



Leader Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Illinois Leadership Seminars (ILS)?

A: Illinois Leadership Seminars is a non-profit, 100% volunteer organization with one mission: to unleash the leadership potential of Illinois youth. We accomplish this mission in two major ways. First, we provide students all over the state with an opportunity to attend a free leadership seminar. Second, after a student has gone through one of our programs, they have the option to stay involved with our alumni association. The alumni association provides our students with an active nationwide network of successful leaders to rely on for support with everything from advice on how to run a high school pep rally, to college applications and job interviews.

You have been selected to go through phase one of our program by attending our free leadership seminar.

Q: How did I get selected to attend the Illinois Leadership Seminar?

A: We reach out to high school counselors and faculty all over the state and ask them to nominate one outstanding sophomore and junior from their high school to attend our seminar. We leave who to select and how to select them totally up to the schools. Some schools have a private staff vote, some hold an essay contest and some school representatives just hand pick a student on their own. No matter how our students are selected, they all have one awesome thing in common: *leadership potential*.

If you are unsure of who specifically selected you and you would like to find out, please contact our Recruitment Director, Samantha Kiluk, at recruitment@illinoisleadershipseminars.org and she will be happy to provide that information.

Q: Why should I go?

A: ILS is an opportunity to be around other outstanding leaders your own age. Sometimes, students are nervous about attending a seminar where they don't know anyone, but to us, that's the best part! ILS is a fresh start. There's no pressure from your peers to be anything or conform to any mold. At ILS we encourage you to be one thing... you.

Our message is simple: No matter your gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status or background... you (yes YOU!) can be a leader. We aim to unleash the leadership potential that is already in YOU.

Open spots at our seminar are in high demand, so if you decide ILS is not right for you, please let us (and your nominator) know as soon as possible so we can offer the opportunity to another student.

Q: When and where is ILS?

A: The 2021 Illinois Leadership Seminar will be held online June 12 and 13 (Saturday and Sunday). A link will be provided closer to Seminar. Students must attend the entire Seminar.

Q: How do I register?

A: You must sit down with your parents or legal guardian and register online for our seminar. Your school representative has already nominated you to attend ILS, but your spot is not reserved until you complete the online registration process. The sooner you register, the sooner we can reserve your seat at Seminar.

All students will receive an email with registration instructions. Registration emails will be sent out within one week of the nomination being submitted. Spots are given on a first come first serve basis so filling out registration in a timely manner is the only way to guarantee your spot at Seminar. Please read the entire registration email as well as this entire FAQ to fully understand the commitment before registering.

[Illinois Leadership Seminars \(ILS\)](#)

ILS is a Member of the [National Society for Youth Leadership \(NSYL\)](#)



Leader Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What actually happens during the weekend?

A: The program includes motivational speakers, leadership activities, group discussions...and that's just the beginning. During the ILS experience, a broad spectrum of leaders will address various aspects of leadership in our changing world and the challenges future leaders will confront. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and participate in small group discussions throughout the seminar. This is a dynamic weekend!

The program is not designed to teach you what to think, or even how to think, but rather to emphasize the importance of critical thinking skills in leadership roles.

Q: How is Seminar structured?

A: Once a leader has registered for our seminar, they are assigned to a small group of 8-10 leaders. These groups are random to ensure each leader is exposed to other leaders with different backgrounds. Each group has one adult Senior Coach and two Junior Coaches. Different seminar activities require different levels of participation. Some highly interactive activities and discussions will be done within the small group, while other activities will be done as a large seminar group. You will have an opportunity to interact with leaders from every group at some point during the weekend.

Q: Is the seminar REALLY free?

A: Absolutely. We work very hard all year long to make sure that no student has to pay to attend the Illinois Leadership Seminar. Sponsorship funding is provided by GFWCs (Women's Clubs), corporate grants, ILS fundraising efforts, and individual donors, including many alumni of the seminar itself. Schools, parents, and students incur no costs, with the exception of transportation to and from our seminar site.

Q: I have a conflict. Can I sign on late/sign off early?

A: All of our leaders are required to stay for the entire weekend, no exceptions. Sponsors have paid for you to attend the whole weekend and we require all of our leaders to experience seminar in its entirety. Please put ILS on your calendar now and make sure you check your finals, sports, camp, work and vacation schedules, etc. If a conflict arises that prevents you from attending the entire seminar and you cannot reschedule, please email our Recruitment Director, Samantha Kiluk, at recruitment@illinoisleadershipseminars.org ASAP so we can find a replacement.

Q: Something has come up and I will be unable to attend. What do I do?

A: We understand that things come up, but if they do, please let us (and your school representative) know! There is a long waiting list of Illinois students who want to participate in this weekend and if you are unable to attend, we would like to offer this opportunity to a student on our waiting list. You can email our Recruitment Director, Samantha Kiluk, at recruitment@illinoisleadershipseminars.org or give her a call at the phone number listed at the bottom of this document.

Q: What, if any, additional interaction or contact should I be expecting before the seminar?

A: Our Recruitment Director, Samantha Kiluk, will be sending out additional reminder emails in the months and weeks leading up to seminar. These emails will include the exact time of Seminar, link and directions on how to login. Email communications will be sent to all email addresses that were provided to us during the nomination process. If you have questions about which email addresses we have on file for you or your guardians, or wish to make changes, please email Samantha at recruitment@illinoisleadershipseminars.org.

Other than the reminder emails, you will be receiving a phone call from your Senior Coach in late May. When you register, please be sure to list an accurate phone number where we can get a hold of you. If



Unleashing the leadership potential of Illinois youth

Leader Frequently Asked Questions

an incorrect phone number is listed, we have no way to call you. Each Senior Coach will be calling to ease any pre-Seminar concerns and answer any questions you may have.

Q: Is this going to be fun or boring?

A: Students come into Seminar with a wide range of expectations. The best advice we can give a student before attending our program is to remember that usually what you get out of any experience is directly tied to what you put into it. We always tell our leaders to approach the Illinois Leadership Seminar with an open heart, an open mind and a positive attitude. For the students who follow that advice, well, let's just say that whatever their expectations about ILS was before the weekend they are usually blown out of the water.

If you're still unsure about attending, connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to get a glimpse of who we are for yourself.

Q: Whom may I contact if I have additional questions?

A: If you have additional questions, please contact our Recruitment Director as she is your liaison until ILS. Samantha will always get back to you within 72 hours. If you have questions regarding the programming, structure, or other details about the weekend, you may call our Seminar Chairperson, Ixtel Viramontes. Please do not hesitate to ask questions! We are here to help! We understand that most of our leaders have never done anything like this and we are always willing to assist you in any way we can.

Samantha Kiluk
Recruitment Director
630-917-3134
recruitment@illinoisleadershipseminars.org

Ixtel Viramontes
Seminar Chairperson
815-217-1111
seminar@illinoisleadershipseminars.org

Angela Jos
ILS Corporate Board Co-President
847-525-7764
president@illinoisleadershipseminars.org

Keith Donovan
ILS Corporate Board Co-President
630-841-0817
president@illinoisleadershipseminars.org

[Illinois Leadership Seminars \(ILS\)](#)

ILS is a Member of the [National Society for Youth Leadership \(NSYL\)](#)