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**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Students with disabilities participate in Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum*

TROY – The 15th annual Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) will take place June 2-6 on the campus of Troy University.

More than 30 students from around the state are expected to participate in the five-day forum, which is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and Troy University. YLF delegates are chosen through a competition that seeks high school students with disabilities who are between 17 and 21 years of age and have leadership potential.

The forum seeks to equip students with disabilities with valuable and practical leadership skills they will employ throughout their adult lives.

YLF delegates will learn about self-esteem, self-advocacy, career choices, assistive technology, and living independently, said Karen Jenkins, YLF coordinator.

In addition to their other activities, the group will spend a day in Montgomery on Wednesday, June 5, to visit the State House and tour the Capitol. While in Montgomery, delegates will also attend the Angeline Pinckard Mentor Luncheon at the RSA Activity Center and interact with and get advice from other people with disabilities.

But YLF is not all about work for the delegates. Planned group activities to develop social skills include a trip to Camp Butter and Egg in Troy, a dance, and a talent show.

"YLF provides an opportunity unlike any other for young people with disabilities to realize their leadership potential," Jenkins said. "We want to empower our young people to be involved in all aspects of society and not put unnecessary limits on their academic and career goals."

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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