



YLF was Dynamite! What's Next?

Presented by the Montana Youth Leadership Forum



What's next?

During the 25 years of MYLiFe, one question always arose: **what happens for the youth once they return to their home community?**

Montana YLF Staff provide one year of follow along mentoring for the youth but what more can we do?

Now what? What's next?

We want more!!!

Alumni Activities: Join the Band

- **Join the BAND**
 - Invite only social media platform for YLF alumni
 - Get connected and stay connected
 - Stay up to date throughout the year with opportunities.
 - Space to talk about advocacy and disability issues.
 - Share fun stuff and achievements.
 - Supportive, safe place to share and socialize.

Alumni Activities: Alumni Zooms

- **Alumni Zooms**
 - First Monday of the month, we hold themed zoom calls that are open to all Montana YLF Alumni.
 - Chance to get together and talk once a month with people that we would otherwise only see a few times a year.
 - Chance to meet alumni from other years and build community.
 - Share advocacy updates in a way that's more impactful and helpful than just sending an email or a text.
 - Opportunity to talk and share talents and interests with others.
 - Uno!!!



What is MYLiFe Step II?

Beyond the Alumni Activities, youth wanted another week of the forum. They wanted more training, more opportunities, and more chances to build on their transition empowerment plans.

SO -in partnership with the state of Montana, we developed a Step II curriculum that would address four of the key components of Pre-ETS activities:

- Job exploration
- Workplace learning
- Workplace readiness training
- Instruction in self-advocacy

MYLiFe Step II Goals

- Opportunities for alumni to participate beyond being Forum staff.
- Follow up on the Transition Empowerment Plans they completed at the Forum.
- Develop resources specific to each youth's future goals.
- Connect with technology for work and school or training.
- Learn about financial integrity and independent living.

MYLiFe Step II Activities

- **Job Shadow opportunities.**
 - Youth fill out a questionnaire on where they want to work and what job they want to explore.
 - MYLiFe staff set up these opportunities with community businesses and organizations.
- **Exploration of other job sectors.**
 - Youth participate in job shadows in related fields.
 - Youth learn about other sectors that may interest them.
 - Specifically, youth connect with state agencies and job opportunities.

MYLiFe Step II Activities

- **Learn skills for work and independent living**
 - Social skills training
 - Professional relationships workshop
 - Job interview and applications training
 - Financial literacy and budgeting
- **Receive additional self-advocacy training**
 - Accommodations for employment
 - Disability disclosure in the workplace

MYLiFe Step II Activities

- **Engage with the community**
 - Youth gain experience conducting themselves in a professional conference environment.
 - Youth participate in community volunteer activity. Youth select where they'd like to volunteer and how they can contribute.
 - Our philosophy is that it is not only our right to be fully included in society but it is important for us to use our energy and talents to better our community.



Questions about Step II?

Our conclusions

- There are many more pre-ETS eligible activities than just the Forum.
- Nurturing these positive relationships after MYLiFe helps us to provide expanded transition services and empower successful adults.
- Youth need more opportunities for social interaction. BAND and Zoom give us the means to connect peers, mentors, and resources.
- Step II provides vital employment skills and services that ultimately help youth be more successful.
- Expanding the MYLiFe mission to include Step II and Alumni Group Activities allows us to better serve youth with disabilities in our state.
- We are building a community and developing the next generation of leaders and mentors.

Contact information

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