



NINJA



Utah's New Ideas to Network Junior Advocates

WE'RE INVITING FUTURE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ATTEND THE 6th ANNUAL UTAH NINJA CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

June 4-7, 2018

Location Utah State University, Logan, Utah

SPONSORED BY THE UTAH STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
March 30, 2018

-If you need help filling out this application please contact your local Center for Independent Living (CIL)

- Delegates must complete all information in this application.
- Please type or print with black ink.
- Please see page 3 for additional application instructions.
- No expense to selected delegates (**all expenses paid**).
- Exciting, fun, and educational 4-day training program.

Last Name

First

Middle

Address

City

Zip

Phone

Email

Birth Date

Race/Ethnicity

Name of High School/College

Grade Level on 12/31/18 (if graduated or in college please specify)

Are you your own guardian? Yes or No

If not, who is your guardian? _____

Guardian contact information: _____

Please describe your disability. This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities.

Disability (medical diagnosis) _____

Check any accommodations you may need:

I use Sign language	<input type="checkbox"/>	I read with Braille	<input type="checkbox"/>	I use a wheelchair	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use real time captioning	<input type="checkbox"/>	I read with large print	<input type="checkbox"/>	I use a roll in shower	<input type="checkbox"/>
		I use a screen reader	<input type="checkbox"/>	I use a shower chair/bench	<input type="checkbox"/>

Information on Vocational Rehabilitation

If you are currently a client of Vocational Rehabilitation, please tell us your Counselor's Name _____ Phone _____

School and Community Involvement

Below, please briefly list your involvement with your school and community. This may include any offices held, club memberships, after school activities or work experience.

Activity	Contact	Dates Involved	Grade

Letters of recommendation

Please attach two letters of recommendation which describe your demonstrated leadership skills or your leadership potential. One letter **MUST** be from someone other than a family member and one **MUST** be from a community representative.

List name, position/title, organization and telephone number of your recommendations.

Required Essay for first time applicants only

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your readiness to participate in the Leadership Conference. Please write your responses on a separate sheet of paper and attach to your completed application packet. Your total response should not exceed four (4) typewritten, double-spaced sheets. (Responses must be double-spaced and either typewritten or printed in black ink.)

- A. Qualifications – explain why you feel you are qualified to be a delegate to this conference and please tell us why you want to attend.
- B. Positive Influences – In terms of leadership, please tell us about two people who have positively influenced your life. Why? (Families, teachers, counselors, friends, public officials, or celebrities are appropriate examples).
- C. Experiences as a person with a disability – Describe two important experiences you have had as a person with a disability. (Please be specific about your examples as they relate to your disability.)
- D. Future Plans and Goals – Describe your future plans and life goals.

Required Essay for second and third year applicants

Your answers to the following questions will be used to assess your readiness to participate in the Leadership Conference. Please write your responses on a separate sheet of paper and attach to your completed application packet. Your total response should not exceed five (5) typewritten, double-spaced sheets. (Responses must be double-spaced and either typewritten or printed in black ink.)

- A. Qualifications – explain why you feel you are qualified to be a delegate to this conference and please tell us why you want to attend.
- B. Please tell us how you have used the knowledge and skills gained in previous conferences during the past year.
- C. Please describe your project from last year and the steps you took to complete it or the steps you are taking to continue working on it.
- D. Future Plans and Goals – Describe your future plans and life goals.
- E. Third year applicants are required to do one of the following and write about their experience.
 - Present to Utah Statewide Independent Living Council (USILC) about your leadership project and experience at previous NINJA Conferences by March 14, 2018
 - Attend USILC’s Legislative training on January 17, 2018. Call Brooke Wilson 801-463-1592 for additional information and to RSVP.
 - Write a letter to a legislator and attach a copy to this application.



Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered, and requested letters and information provided.

- A. Application form
- B. Two letters of recommendation
- C. Essay responding to required topics

Delegate Signature

Date

Guardian Signature (only if delegate is not their own guardian)

Date

KEEP THIS PAGE – DO NOT RETURN WITH APPLICATION

HOW DELEGATES WILL BE SELECTED AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS.

1. To be eligible for Utah’s NINJA Conference applicants must:
 - a. Have a disability (as defined by the ADA)
 - b. Be 16-24 by December 31, 2018
 - c. Must have demonstrated leadership potential in school and/or in their community
 - d. Reside in Utah
 - e. Be a consumer or be willing to be referred to a Center for Independent Living.
2. Applicants must return the completed application packet no later than March 30, 2018
3. Selected applicants will be notified by letter no later than April 27, 2018
4. After being selected, delegates will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and a medical form and return all information to USILC by May 18, 2017
5. This conference is inclusive, and accommodations can be made on an individual basis for selected participants.

Return this application to:

Michael Lefevor
USILC
423 West 800 South
Suite A101
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Phone 801-463-1592
Fax 801-463-1683
Michael@usilc.org

Ninja Youth Conference Q&A Sheet

Q. Why is it called the Ninja Youth Conference?

A. During our first year of the conference the participants were asked what we should call the conference. Ninja was the name they came up with. NINJA is an acronym for New Ideas to Network Junior Advocates.

Q. Who can attend?

A. Delegates are limited to people with disabilities ages 16-24. Delegates need to fill out and return an application for the conference and an intake must be completed at their local Center for Independent Living. Participants must also be willing to complete a leadership project of their choosing.

Q. What will I learn at the conference?

A. The conference focuses on teaching leadership and advocacy skills. Other possible classes that could be taught are: disability rights, disability history, goal setting, how to vote, Vocational Rehabilitation, social skills and basics of communication.

Q. How long is the conference?

A. The conference is 4 days long. The conference starts on a Monday and ends on a Thursday.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. The cost for a participant to attend is free. Thanks to the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, Center for People with Disabilities and various grants.

Q. Where is the NINJA Conference held and where do I stay?

A. This year's conference will be held at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Participants will be staying in dorm rooms on campus. Participants will share a room with other people of the same sex. Boys will be housed on one floor and girls on a separate floor.

Q. How do I get to and from the conference?

A. Each Center for Independent Living will provide transportation to participants associated with their center.

Q. Is there anything required of me if I am accepted and attend the conference?

A. Yes, we ask all participants to apply their leadership skills they learned by developing a project to work on for the next year.

Q. What is a Center for Independent Living?

A. Centers for Independent Living (CILs) or Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are non-residential community based organizations that provide independent living services and advocacy for individuals with all types of disabilities. There are six private nonprofit CILs in Utah located in: Salt Lake City, Logan, Price, St. George, Provo, and Ogden. You can find their addresses and phone numbers at usilc.org/il-centers.