

Parent Support Network (PSN)

The Parent Support Network is the forum/component of the Academy that affords parents the opportunity to maximize their participation in the YLA. Meetings are announced at the beginning of each month, and parents are expected to attend as these meetings are mandatory. If parents cannot attend the PSN meeting, siblings, grandparents, Godparents, mentors, family friends, neighbors or any other caring adult, whom you trust may attend in your place. He or she may sign in as a surrogate and is charged with staying at the meeting throughout its entirety and conveying what was covered to your household.

- Parent(s) or surrogate must sign-in at each PSN meeting.
- No parent may sign for another parent who is not present.
- All meetings are mandatory.

If your work schedule fluctuates, please make arrangements as soon as possible and schedule a surrogate just in case he or she is needed. Because notice is given 3-4 weeks before every meeting, each parent can only be excused for two reasons:

1. Family sickness
2. Death of a family member

This meeting is the one time that parents meet with the YLA staff each month. It is important that you arrive on time and that you stay for the duration (one hour) of the entire meeting. Attending this meeting is part of the contractual agreement that parents sign upon joining the Academy. Please do everything in your power to attend or to find a surrogate in your absence.

Parent Fundraising

Each year the YLA will have two mandatory parent fundraisers that will be scheduled in fall and spring. The fundraisers are designed to:

- **Measure parental involvement.**
- **Maximize marketing potential for the organization.**
- **Raise Money.**
- **Convince the business community to invest its financial resources heavily into the YLA as parents already have.**

Parents will be notified of all fundraisers one month in advance of the event. Logistics, profit margin, incentives for sales, time lines, minimum sales per household, etc., will all be clearly defined before any fundraising event takes place.

Each fundraiser is **mandatory**. There is no exception to this rule. If extenuating circumstances dictate that parents cannot fulfill their fundraising responsibility with, they must contact the YLA office to convey the reason. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to justify any such failure. YLA staff should be informed promptly by a parent if such a failure occurs.

Parents who do not participate in mandatory fundraisers will confer with the Executive Director to determine if just cause contributed to nonparticipation. If just cause cannot be established then children will be dropped from enrollment. Annually, the YLA allocates between \$4,500.00 and \$5,000.00 per child. The message that one sends for nonparticipation in mandatory parent fundraisers is that they are willing to take what the organization offers but not give in return. Each parent is advised at the initial interview, new parent orientation and subsequent PSN meetings that parental involvement is paramount to this process being successful.

The fundraisers were developed for **empowerment and accountability**. Empowerment of the organization financially merits its own reward and success. Accountability reinforces the resolve of individuals who are willing to commit themselves to work toward a common goal.

The Young Leaders' Academy of Baton Rouge, Inc.

Parental Involvement Stakeholder Range

Non-Participant	Participant	Committed Activist	Owner/Stakeholder
Does not attend mandatory PSN	Does attend mandatory PSN	Does all in the Participant Column	Volunteers at YLA office
Does not honor deadlines set by YLA	Does honor deadlines set by YLA	Is active as PSN officer or committee member	Creates and Oversees Special Projects
Does not read memos	Does read memos thoroughly	Car pools other children who may have transportation difficulties	Creates and Oversees Fundraisers
Does not follow-up if called by the YLA office or if child is absent	Does follow-up if called by the YLA office or if child is absent	Assists other YLA parents who cannot meet participant column requirements	Gives administrative input and accepts policy-maker role
Does not attend Saturday Sessions	Does attend Saturday Sessions		
Does not ensure that child is punctual for YLA sessions	Does ensure that child is punctual for YLA sessions		
Does not ensure that child is properly prepared with all necessary materials for YLA sessions	Does ensure that child is properly prepared with all necessary materials for YLA sessions		
Does not participate in the mandatory fundraisers	Does participate in the mandatory fundraisers		
Does not maintain proper quality and size of uniform	Does maintain proper quality and size of uniform		
Does not ensure that child meets YLA attendance requirements	Does ensure that child meets YLA attendance requirements		