Americans through advocacy for educational, economic, social, and political advancement. NBDA will host its bi-annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky on August 3-9, 2015. In conjunction with the national conference, NBDA is proud to announce the 2015 Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S!). Y.E.S! is a summer program designed to meet the leadership, non-academic educational, and social needs of Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing youths from 13 to 17 years of age. Founded in 1997 out of NBDA conference in Washington, D.C., the successful program has foster leadership development for more than 200 Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youths across the country.

### **Youth Empowerment Summit**

The goal of the 2015 Y.E.S! Summit is to help and prepare the next generation of young leaders accomplish their dreams and contribute back to their communities. The program will include Workshops of various topics, Leadership training, Exposure to Black Deaf role models at the NBDA conference, and fun and challenge activities. Upon the conclusion of participating in the 2015 Y.E.S! Summit, the youth will gain experience of overcoming adversity and common issues that minority students constantly face in America. We anticipate having 20-30 youth participants during the week of August 3 - August 9, 2015. We do welcome and accept students of any ethnic backgrounds.

### **Peer Advisor**

We are expecting to staff this program with Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Peer Advisors, age 21-30. The Peer Advisors will supervise Y.E.S! youths throughout the program and serve to their best needs. Also, Peer Advisors will advocate Y.E.S! youths as their role model and help to enrich their Black Deaf experience. This program offers the pre-planned activities and workshops as considered for Peer Advisors to facilitate with Y.E.S! youths and their leadership development.

### **Fees**

Many Black Deaf youths are from a lower income bracket and may not be financially able to cover the Y.E.S! registration fee. That should not deter their hopes of participating in Y.E.S.! In the past, through fund raising projects and donations, some schools have elected to sponsor several students to the Y.E.S! We hope you will be able to recruit and sponsor a minimum of two students from your school to attend

the 2015 Youth Empowerment Summit on August 3-August 9, 2015. We have enclosed letters for parents of students, registration form, parental consent form, and 2015 Y.E.S! brochure. It would be greatly appreciate if you would give the following information to any interested Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing youths from 13 to 17 years old. The registration fee for the 2015 Y.E.S! is \$650, which covers lodging, scheduled meals, field trips, educational workshops and activities, Miss Black Deaf America, and the NBDA Conference Banquet. The youth applicants will be responsible for the \$50 application fee and their own transportation arrangements. The deadline for the youth registration form and parental consent form with the \$650 total fee is on June 8, 2015.

You may consider exploring a wide variety of sponsors that will help cover the expenses. Also, some schools may have elected to sponsor some of their students to the Y.E.S.! through fund raising projects and donations.

If you are interested in sending your students to the 2015 Y.E.S! Summit or if there are any questions about the program, please me at [youth@nbda.org](mailto:youth@nbda.org).

We are looking forward to getting a copy of Youth Registration Form and Parental Consent Form from you soon.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Corey Burton  
Brandon Williams

2015 Y.E.S! Director

Enclosures: Youth Registration Form, Parental Consent Form and 2015 YES! Brochure